

# **Presenters and Panel Members**

*AMSD Winter Conference*

*Online Learning: Fad or Future?*

January 26, 2010

## **KEYNOTE: -- Education in an Online World**

### **Gary Lopez, Ph.D., Executive Director**

An experienced educator and author, Gary has an extensive background in business management, media production and technology development. In 1983, he founded Archipelago Productions, a developer of award-winning digital product for the education market and documentary films for television. In 1997, Gary became President and CEO of NETg, a global leader in providing e-Learning solutions to many of the largest corporations in the world, including Shell, IBM, AT&T, Honeywell and Motorola. Under his leadership, NETg developed a library of more than 1,200 multimedia-based courses, grew to more than 800 employees, and had offices in 30 countries. As Executive Director of the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education, Gary continues his lifelong commitment to education.

## **PANEL – Engaging Online Classrooms**

### **Jessica Wiley**

Jessica Wiley is Director of Educational Services for Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School district where she supervises curriculum and staff development, and alternative education programs. Dr. Wiley was the chair of the State Online Learning Advisory Council for three years and is a board member of Northern Star Online.

### **Frank Goodrich**

Frank Goodrich is a licensed Health, Physical Education and Adaptive Physical Educator with 20 years of experience in the Minneapolis School District. During those years he has taught in the elementary, middle, and high school levels. For the past two years he has been a teacher on special assignment with MPS Online where in addition to his teaching, he writes and trains teachers in the use of web based curriculum, and helps to coordinate the high school web based credit recovery programs.

### **Dr. Bruce Locklear**

Dr. Bruce Locklear is currently the principal at Edina High School where students are deeply engaged in a new math program that connects traditional instruction to the power of on-line learning. Students are experiencing a great degree of success through the use of power standards and a multi-tier approach to instruction. At the core of this is an on-line math curriculum that is used to assess, evaluate, and instruct.

### **Tom Skoglund**

Tom Skoglund is a teacher on special assignment working as an Instructional Technology Facilitator in the Anoka-Hennepin School District. He served as a classroom teacher (Social Studies) at Blaine High School for 18 years and as their Building Technology Coordinator for 4 years. Tom is in his 10th year working with technology at the district level. He is currently coordinating the implementation of an E2T2 state grant using WebEx web conferencing services. In addition to general instructional support, Tom also supports teachers using Moodle and supports the district's overall web presence.

### **Michael Smart**

Mike is the Online Learning Facilitator for Intermediate District 287 and a Japanese Instructor with Northern Star Online. He has over 20 years of classroom experience in the United States and Japan. He has co-authored a textbook for learning Japanese, developed online Japanese courses, and worked as an online learning consultant and curriculum specialist. In 2007, he was selected as the Minnesota Teacher of the Year, and has been honored at the White House for his work in education.

### **John Weisser**

John Weisser is the Secondary Technology Coordinator for Bloomington Public Schools - ISD 271. John was the building Technology Coordinator at Jefferson High School as they developed a hybrid model over the past three years. Previously he was a mathematics and computer teacher.

## **PANEL -- Resources for Online Development**

### **Jon Voss**

Jonathan Voss, PhD, is the Supervisor of Academic Programs for Intermediate District 287, which includes the Northern Star Online program, a consortium of 15 educational organizations dedicated to the development and delivery of quality online courses to students throughout the state. He has worked with other online programs in the Minnesota Online Learning Alliance (MNOLA) to guide policy and practice in online learning at the state level, and has also been a member of the planning committee for the Minnesota Learning Commons initiative to bring online resources to all teachers and schools. He has been involved for 18 years in creating distance learning opportunities in critical languages and other low incidence curriculum by building collaborations among school districts and service agencies.

### **Karen Johnson**

Karen Johnson is the e-learning program director for the certified online learning program at South Central Regional Area Telecommunications System (SOCRATES). Prior to SOCRATES, she was the online learning specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education, providing leadership and consultation to schools so that online and distance learning could be implemented effectively and in accordance with state policy. Her work in higher education includes the development and implementation of an undergraduate online learning program at the University of Minnesota, Morris and a collaborative hybrid graduate program for educators in rural Minnesota.

