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Pendleton High teacher going to Washington for national honor

By Liz Carey

Posted February 28, 2012 at 5:44 p.m., updated February 28, 2012 at 5:44 p.m.

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PENDLETON — Michelle Gilmer's ability to bring real world experience to her classroom adds benefits for her students and herself.

Friday, Gilmer will be honored as the 2011 Teacher of the Year by the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, a national organization that provides an alternative route to teacher certification.

Gilmer, a math teacher at Pendleton High School in Pendleton-based Anderson School District 4, came to the teaching profession after serving as a long-term substitute teacher at the school for a year. She fell in love with the profession and

decided to pursue the alternative licensing program.

Administrators and students said Gilmer has an ability to bring math to young people's level.

"Michelle just has a gift for teaching and working with young people," said Pendleton High School Principal Heather Gordon. "Before she came to us three years ago, she had a career working as an engineer. She has the ability to bring real world experience into the classroom and make what they are learning relevant."

Gilmer worked first at Mt. Vernon Mills as a project engineer and then at Electrolux, before leaving engineering to raise her four children and help her husband's business. The oldest of three children of a single mother, Gilmer studied engineering at Auburn University in Alabama then moved to the Upstate after graduating. Her dream, however,

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was always to be a teacher.

For students, she is able to make math enjoyable, said Alicia McDougal, 17, a junior at the school, who studied pre-calculus under Gilmer last year and calculus under Gilmer this year.

"Everyone's always like 'How am I ever going to use this?' but she's able to show you how it relates," McDougal said. "I think we're pretty lucky to have a teacher who has been successful in the real world and then comes to teach and is given this national award for teaching, too."

During a ceremony in Washington, D. C., members of the District 4 administration and Gilmer's family will join Gilmer as she is presented with the award, officials with the American Board said.

Gilmer said that she was happy to be making a difference.

"What I did as an engineer, I loved, but I was working 50 hours a week for 50 weeks a year," she said. "Teaching, I get to work in a job that more closely mirrors my children's schedule and allows me to spend more time with them. And it's important for me to be making a difference locally in other children's lives."

Gilmer said she tries to teach her students not to give up and to follow their dreams. She also tries to teach them the importance of hard work.

"I tell them if you have the right work ethic and get through the subjects you don't like, the other opportunities for what you do like will come," she said. "But you've got to get through the hard work first."

District officials said they were proud of Gilmer.

"ABCTE recognizes exemplary teachers who enter the field and certification through nontraditional avenues," said Joanne Avery, assistant superintendent with District 4. "Michelle approached her decision to enter into teaching profession with a spirit of dedication and commitment. This same spirit of excellence is seen every day in her classroom where the students are the real winners. Our district family is very proud of her and this prestigious recognition she has earned."

American Board is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2001 through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The board's focus is to provide an alternative teacher certification process to those in other lines of work who are looking for a career change, said Aaron Helmbrecht, spokesman for the American Board.

The board currently has more than 1,110 teacher candidates in 11 different states participating in its program, he said.

Candidates for the award are nominated by their principals. The teacher's profiles and accomplishments are then posted on a website for members of the education community to vote on. The top winners in each state are then compiled before being submitted to the CEO of American Board, Shawn McCullough. McCullough then conducts extensive candidate interviews over the phone before deciding on the winner.

This is the second year for the national competition. Last year's winner, Jeremiah Young, a science teacher at Beaufort High School, also was from South Carolina.



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Ever wondered if you have what it takes to shape young minds?

Professionals interested in finding out if they have the stuff needed to be a difference-making teacher may want to attend a meeting taking place at

6:30 p.m. on April 18, 2012, at The [University of South Florida's 40 Fifty Lofts Apartments](#) at 4050 Rocky Circle in Tampa. A certification specialist from [American Board](#), a national nonprofit organization that helps recruit and certify professionals, will be on hand to explain how the organization can help would-be teachers obtain the certification and licensing necessary to get in front of a class.

