

A MULTI-CASE EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACT OF NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFICATION ON THE PROFESSION OF TEACHING

Cynthia J. Thompson

Dr. Barbara N. Martin, Dissertation Supervisor

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation was to add to the knowledge base an understanding of the long term impact of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification on the profession of teaching through a multiple case study examination of the career paths of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs). The researcher viewed the impact of the NBPTS through the lens of teaching as a profession.

The study population consisted of four NBCTs in a Midwest state who had held NBPTS certification for at least five years. Data triangulation was achieved through on-site interviews with the NBCTs, their administrators, and colleagues as well as document examination. Data collection methods provided information and insight into the career paths of these educators, as well as the participants' perceptions of the extent to which NBPTS certification influenced said career paths.

The study findings revealed a positive impact on the profession of teaching in multiple areas as well as shortcomings in the professional support for teachers desiring extended roles. The implications of this inquiry for the profession of teaching were identified to reach the areas of leadership, finances, and allotment of time.