

September 5, 2007

To: District Superintendents and Human Resource Directors, Community College Vice Presidents of Academics, Dean of the College of Education - UW, WDE, WEA, Child Development Centers

From: Dr. Connie J. Pollard, Director

Re: October 11–12, 2007 conference

The Professional Teaching Standards Board would like to invite you to attend a conference we are sponsoring together with the Educational Testing Services (ETS). The purpose of the conference is twofold, 1) provide greater understanding of the PRAXIS exams and 2) offer you an opportunity to meet the PTSB board members, office staff, ask questions, and learn more about PTSB.

Unfortunately, space is limited, so we are asking that you contact PTSB by Thursday, September 27, if you plan on attending. We encourage at least one representative from each district, preferably a person in Human Resources, attend. Please email Betsie Martinez, bmarti@state.wy.us if you will be attending and provide her with the following information: 1) the organization you are representing, 2) your position in that organization, 3) the day(s) will you be attending, 4) and which session (A or B) you would prefer. We will make every attempt to assign you to the session of your choice; however, space is very limited, consequently, the sooner you contact us the better your chances of being in the session of your choice.

Friday, October 12, a board meeting is scheduled. Please take this opportunity to attend and learn more about PTSB and to share your comments with the board.

IMPORTANT: A UW football game is scheduled for Saturday, October 13. Please make your room reservations early, especially if you would like to take advantage of staying over for the game.

A block of rooms have been set aside at the Ramada Inn for conference participants at the state rate of \$60.00 for Wednesday and Thursday nights. The standard rate of \$88.00 will be charged for Friday night. **You need to make reservations by Friday, September 14th to get the state rate.** Contact info: Ramada Inn, 307-742-6611.

Dates: October 11-12, 2007

Location: Ramada Inn – Laramie, WY

Schedule:

Thursday, October 11

8:30 – Registration (PTSB credit is available) Coffee & Rolls

9:00 – 12:00 Group A: ETS Workshops

 Group B: ETS Presentations

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30 – 4:30 Group B: ETS Workshops

 Group A: ETS Presentations

Friday, October 12

9:00 – 12:00 PTSB Board Meeting – An overview of PTSB will be presented.
Public comments will be welcome.

ETS Workshops

Faculty Orientation and Awareness Workshop

This session is a thorough introduction to the *Praxis II* tests. Participants will explore factors that contribute to success for candidates taking licensure tests and resources available to both faculty and students. The participants will examine the kinds of questions that appear on the tests. Working together, participants will identify strategies candidates can develop for success in *The Praxis Series* tests and methodologies faculty and administrators can use to assist their students. Participants will have access to ETS documents that provide critical information about the tests, as well as the methods for using the information to better prepare their teacher candidates and those currently teaching.

ETS Presentations

Standards, Accountability and Flexibility: Americans Speak on No Child Left Behind Reauthorization

ETS's seventh annual public opinion poll, *Standards, Accountability and Flexibility: Americans Speak on No Child Left Behind Reauthorization*, reveals that parents, teachers and administrators strongly support No Child Left Behind (NCLB) reauthorization, despite limited knowledge about the law's provisions. They also favor greater flexibility in assisting students and schools struggling to meet high standards and call for increased funding for poorly performing schools to make adequate yearly progress.

The survey also shows that a majority of adults and parents think the 50 sets of state standards and tests should be replaced with one set of national standards and tests. English-language learners should be given more time to learn the language before they are pushed to learn the core curriculum at grade level.

America's Perfect Storm: Report Has Converging Forces Threatening Our Future

Three powerful forces; inadequate literacy skills among large segments of the population, the continuing evolution of the economy and the nation's job structure, and an ongoing shift in the demographic profile of the nation, powered by the highest immigration rates in almost a century are creating a "perfect storm" that could have dire consequences for our nation, according to a report by ETS.