

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| U.S. Innovative Education ForumApplication | The 2011 Microsoft U.S. Innovative Education Forum (IEF) recognizes innovative educators and innovative schools implementing 21-century skills in the classroom and the school community with the goal of improving teaching and learning. The Innovative Education Forum seeks to showcase creative and inspiring examples of how educators and schools are using technology.  The theme this year is ***Engaging students. Inspiring creativity. Preparing for the future.*** It focuses on how educators and schools engage students to solve difficult problems while inspiring creativity and, ultimately, preparing students for the future.  Educators are encouraged to submit class projects as individuals or in collaboration with another teacher. Schools are encouraged to submit projects that highlight how technology is being used in innovative ways throughout the school community.  Who should apply?   * **Educators.** Individual K–12 educators * **Teams of educators.** Teams of two educators * **Schools.** Individuals on behalf of their school, representing a school-wide program or initiative   Educators and schools will be selected via an application process to participate in the U.S. Innovative Education Forum on July 28–29, 2011, hosted on the Microsoft main campus in Redmond, Washington. The deadline to apply is May 15, 2011. However, applications received by April 1, 2011, are eligible for an early-decision round.  Winners from the July event will be invited to represent the United States at the 2011 Worldwide Innovative Education Forum in Washington, D.C., in November.  There is no fee to attend, and travel expenses for both events are supported by Microsoft. |

Apply early, and get a Bing Classroom Pack!

All applicants who submit a complete application by the April 1, 2011 deadline will   
receive a fun Bing Classroom Pack, which includes two posters and Bing magnetic poetry   
for your whiteboard.

Application process

Complete the application form within this document by using the template that follows.

Completed applications must be submitted by midnight Pacific Time on April 1, 2011, (for early decision), or midnight Pacific Time on May 15, 2011, for second round selection.

All applications must be posted to the [2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum community](http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/Communities/6303b6d604ee4468904707aa5b8b76ab/Pages/default.aspx) (http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011\_US\_IEF/. This requires applicants to have a Windows Live ID (free at <https://home.live.com>) and to join the  
 [U.S. Partners in Learning Network](http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/) (http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/).

All projects must include the use of one or more Microsoft technologies.

Projects should demonstrate the innovative use of technology in ways that reflect the themes for 2011: Engaging students, inspiring creativity, and preparing for the future.

Steps for submitting your application

1. Applications must be posted to the U.S. Partners in Learning Network, a free, community-based resource where educators and schools can collaborate. The site is here: <http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com>.
2. You’ll need a Windows Live ID (free at https://home.live.com) to sign in to the Partners in Learning Network site.
3. After you’ve signed in to the Partners in Learning Network website, you will need to   
   go to the [2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum community](file:///C:\Users\v-robayu\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\M0P7MMQG\2011%20Innovative%20Education%20Forum%20Community) (<http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/)>.   
   Then, you must click **Join Now** to join the community.
4. In the community, find the Shared Documents section. This is where you will post your application and corresponding content.
5. In Shared Documents, post all contents to a folder. Be sure to use a descriptive project name and your own name (for example, *Cultural Exploration – Rob B.ppt* and *Cultural Exploration – Rob B.jpg)*.
6. Upload all of your application contents (for example, the application, examples of student work, rubrics, pictures, and video) to the folder, using descriptive titles.

Application deadline

Applications will be selected in two rounds and must be submitted by midnight Pacific Time on **April 1, 2011**, or by midnight Pacific Time on **May 15, 2011**. April applicants will be notified by April 15, and all others will be notified by June 1, 2011. All winners will be invited to participate in the July 28–29, 2011, event on the Microsoft main campus in Redmond, Washington.

