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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NC Teachers Number One in National Board Certification, with East Carolina University ranked number 2 in the nation with 118 newly certified teachers.

North Carolina leads the nation in National Board Certification of teachers—accounting for nearly 20% of all newly board certified teachers in 2011.

Nationwide there are 97,291 teachers who have gone through this process. In 2011, 6,266 teachers and counselors received National Board Certification. For the first time ever, the organization revealed the top 50 public and private institutions leading the nation in the largest number of alumnae who are newly certified. Appalachian State University is in first place with 130 newly certified teachers, and East Carolina University is second in the nation with 118. This is one measure of the quality of East Carolina, College of Education graduates and their dedication to the profession.

In an official statement, June Atkinson applauded the effort and stated: "National Board Certification is an incredibly rigorous process that requires teachers to look deep into how they provide classroom instruction to meet the academic needs of all their students. It requires a serious professional and personal commitment. We are so fortunate that so many of our teachers continue to be willing to make this commitment. Our public school students are the ultimate winners as a result."

North Carolina public school classrooms are welcoming 1,244 newly-certified National Board teachers according to the 2011 certification results just released by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). This newest batch of credentialed teachers brings the state’s total number of National Board Certified Teachers to 19,193 – the largest number of National Board Certified teachers in the nation.

For more information, including the list of North Carolina universities and colleges making the Top 50, please visit www.ncpublicschools.org and click on the appropriate link under “News.” Also, visit on the web at www.ncpublicschools.org.