

Elaine graduates become the H-WH District's first NBPTS certified teachers

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HELENA-WEST HELENA — The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) recently certified two Helena-West Helena School teachers. This certification allows them to not only teach in Arkansas but to teach anywhere in the U.S.

The teachers, who received notification of their scores on Nov. 19, are the first in the Helena-West Helena District to receive this certification and the first from the Elaine area to receive the certification. The teachers, Nancy Webster and Brenda Gamble, are both graduates of Elaine High School, where Webster taught summer school and Gamble taught school for five years.

Webster said it took them two years to complete the certification through the Great Rivers Educational Co-op, where they attended classes every other Saturday from September to April.

Webster received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Arkansas at Monticello and her Master's degree from Harding University. Webster has taught kindergarten for the past 11 years at Woodruff Kindergarten.

Gamble, a graduate of Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, received her undergraduate degree in communications disorders and her Master's in Early Childhood Special Education. Gamble is the literacy coach at Miller Junior High School.

Gamble has a 12-year-old son, Tyrone, who is a seventh grader at the KIPP School.

By completing and passing the certification Webster and Gamble will receive a \$50,000 stipend over a period of the next 10 years, getting \$5,000 a year.