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Educators' Outlook

December 15, 2003

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Ed Tech Leader of the Year 2003

By *Amy Poftak*

Semifinalists

Kudos to the following exceptional semifinalists.

By *Amy Poftak*

Teachers

Bruce Barber, a technology teacher empowering rural high school students to become community television producers. (Timberland High School, St. Stephen, S.C.)

Beth Geno, whose unique Excel Technology class trains students to troubleshoot school computers and help teachers energize their classroom materials. (Tupelo Middle School, Tupelo, Miss.)

Robert Keddell, go-getter academic enrichment teacher, who in addition to forming partnerships with over 12 organizations, facilitates a computer loan program for low-income families. (Wilde Lake Middle School, Columbia, Md.)

Lisa LaBrake, a high school English teacher leveraging Web and video technologies for student-produced book reports, literary discussions, and real-world writing assignments. (Sweet Home High School, Amherst, N.Y.)

Warren Phillips, a legendary science teacher who has transformed his district's program using project-based learning, music, and video production. (Plymouth Public Schools, Plymouth, Mass.)

Michael Turturice, a social studies teacher who pioneered the use of technology in his school and state, from online grade access to virtual classes on criminal justice. (McClintock High School, Tempe, Ariz.)

Technology Specialists

Susan Bishop, the personification of "doing a lot with little," took a rural school with only three PCs and shaped a viable technology program. (Tremont Elementary School, Tremont, Ill.)

Joe Brennan has made his school's AV Center a focal point for students to create meaningful visual experiences, including videos of their personal immigration stories. (Niles West High School, Skokie, Ill.)

Paul Curtis, who single-handedly designed a set of unique templates and tools that support his school's project-based learning environment. (New Technology High School, Napa, Calif.)

Helen DeWitt, a technology coordinator, professional developer, and adjunct professor whose award-winning Web site serves as the curriculum enrichment hub for her school. (King Middle Grade School, Kankakee, Ill.)

Greg Drake, a results-driven educator whose comprehensive technology program includes digital storytelling, Web-based simulations for scientific inquiry, and much more. (Fayette County Public Schools, Lexington, Ky.)



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Brenda Dyck, an enterprising technology integration coach using telecollaboration to connect students from around the world. (Master's Academy and College, Calgary, Alberta, Canada)

James E. Eschenmann, the first and only technology coordinator in his county, overcame an emaciated budget to implement a high-speed infrastructure and significantly improve the student-to-computer ratio. (Harrison County Schools, Clarksburg, W. Va.)

Laurene Johnson, whose grant writing, technology integration, and leadership abilities took a technology-poor middle school from 0 to 60. (Sutherland Middle School, Charlottesville, Va.)

Administrators

Sheryl Abshire, the administrative powerhouse responsible for every one of the 2,000 teachers in her district-not to mention over 90 percent of the principals-receiving technology integration training. (Calcasieu Parish School Board, Lake Charles, La.)

Elizabeth Dalessio, MPF, a tenacious assistant superintendent who worked with legislators and other stakeholders to make the New Jersey Virtual High School a reality. (Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission, Tinton Falls, N.J.)

Gregory Decker, a no-nonsense visionary who, as principal of a school with more than 40 percent of students living in poverty, has used a data-driven approach that has yielded remarkable results. (Lead Mine Elementary School, Raleigh, N.C.)

Steven Moskowitz, a technology director whose wide-ranging initiatives-from standardizing the network infrastructure to developing a district-wide lesson database-have led to substantive systemic change. (Brewster Central School District, Brewster, N.Y.)

Nancy Sands, an instructional technology director who has galvanized an entire community to embrace project-based learning. (Davidson County Schools, Lexington, N.C.)

Amy Pofatak is executive editor of Technology & Learning.

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