

## My National Board Story

Name: Frank Tomaszekwicz, NBCT  
Area of Certification: Career & Technical Education  
Your Professional Title: Art Technology Instructor  
School Name: Hadley Junior High School  
District: DuPage County #41  
Year of Certification: 2002  
Year of Renewal: 2012



It's been my privilege to serve as a classroom teacher at all grade- levels in Illinois since March, 1972. I currently work with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at Hadley Junior High School in Glen Ellyn. I teach students of all abilities how to accomplish Math, Science, Writing, Reading, Social Studies, and Health Education assignments using Photography and Video. We are blessed with active partnerships with *Junior Achievement*, *Glenbard West High School*, and the *College of DuPage*.

I chose to Certify with the *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards* because of its reputation at the national level for focusing upon students and their learning along with supporting research-based best practices for classroom teachers. It's the 'Gold Standard' for classroom teaching's emphasis upon students as learners and individuals. Two decades of being 'Board Certified' have enhanced my view of *National Board Certification's Accomplished Teaching practices'* transformative effect upon my teaching. Before *Certification*, I emphasized a collection of activities for my students. After *Certification*, *National Board's Accomplished Teaching* means I now focus upon how dedicated I can be to my students and their learning, how well I know my subject and how to teach it to all students, how well I organize each lesson for effective learning, how often I reflect upon my teaching practice and make changes as the needs of my students dictate change, and work to be part of a community of learners that include students, their families, the business community, and my colleagues in education.

*Certification* has allowed me to use university graduate courses as a means to share information about *Accomplished Teaching* practices with other teachers, ultimately benefitting their students.

Illinois gave me a *Military Scholarship* so I could access higher learning. Illinois gave me a *National Board Candidacy Stipend* so I could transform my practice with our students. And Illinois has provided *National Board Mentoring* stipends so I can connect with accomplished teachers and benefit students.

I am grateful to the Illinois General Assembly and Illinois taxpayers for the support given to me and my students.