

Fall Conference 2011 Presenter Biographies



Tammy Stephens: Tammy is the founder and President of The Stephens Group, PODetc (Professional Development from the Ed Tech Community), Next Generation Assessments, and eClass4Learning and a former classroom teacher. She is passionate about using emerging technologies to improve teaching and learning. Her dissertation topic is The Evolution of Communication Patterns in 1-to-1 Computing Classrooms.



Jeff Gibson: Jeff has served as the Green Bay School District's Director of Technology since 2006. He taught math and computer science for 14 years, served as a high school principal for 7.5 years and has been involved in school technology coordination for 32 years. Jeff served the last four years on the State Superintendent's Educational Data Advisory Committee, eight years on the DPI's Enhancing Education through Technology Advisory Committee and has presented at several state educational technology conferences.



Scott Christy: Scott is a veteran high school business teacher of 20 years and an adjunct instructor for the Marian University Educational Technology graduate studies program. Scott was selected as a 2010 Golden Apple award recipient for excellence in the education profession and is a state certified online instructor who specializes in using web based tools to engage and motivate high school students to solve a variety of business problems.



Stacie Cihlar: Stacie is the integration coach for the School District of Mishicot where she has served in that role for the last four years. Prior to that, she worked as a seventh grade social studies teacher. Her role involves working with teachers, as well as, integrating technology and curriculum throughout the district. Her leadership has led to the successful implementation of new technologies and coaching models in the district. Stacie has presented her coaching philosophy to many districts in Northeastern Wisconsin and is an active member of numerous professional education groups focused on technology and student learning.



Gwen Fiecko: Gwen has been teaching in the Manitowoc Public School District for ten years. She has taught 7th through 11th grade English and also taught Creative Communications and Theatre. For the past five years, she has taught Multimedia Communications. Starting in 2011, the class name will change to 21st Century Communications. The name change and the curriculum are truly more representative of the digital world in which we live. The class centers on English, Art, and Technology. Further, it incorporates 21st Century Skills, English Common Core Standards, and International Baccalaureate (IB) standards. Gwen designs websites for small businesses and non-profit organizations in addition to her teaching career.



Jessica Swemke: Jessica teaches Spanish in the Manitowoc Public School District. She has taught all levels from Spanish 1-6 as well as Spanish IB. She has established partner school relationships with schools in Spain and was instrumental in developing curriculum for the Spanish Live study/travel courses. Jessica is a frequent presenter at WAFLT (Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers) conferences where she has presented on differentiation, assessments, standards-based thematic units, and Web 2.0 tools for communication. Jessica incorporates technology not only in the traditional classroom setting, but also through the Spain Live immersion travel course. In addition, Jessica is a researcher for the IDEAS (Interactive Dialogue with Educators across the State) website.



Justin Gerlach: Justin is a Spanish & Biology teacher with the School District of Mishicot. Justin is in his tenth year of teaching and has taught all levels of Spanish 6-12 and is in his second year of teaching two sections of biology. He also serves as the head coach for both Varsity Cross Country and Boys Track & Field. Justin serves as the Public Relations Chairperson for the Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers (WAFLT) and was the keynote speaker at the 2011 WAFLT Winter Workshop: Get Your "A" Game Together: Advocacy, Assessment, Articulation for the 21st Century.



Jeremy Wildenberg: Jeremy is a US Army veteran who served for 14 years as a Russian and Arabic linguist. He now teaches Arabic at UWGB and has also been teaching Arabic and Russian at St. Norbert College since 2008. He is a candidate in UWGB's award-winning education program, seeking teacher licensure in the area of Middle Childhood through Early Adolescence (ages 6-12/13) and hopes to complete his student teaching in the fall of 2012. As a student, he is involved in leadership roles with supporting on-line learning classes and web development. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Area studies with an Emphasis in Arabic and Russian. He is married with four children and lives in Little Chute, Wisconsin.



Jim Golembeski: Jim is the Executive Director of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board, responsible for the administration of federal job training grants in a 10-county area of northeastern Wisconsin. He has been working in the employment and training field since 1990, before which he worked as a Catholic priest. The Bay Area Workforce Development Board continues to work in close partnership with Lakeshore Technical College and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College to increase the skill level of our workforce so that our businesses and succeed and grow.



Kim Noe: Kim has been teaching English for the past nine years and currently teaches in Pulaski. She is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has her MA in Educational Leadership through Cardinal Stritch University. She started her career working in the Milwaukee School District at Vincent High School and then moved with her husband to the Green Bay area. At Pulaski High School, she created and leads the new virtually paperless, electronic English course, eEnglish 11. Her success and efforts of this course merited her this year's 2011 Golden Apple Teaching Award.



Kaye Lietz: Kaye is the TRITON director and media services director at CESA 8. TRITON is an interactive television network. Kaye has a BA from UW Parkside and a MLS (Master of Library Science) from UW Milwaukee. She has worked at CESA 8 for 25 years and is an adjunct for Viterbo University.



Sandy Bader: Sandy has worked with elementary teachers and students for the past fourteen years as a Technology Training Specialist in the De Pere School District. She has also taught graduate classes on Unit Design using the backward design model. She is a trainer in the INTEL Teach Program and a My Big Campus Coach. Sandy received her PDC (Professional Development Certificate) in 2001 and has continued to be active in the PDC program as a COG facilitator and instructor.



Mike Nickerson: Mike has been teaching high school Social Studies for nearly three decades, with the past twelve years at Pulaski High School. Prior to that, Mike attended college in Iowa where he received his B.A. degree in Social Sciences. Mike received his M.A. degree and added 36 graduate level credits while teaching in the state of Wisconsin. He enjoys integrating technology in his lesson planning, especially when it gets technology into the hands of students to develop necessary 21st century skills.



Kurt Lietz: Kurt is a Social Studies teacher at the Oconto Falls School District. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from UW Oshkosh and a Master of Arts in Education from Viterbo University.



Carrie Dassow is an Assistant Superintendent for the Plymouth School District. She received her Master's in Educational Leadership from Marion College and is now pursuing her PhD in Educational Leadership. Carrie has taught Best Practices courses at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay as well as courses on Multiage for Marion College.



Dena has been in the field of education for the past 16 years. The first part of her experience was in the multiage elementary classroom. She is currently a Library Media Specialist at the high school level. She double majored in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and earned her bachelor's degree at Marian College. She earned two master's degrees from Cardinal Stritch in Reading and Language Arts and Instructional Technology. She also has a 902 Professional Instructional Library Media Specialist license. She has a passion for technology and finding effective ways to integrate 21st century skills seamlessly into classrooms.



John Knickerbocker is the Coordinator for: Career & Technical Education, Driver & Traffic Safety Education, Education for Employment, Educational Equity, and Service-Learning.