### **Gary Langer**

Gary Langer is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Innovations for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and Executive Director of the Minnesota Learning Commons. He has over 30 years of experience in academic and student affairs and has an M.A. and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Minnesota. His current efforts involve using technology and the e-learning environment to enable learners to have access to online courses, programs, resources and services through the Minnesota Learning Commons.

### **Vice Provost Billie Wahlstrom**

Billie is the Vice Provost for Distributed Education and Instructional Technology. She coordinates efforts to use instructional technology strategically and effectively to enhance teaching, learning, and outreach activities. Her strategic initiatives include myU Portal, Learning Platform, Digital Campus, and iTunes U. Her office holds U of M Membership for the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) and Medbiquitous. Billie has published on the impact of technology, pedagogy, and technical communication. She authored two books: Human Communication and with several of her colleagues, Technical Communication. She co-edited with Mary Lay The Technical Writing Teacher for many years. Her primary interests are in new and emerging technologies and their impact on learning and higher education organizations.

## **PANEL -- Challenges on the Front Lines**

### **Betty Schweizer**

Betty Schweizer is the executive director of TIES. She leads this technology consortium whose mission is to assist districts in optimizing student achievement through critical instructional technologies and operational products and services. Betty has been with TIES in various roles for 20 years. Prior to TIES, she worked in financial management positions in a number of organizations including Dayton Hudson Corporation. She holds a M.B.A. from St. Thomas University and a B.A. from the University of Minnesota.

### **Jay Haugen**

Jay Haugen has been the Superintendent of the West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, and Eagan Area Public Schools Minnesota since 2006, following 10 years as Superintendent of the Sleepy Eye Public Schools. Jay began his educational career over 20 years ago teaching science, and putting himself through graduate school developing computer programs and computer directed educational systems. Following this, Jay worked for several years as a curriculum and staff development specialist whose duties included coordinating a large educational telecommunications network, and three years for the Minnesota Department of Education as a MEEP (MN Educational Effectiveness Program) Coordinator serving nearly 80 school districts.

### **Patrick Plant**

Originally a certified classroom teacher, Patrick has been in K-12 Administration for more than 30 years with responsibilities ranging from districtwide community involvement to leading major technology initiatives. Currently he is Chief Technology and Information Officer for the Anoka-Hennepin School District. Some of Patrick's accomplishments include: being a successful administrative application developer, a highly-regarded presenter/trainer, having authored or been featured in a number of national educational publications or panels and having lead the district in very successful large competitive grant processes.

Besides working in Anoka-Hennepin, Patrick has demonstrated leadership through implementing one of the first Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) Proof of Concept Sites, conducting state and national workshops regarding SIF and actively participating on the SIF Executive & Technical Boards. In relation to his involvement with SIF, Patrick was recognized in 2001 by eSchool News in their Impact 30 List and by District Administrator in their Top 25 Education Technology Advocates List. He has participated on national K-12 education advisory councils for Apple, Follett, Microsoft, Palm, and Qwest, and has been appointed to a number of state technology planning and advisory bodies.

### **Mark Robertson**

Mark Robertson retired from Fridley Schools in July, where he served the last six years as superintendent. While at Fridley, the district made transformational changes in the area of technology on both the operational and instructional sides of the district, using its K-12 International Baccalaureate Programme and global studies at the core of its vision to drive the changes. The last three years, he has taught for Bethel University in its online graduate program. He currently is doing consulting work for Northwest Suburban Integration School District as well as TIES, helping facilitate its "Superintendent Technology Leadership Academy".

### **Keith Ryskoski**

Keith Ryskoski has been the Superintendent of Stillwater Area Public Schools in Stillwater, Minnesota since 2005. Keith began his educational career over 20 years ago teaching science and working as a junior high principal in school districts across the Midwest. Prior to becoming superintendent he was Stillwater's Director of Administrative Services and helped to implement the 1:1 learning initiative at Oak-Land Junior High School, which serves as a National Demonstration Site and is recognized as an Apple Distinguished School. He is frequently invited to speak about the impact that technology plays in a student's world.

