

I am very grateful for the opportunity provided to me by the State of North Dakota and the American Board certification process to enter the teaching profession by way of this alternate route. Because of American Board, I am now the English teacher for 60+ Native American students, grades 9-12, at Warwick High School in Warwick, North Dakota. I enrolled in the AB program in June, last year, and because I had the opportunity to dive into the AB program full time through the summer, I completed my coursework, took my tests, and gained my English teaching license by the end of the summer. I was interviewed and hired at Warwick the Friday before school was scheduled to start.

By training (B.A. and M.Div.), I am a pastor. In that position, teaching was one of my passions. After I resigned from the pastorate seven years ago, I entered the secular work force, and no longer had the freedom to teach. While those secular endeavors had their own forms of satisfaction and allowed me to provide for my family, I deeply missed my previous satisfaction of teaching. That joy was rekindled a year and a half ago when I was hired as an aide for English Learner students at Watford City (ND) High School.

When the 2019-2020 school year ended, I contacted the ND Dept. of Public Instruction to ask what college credits I would need in order to become licensed as a high school English teacher. That is when I learned of the American Board certification option. Because I was nearing the normal retirement age (though I did not and do not yet intend to retire), the possibility of gaining a teaching license via an official, alternate route was most appealing.

I am deeply, deeply grateful for the chance North Dakota has given people like me to pursue our passion and to bring our life experiences into the classrooms of North Dakota students by way of the American Board certification process. I believe the AB alternate route training provides a valuable and a needed service, not only to people like me who want to teach, but also to the students and the communities we are thereby privileged to serve.

To those who have made my present service as a teacher possible, I offer my most sincere thanks,

Respectfully,

L. Jay Reinke
9-12 English
Warwick High School, Warwick, ND