"Career changers have very little time, very little money and are very busy," explains Albert Chen, CEO of American Board. "But there are so many hoops to jump through. Bill Gates wouldn't be able to teach computer science. Colin Powell couldn't teach civics. You have to be licensed to become a teacher in the state of Florida. We try and break that down for you."

Chen says attendees can expect to learn about themselves as well as his organization at the April 18 meeting. "People really like to talk to people when they are considering a career change," says Chen. "There's something about that person-to-person contact. Participants can expect to be walked through the reasons why people go into education. We believe if you want to help children then you'll be motivated and have a passion for the job."

Chen says that while there is a fee for American Board programs, those who enroll can expect on average to be ready to teach within one year. "When someone asks me how long it will take to prepare for the exams, I say, 'It's up to you.' If you take an aggregate of people it takes about 10 months to one year. For those who stick with our program, our success rate is 97 percent."

 Writer: [Missy Kavanaugh](#)

Source: Albert Chen, American Board

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American Board Hosts Education Jobs Event to Recruit Teachers

Added by Events Editor on March 30, 2012.

Saved under Happenings

Tags: American Board, jobs event, recruiting teachers

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The American Board, a non-profit organization dedicated to recruiting and certifying community-based teachers in Florida, will host a public event on how local residents who have been laid-off or are considering a career change can become certified Florida teachers.

The event will be held on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30 pm at Amaya Papaya, 3385 S. Highway 17-92 Suite 289 in Casselberry and will be led by Florida Teacher Certification Specialist Heather Hargrove.



The event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required for entry.

"Anyone with a bachelor's degree can become a full-time teacher within a year as long as they plan the right path." Hargrove said. "We are searching for people who have real-life experience and want to apply that experience in the classroom."

The American Board offers a state approved online teacher training program. Candidates who pass the program are certified for life as highly-qualified teachers and are eligible to be hired as a full-time teacher by any school in Florida.

At the event, attendees will learn what to expect in a career as a teacher and receive advisement on a personalized path to certification.

Hargrove can be contacted at hhargrove@americanboard.org or (407) 437-6628 to answer questions about the event or about the paths to teacher certification in Florida.

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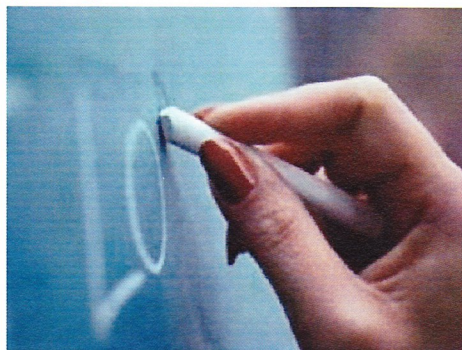
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El Concejo Americano llevará a cabo un evento para instruir a quienes busque convertirse en profesores de la Florida este 18 de abril.

Abril 03, 2012, 05:56 PM



Texto: A A A

Este 18 de abril se llevará a cabo una Evento del Empleo Educativo en Tampa donde se buscará contactar a profesionales titulados de la localidad para que se conviertan en profesores certificados del estado de Florida.

El evento es organizado por el Concejo Americano, una organización no lucrativa dedicada a reclutar y certificar a profesores en la Florida.

El evento se llevará a cabo a las 6:30 pm en la Universidad de South Florida en el la Casa Club de los apartamentos 40FIFTY Lofts ubicados en el 4050 de Rocky Circle en Tampa y contará con la presencia del Especialista en Certificación de Profesores de Florida Jude Paul.

"Cualquier persona con un título universitario se puede convertir en un profesor de tiempo completo en un año mientras que hagan planes de ir en el camino correcto", dijo Paul. "Estamos en busca de personas que tengan experiencia de vida real que quieran aplicar en los salones de clases".

Los asistentes al evento podrán aprender lo que deben esperar de una carrera como profesor y recibirán consejo personalizado para obtener la certificación.

El evento es gratuito y abierto al público. No se necesitan boletos para entrar.

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Education jobs event to be held in Union Thursday

by Charles Warner
Editor

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An organization that works to build rural communities through education and employment will host a job event Thursday evening to recruit new teachers.



