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### **LAE blasts Pastorek for NBCT stipend cuts**

*LAE questions commitment to reform with move that delivers blow to state's most accomplished teachers*

**BATON ROUGE**—On one hand State Superintendent Paul Pastorek promotes so-called education reform with policies and practices deemed non-impactful or even detrimental to student achievement via Louisiana's very problematic Race to the Top application. Yet on the other hand he questions the value of what research and the education community embrace as one of the profession's most effective strategies for improving student achievement—the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). Questioning the contradiction, the Louisiana Association of Educators (LAE) today blasted State Superintendent Paul Pastorek for moving to cut the annual \$5,000 stipend to NBCTs.

The following statement can be attributed to LAE President Joyce Haynes:

“Time after time we educators ask ourselves—and each other, ‘does he not get it?’” said LAE President Joyce Haynes. “Somehow money can be found to increase compensation so that non-certified educator programs like Teach for America and for-profit charters can flourish and grow. And yet Supt. Pastorek and Gov. Jindal continue an anti-public education agenda—one that starves and cripples public education and public educators. Local reward checks for improved test scores? Gone. Preparation and readiness of students for kindergarten? Gone. Funding for mentoring and assessment of teachers new to the profession? Gone.

“And the list goes on and on.

“National Board Certification has been a goal of the state for some time now and it's a source of pride to say Louisiana currently has 1,532 NBCTs. These men and women worked countless hours to complete the rigorous process and gain recognition through a plethora of work. Research has shown and educators know that it truly adds value to teaching and epitomizes the importance of continuing education on the part of teachers.

“Louisiana NBCTs have been promised this stipend, they've earned this stipend, and they deserve this stipend.”