### **John Schultz**

John Schultz is currently Superintendent of Hopkins Public Schools. John spent his a majority of his career teaching science to junior high students. While John was a director of teaching and learning, he collaborated with District 287 member districts in forming the Northern Star OnLine program.

## **PANEL -- Minnesota's Online Future?**

### **Representative Mark Buesgens**

Mark Buesgens has a long history of education and public service. He began his teaching career as a mathematic teacher at Inter-American Academy in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1983, later teaching in Chaska, and the Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan district. Since 2005 he has been the Academic Director and later Business Manager at St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, a charter school operating out of the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul.

Mark entered elected office as a member of the Jordan City Council in 1997 and in 1999 took the oath for his first term in the Minnesota House of Representatives. As a legislator he led the House Education Policy and Reform Committee as

well as the Metropolitan Council Oversight Commission. This session he is the Lead Republican on the House Finance Committee where he helps guide fellow legislators through the difficult task of balancing the state's budget. In addition to serving in the Legislature, Mark spent 10 years as a volunteer firefighter and as a confirmation instructor at Saint John's Catholic Church in Jordan, Minnesota, where he lives with his family.

### **Representative Denise Dittrich**

Denise Dittrich is serving her third term in the Minnesota House of Representatives, representing the north suburban communities of Champlin and Coon Rapids. As a former elementary school teacher and member of the Anoka-Hennepin School Board, Dittrich brings informed local leadership experience to the state legislature.

Rep. Dittrich currently serves on the several House committees, including K-12 Education Finance, K-12 Education Policy and Oversight, Taxes, and Property and Local Sales Taxes. Dittrich also serves as chair of the Promoting School Trust Lands Subcommittee, focused on increasing awareness and accountability over this important school funding resource.

Recently, Rep. Dittrich initiated a bipartisan Small Business Caucus in the Minnesota House of Representatives, a group focused on identifying key concerns and opportunities facing small businesses in Minnesota. The Small Business Caucus recently polled more than 1,000 small businesses from across the state to address the real concerns of business owners during these trying economic times.

Denise is a lifelong resident of Champlin, where she resides with her husband and three sons.

### **Karen Klinzing**

Karen Klinzing was appointed assistant education commissioner by Governor Tim Pawlenty in January 2007. Since 2007, her policy oversight areas have included Academic K-12 Standards, P-20 initiatives, High School Redesign, Early Learning, State Libraries, School Choice and Innovation, Educator licensing, STEM, and Online Learning. Prior to this, Ms. Klinzing was an elected state representative in the Minnesota House of Representatives where she had also been an assistant majority leader. Prior to and overlapping her two terms as a state legislator, Ms. Klinzing was a high school Social Studies teacher in the public school system for 14 years. Ms. Klinzing has her Master of Arts Degree in Education from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She also earned 3 Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she graduated with honors and was awarded a Hildale Scholarship for her research encapsulated in her honors thesis about facilitating the academic achievement of African-American students.

### **Senator Geoff Michel**

Senator Michel is serving his second term in the Minnesota Senate, and has served as Assistant Minority leader since 2004. He represents Senate District 41, which includes Edina and West Bloomington. Geoff received his bachelor degree from Dartmouth College and his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School. Geoff currently serves as Counsel to the Securian Financial Group.

Senator Michel is the ranking minority member on the Business, Industry and Jobs Committee and also serves on the E-12 Education Committee, the Higher Education Committee, and the Capital Investment Committee. Geoff is a co-chair for both the Early Childhood Caucus and the Legislative Cancer Caucus. He has also had the opportunity to serve on the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council.

Geoff lives in Edina with his wife, Annie, and their four daughters.

### **Senator Kathy Saltzman**

Senator Kathy Saltzman (DFL-Woodbury) was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 2006 and represents eleven communities in central Washington County. She has combined her two passions--education and economic development -- to make significant contributions in the areas of improved early reading success for children and job growth in Minnesota's most promising high tech growth sectors. In addition to serving as Vice-Chair of the Senate's Business, Industry, and Jobs Committee, she has been a conference committee member for the E-12 Education Committee for the past three years and a member of the Senate Transportation Finance and Policy Committee. Senator Saltzman also serves on the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission and the board of ServeMinnesota.