Price

In a statement announcing the job event, The American Board, which describes itself as "a non-profit dedicated to recruiting and certifying community-based teachers in South Carolina," will "host a public event on how residents can become certified South Carolina teachers." During the sessions, which will be held at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Quality Inn, 315 N. Duncan Bypass, Union, participants "will learn what to expect in a career as a teacher" and be advised on "a personalized path to teacher certification."

The event will be led by South Carolina Teacher Certification Specialist Katelyn Price.

"Anyone with a bachelor's degree can become a full-time teacher within a year as long as they plan the right path." Price said. "We are searching for people who have real-life experience and want to apply that

experience in the classroom."

Price can be contacted at kprice@americanboard.org or (803) 600-8010. Visit www.abcte.org for more information on becoming a teacher.

On its website, the organization states that the United States needs 240,000 new teachers each year and that there are severe shortages of math and science teachers. It points out that teachers are retiring "in record numbers" with one out of five now teaching to retire within the next five years. Furthermore, they are not being replaced as fewer college students are studying to become teachers. In 2006, only one percent of the Bachelor's and Master's degrees were in Education compared to 25 percent in 1970. By 2014, the United States will need 2 million new teachers.

To help meet that need, The American Board is working to bring more people into teaching. The organization provides professionals interested in changing careers with the opportunity to do so through its alternative teaching certification which "is offered in a variety of subject areas and offers a customized study plan for each candidate." Those wanting to participate in the program must:

- Hold a Bachelor's degree in any subject area from an approved college or university
- Pass a background check
- Pass the ABCTE Professional Teaching Knowledge exam
- Pass the ABCTE subject area exam (in the candidate's chosen subject area)

Those participating in the program "study on their own time and at their own pace using a variety of resources, including practice exams, online refresher courses" and the organization's "Prepare to Teach workshops. Candidates receive a study plan and program checklist, plus additional resources and ongoing program support throughout the certification process.

The website states the program is accepted in 11 states, including South Carolina, as a route to teacher certification.

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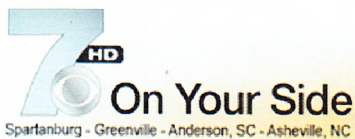


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By: [KRISTY CHARLES](#) | WSPA-TV
Published: May 22, 2012

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – The American Board, a non-profit dedicated to recruiting and certifying teachers in South Carolina, will host a public event on how local residents can become certified South Carolina teachers.

Attendees will learn what to expect in a career as a teacher and receive advisement on a personalized path to certification.

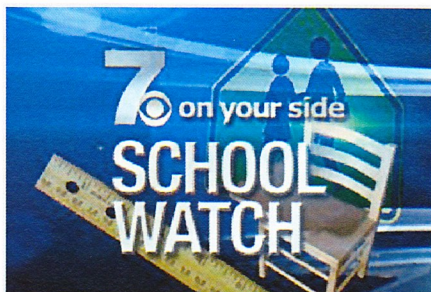
The event will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at 6 p.m. at the Thomas E. Hannah YMCA, 151 Ribault St. in Spartanburg.

The event will be led by South Carolina Teacher Certification Specialist Kristyn Leffler.

Leffler says "Anyone with a bachelor's degree can become a full-time teacher within a year as long as they plan the right path."

The event is free and open to the public.

No tickets are required for entry.



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Becoming a teacher without heading back to school

by Stephanie Claytor

Posted: 07.25.2012 at 8:48 PM

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Read more: Local, American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, American Board, How to Become a Teacher Without Going Back to School, Teaching, Professionals Becoming Teachers

KIRKSVILLE, MO. -- Professionals seeking to switch careers and become teachers learned how to make it happen during an informational meeting with the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence.



Through the organization's program, candidates can take an online test prep course, and then two exams at a testing center to receive certification to teach in Missouri.

The program costs nearly \$2,000 and takes about eight to ten months to complete. Also, the candidate must fulfill 60 hours in the classroom.

Amanda Brown, a teacher certification specialist, said professionals who decide to later pursue education are great role models for high school students.

