News Release: PGCPS Celebrates National and State Recognitions

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Nineteen Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) teachers achieved National Board Certified status, while Greenbelt Elementary School is one of only three schools in the state of Maryland to be recognized and honored for their gifted and talented program.

The National Board Certification is the most prestigious teaching credential that educators can obtain in the United States. This year's honorees include nine new nationally-certified teachers and 10 renewal National Board Certified Teachers:

Catherine Abbott — Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School

Melissa Alfano — Thomas Claggett Elementary School

Catalina Ballitoc — Glenridge Elementary School

Sarah Barias — Panorama Elementary School

Alexis Cortez — Riverdale Elementary School

Maria Darza — James Ryder Randall Elementary School

Ayana English Brown — Largo High School

Karen Gibson — Forest Heights Elementary School

Coit Hendley III — Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Barbara Hughes — High Point High School

Bianca Johnson — Parkdale High School

Ella McCarty — Chillum Elementary School

Christy Neff — University Park Elementary School

Freda Perry — High Point High School

Leanne Puglia — Riverdale Elementary School

Talitha Simeona Moon — Office of Talent Development

Yau-Jong Twu — Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Marlen Walderman — H. Winship Wheatley Early Childhood Center

Maya Yamada — Eleanor Roosevelt High School

As a 2014 recipient of the Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) School Award, Greenbelt Elementary School demonstrated superiority in student identification, curriculum and instruction, professional development, and program management and evaluation.

“I want commend principal Monica Gaines and the entire team at Greenbelt Elementary School on this achievement, as well as thank our new nationally-certified teachers for their commitment to professional growth, high standards in instruction, and improvement in learning outcomes for our students,” said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS.

“It’s a job well done and a great demonstration of the caliber of teachers we employ and the type of quality instructional options available to students and families in PGCPS,” Dr. Maxwell added.

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

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