***New!* U.S. IEF People’s Choice award** *(optional)*



We would like to showcase your inspiring work on the [Microsoft edu YouTube channel](http://www.youtube.com/user/Microsoftedu) (<http://www.youtube.com/user/Microsoftedu>). This is optional, but encouraged.   
Here’s how to participate:

1. Create a fun video describing your project and its impact on student learning.
2. Send us an email at [usief@microsoft.com](mailto:usief@microsoft.com) with a location where we can find the video to download it (for example, YouSendIt, your blog, or Windows Live SkyDrive, among other locations).
3. Microsoft will upload your video to our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/Microsoftedu>.
4. Tell your friends, colleagues, and students to vote “Like” for your project.

The two videos receiving the most “Likes” will automatically be accepted to the U.S. IEF event in Redmond. Your project must meet the requirements, you must submit a formal IEF application, and you must obtain the necessary release forms for any students in your video. *Be creative, and show your spirit!*

Questions?

Visit the [2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum community](http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/) (<http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/>) on the U.S. Partners in Learning Network, or send an email to [USIEF@microsoft.com](mailto:USIEF@microsoft.com). You can also find frequently asked questions (FAQ) on [www.microsoft.com/education/usief/](http://www.microsoft.com/education/usief/).

# U.S. Innovative Education Forum: Educator and school application

Project overview

Date

3/14/2011

Title:

Electronic Portfolios: The Weebly Wonders of the Web

Objective/Description:

Standing out in the crowd is essential in a job interview. Employers will be judging you based on the content of your response, the color or your wardrobe, and of course, the design of your application materials. Portfolios are a necessary tool for every job interview. They provide evidence such as a resume, an award, or a work sample to back up in visuals what is said in words. Unfortunately, there’s a problem with these traditional paper portfolios. First, they are not travel-friendly. As more papers are added, they become heavier, often discolor, and wrinkle with age. Another dilemma is that a paper portfolio does not stay overnight with employers. So if a hiring committee needed a second look at a candidate’s credentials, they would have to rely on memory alone. With the importance of going green spreading in America, what a waste of paper every time a document is updated. It is clear that a multimedia, web-based collection works best for a world driven by technology.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the national unemployment rate was at 8.9 percent in April. Teenagers are struggling to find employment due to our economic status. Places are just not hiring. And much like the excitement of peeling the winning McDonald’s monopoly sticker to get that free fry, even if a job opening is found and the thrill is intense, it is not long-lived. Competition is stiff. Although creating a digital portfolio does not solve our economic woes, it does give students a greater chance for employment and a leg up over other teenagers who are not equipped with such a professional tool. Telling an employer about your accomplishments is fine. However, showing a hiring panel with videos, pictures, and sounds is extraordinary and convincing of their potential.

The purpose of this project to transform traditional paper portfolios into electronic portfolios by using digital cameras, flash drives, a video camera, headsets, and scanners. These digital works would be housed on individual Weebly web sites. This project would be aligned to the National Educational Technology Standards as well as Michigan’s new high school reform curriculum that mandates an online learning experience. This will be more meaningful to students because technology use will increase excitement for learning. Likewise, it will be more management to students because assignments can be updated with ease.

1. Interpret information using a variety of career assessments to identify career interests and abilities
2. Apply technology to workplace or career situation. Include research and a written paper/presentation
3. Determine goals and develop and action plan to accomplish them within a given time frame
4. Accurately complete records/documents to support job applications
5. Apply career and labor market information to seek and obtain employment and/or pursue goals
6. Use a portfolio as self-marketing tools to demonstrate interest and competence
7. Continue the EDP process including an annual review with student and counselor

Grade level:

9-12

Duration

(Number of class sessions required to complete the project):

Throughout one trimester – 12 weeks

Microsoft technologies used:

Windows Movie Maker and/or PhotoStory 3, Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint

Participant(s) information

Educator or school applicant:

Are you applying as an educator **or** on behalf of your school? Educator

Educator(s) or school name:

Tasha Candela

Contact information

(Include best phone and best email address—ones that can be used during summer break. If you do not want to enter full contact information here, please submit information to [usief@microsoft.com](mailto:usief@microsoft.com) after you have posted application to the 2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum community.)**:**

tcandela@lsps.org

School and district:

Lake Shore High School, Lake Shore Public Schools

Address:

22980 East Thirteen Mile Road  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082

School website

(Please note: One member of the team must also complete the School Profile within the [Partners in Learning Network](http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/) <http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/>. You will be prompted for details as you sign in.):

http://lakeshoreschools.org/

Additional information about your school

(Provide relevant school environment background information, such as charter, magnet, or small learning communities, among other options. Include additional websites, blogs, or social networking sites that one or both teachers on the team author.):

Located in the lakefront community of St. Clair Shores, the Lake Shore district is home to over 3,400 K-12 students attending three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.  Our district's curriculum is fully aligned with state standards and benchmarks.

<http://bb9.misd.net> Username: lakparent Password: lakparent

Twitter handle: @bethetigger

Project implementation

Implementation outline

(List the basic steps required to implement the project.)**:**

1. Weebly will be introduced to the class. Students will be given the requirements of the electronic portfolio and an explanation of all necessary components will be addressed.
2. Students will be given multiple pretests that will help them discover their values, interests, and personality traits that will match specific career fields.
3. Using the Occupational Outlook Handbook, students will research a selected career field and discover its nature of work, working conditions, education, job outlook earnings, and a related occupation. A written paper and presentation will be submitted. Instead of these traditional formats, a photostory of their careers could be substituted.
4. Short term and long term goals will be discussed in class and developed. A timeline will be created to keep students organized, on-track, and ready for accomplishment.
5. Awards and certificates will be scanned. Pictures and videos of activities will be placed in their portfolios. A lesson on how-to complete a job application will help students understand the need for professionalism and organization.
6. Professional career documents such as letters of introduction, resumes, cover letters, references, letters of appreciation, letters of recommendation, thank you letters, and mission statements will be created and placed on their Weebly web sites in PDF files.
7. Mock interviews featuring what to do and common mistakes will be featured as vital learning experiences and practice for authentic interviews.
8. Educational Development Plans will be created for students to reference as they continue through the next three years of high school toward graduation. Students need to be reminded of what classes would match their career pathways.

Implementation tips

(Offer suggestions that may help others who want to do this type of project.)**:**

Classroom realities can make teaching difficult. In attempt to make this project effective, I must do the following. First, I will create a fun, inviting atmosphere. I have an energetic personality which lends to jokes and quirky remarks in the classroom. It is extremely important to build rapport and get to know students. Then, I will know the educational backgrounds and goals my students have and frame my class around those student’s needs. Furthermore, I am insanely passionate about the subject of business and technology which brushes off on my students. Instant bonds form when you enjoy your job and the kids take note of it. This is why this assignment will provide a lot of student choice and individual thought versus teaching with right or wrong answers in mind. When students are given compassion from the teacher, understand why the assignment has value, and they are able to make personal choices about their projects, they will certainly have a more positive experience. This career portfolio is about them. They can infuse personal elements using technology and feel a sense of accomplishment from their work.

I believe the best way to pay it forward is by training other educators on ways to use technology to create similar projects that have a high impact on students. I *love* technology. Much like some spend their evenings reading, cooking, or watching television, I am likely to be spending it with my laptop beside me, dabbling in another new Web 2.0 program. My talent and love to create useful projects using these programs should be shared with others; in the end, a new form of excitement among staff members and students will be created.

Technologies used

(Projectors, mobile phones, cameras, etc.)**:**

Microsoft Office Suite, notepad, Photoshop Elements 9, digital cameras, camcorders, Windows Movie Maker/PhotoStory 3

Lessons learned

(Share any best practices or reflections.)**:**

Since beginning my teaching career in 2006, I can honestly share with you that this was one of the most successful lessons in my career. Students truly understood the magnitude of this project and used every lesson presented to showcase their aptitudes and abilities. I believe one of the most important aspects of this project is to create a model example for students to follow. My portfolio can be found at <http://tashacandela.weebly.com>. Although this portfolio took much time to complete in advance, it demonstrated to my students how useful documentation is at any stage in life.

