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## 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.)

**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