"Recruiting people that chose other career paths and then later on decided, 'I really wish I would've become a teacher,' those are the people that make the

greatest teachers because they're firm in their decision that they really do want to go back to teach and they have a lot to offer because they've been in the business world already usually," said Amanda Brown, American Board's Teacher Certification Specialist.

To qualify for the program, the candidate must have a Bachelor's degree where they obtained a 2.5 g.p.a. or greater, and pass a background check. The program offers certification to teach 5-12th grades, in the areas of Biology, Chemistry, Elementary Education, English Language Arts, General Science, History, Math, Physics, Special Education, and a Reading Endorsement.

American Board has been approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education since 2008.

They will be hosting another informational meeting July 26 at the Knox County Community Center.

For more information, here is a link to their website.

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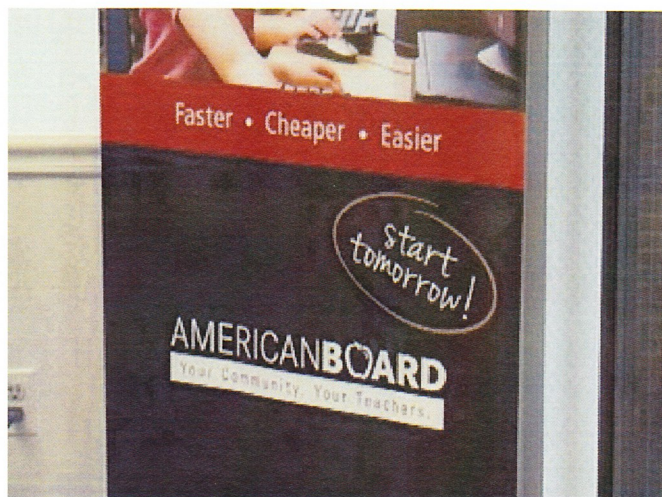
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Become a Certified Teacher with the American Board



By: Melinda Barrett

Updated: April 19, 2012



(ST. JOSEPH, Mo.) The YMCA in St. Joseph hosted an informational session for those interested in becoming certified to teach school.

The [American Board](#) offers an online program to receive a teaching certification in less than twelve months.

The non-profit organization was founded by the U.S. Department of Education in 2001.

Certification from the American Board is valid in eleven states, including Missouri.

The session on Thursday, informed those interested on how to get started.

"There are many different ways to become certified in the state that are all certification methods. There's traditional and then there's the American Board, and what we provide is an online self-paced teacher certification program that allows anyone with a four year degree to receive a teaching certification," said Amanda Brown, Teacher Certification Specialist with the American Board.





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Meeting planned on how to become a teacher

Friday, June 8, 2012
Nevada Daily Mail

Nevada Daily Mail

The American Board, a non-profit dedicated to recruiting and certifying community-based teachers in Missouri, will host a public event on how local residents can become certified Missouri teachers.

Attendees will learn what to expect in a career as a teacher and receive advisement on a personalized path to certification.

The event will be held on Tuesday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at the Franklin P. Norman City/County Community Center, 200 N. Ash, Nevada. Presentations will be led by Missouri Teacher Certification Specialist Rachel Pryor.

"Anyone with a bachelor's degree can become a full-time teacher within a year as long as they plan the right path." Pryor said. "We are searching for people who have real-life experience and want to apply that experience in the classroom."

Pryor can be contacted at rpryor@americanboard.org or (573) 200-6368. Visit www.abcte.org for more information on becoming a teacher.

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Nonprofit Offers Advice on Pursuing Teaching

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TWIN FALLS • Local residents interested in teaching have a chance next week to learn more.

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence — a nonprofit organization that recruits and trains teachers in Idaho — will host a public event about how to become a certified teacher.

Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. July 3 at the Red Lion Hotel Canyon Springs, 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. in Twin Falls. Events will be led by Idaho teacher certification specialist Michael Burke.

Visit www.abcte.org for more information on becoming a certified teacher. Burke can be reached at 605-520-2694 or at mburke@americanboard.org.

ABCTE is a state-approved teacher certification organization. The nonprofit was founded in 2001 through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Tags Nonprofit, Teaching, American Board For Certification Of Teacher Excellence

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