One of my greatest challenges with this project was working one-on-one with individuals who did not have the confidence or the involvement as other students. I try to stress that every student has admirable characteristics about them that is noteworthy to an employer. Drawing those aspects to the surface and selling them to an employer is key.

Project standards alignment

Standards

(List two or three of the most significant state, national, or International Society for Technology in Education [ISTE] standards that are addressed through the project.)**:**

**TEC.K-12.1** Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.

**TEC.K-12.5.b** Students: exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, l earning, and productivity.

**TEC.9-12.3** Select digital tools or resources to use for a real-world task and justify the selection based on their efficiency and effectiveness.

21st-century skills

(Explain how this project addresses and integrates content and learning outcomes from core subjects identified in the [21st-Century Skills Framework](http://www.p21.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=119) [<http://www.p21.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=254&Itemid=119>], such as English/language arts, world languages, arts, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history, and government. If applicable, describe how the project enhances students’ understanding of 21st-century themes, such as global awareness, financial literacy, economics, business and entrepreneurial literacy, civic literacy, and health literacy.):

This project addresses several 21st-century skills. Students were required to be creative and decide on an appropriate layout for their portfolios. They had to use critical thinking skills and problem solving in order to obtain their desired job. Using web 2.0 tools, students demonstrated information literacy. This project will not be used merely one time for a grade. Students will market themselves for the rest of their lives using documents within their electronic portfolios.

Project results

*If applying on behalf of your school, please respond to these questions in the context of how you measured the project’s success across the school community.*

Assessment strategies

(Briefly list the strategies used to assess student learning, including the 21st- century content and skill areas.)**:**

The strategy that I used to assess student learning was monitoring portfolio progress from start to finish. Along the way, I also used the rubric, concept maps, cooperative learning, discussions, surveys, presentations, quizzes and tests, case studies, and real world applications.

Student products

(Describe the products and/or performances created by students for the project.)**:**

The following items are uploaded or attached to their portfolios: letter of introduction, headshot of student, personal mission statement, cover letter, resume, references, letters of recommendation, certificates and/or awards, interviews, bucket list, completed job application, bills and expenses, career research presentation, and work samples.

Significant learning

(Summarize your students’ most significant learning that resulted from this project.)**:**

The joy from creating this lesson comes after this project when students frequent my classroom and share with me that they landed a job with the help of their portfolio. It is such a successful to see the sheer amount of students who credit their employment successes to my class!

Student achievement

(Share evidence of increased student achievement and/or understanding that resulted from this project.)**:**

As I have stated above, I think the increase in student employment within our school has been the best measure.

Project artifacts

Additional information

(Include up to four additional resources used in this project. These might include   
project rubrics, pictures, video, or student work samples, among other items, that   
would provide additional insight on the project and its results. Describe these briefly in   
the space that follows, and post them with your application in the folder you create   
in the [2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum community](http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/) [<http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/>].):

Student portfolio: <http://xhesikamarie.weebly.com/>

Teacher portfolio: <http://tashacandela.weebly.com/>

Project rubric: Word document outlining requirements for portfolios

Title: Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning published an article about this project

2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum terms and conditions:

If you are a potential winner, we may require you to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility, a Liability/Publicity Release, and a W-9 tax form or W-8BEN tax form within 10 days of notification. In addition, if you are a public sector employee (including education or government), we will require you to sign and return a gift letter signed by your education institution’s ethics officer or attorney. If you do not complete the required forms as instructed and/or return the required forms within the time period listed on the winner notification message, we may disqualify you and select a runner-up.

All teachers participating in the U.S. Innovative Education Forum People’s Choice   
awards must submit to Microsoft a signed release form. This form can be obtained   
by emailing [usief@microsoft.com](mailto:usief@microsoft.com) or by downloading it from the [2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum community](http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/) (<http://us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com/PILCommunity/2011_US_IEF/>).