



Tasha Candela, right, with Carrie Wozniak of MACUL receiving the Outstanding Tech Teacher of the Year award.

The U.S. IEF is a showcase of talented educators from around the country, and Microsoft Corporation will honor these teachers for creatively and effectively using technology in their curriculum to increase student engagement and success. At the forum, educators will have the opportunity to learn from and network with other teachers, allowing them to share and discover new ways to better prepare students for the future.

Candela will be presenting a lesson in Redmond, WA on July 28-29. Her lesson titled “Electronic Portfolios: The Weebly Wonders of the Web” has already won her a grant through the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning and the distinction of 2011 Outstanding Technology -Using Pre-K-12 Teacher of the Year. Both past and current students have praised Mrs. Candela for not only sharing this lesson with them, but more importantly, helping them gain employment in this lifeless economy. Candela has also received a Special Tribute from Senator Beida’s office and a Shorian Salute from the Board of Education in recognition of this achievement.

Business education has been a passion for Mrs. Candela since her teaching career began in 2006. She recognizes that regular attendance at conferences is an important part of the teaching profession and uses that newfound knowledge to enhance her classroom. Candela says, “I love what I do. My goal in this ever-important profession is to push my students beyond their academic and social limits and prepare them for a life full of opportunity. Undoubtedly, I am in my dream profession and every decision that I have made has been with my students' best interests in mind.”

Students Benefit from Teacher’s Remarkable Year

Tasha Candela, high school business teacher, is one of twenty-nine teachers from 14 states who have been selected as first-round finalists to showcase the unique ways they are using technology in and beyond their classrooms. Mrs. Candela has been selected from a pool of 200,000 applicants nationwide to present at the 2011 U.S. Innovative Education Forum (IEF), presented by Microsoft Partners in Learning.

Candela’s hard-work, passion, and success has benefited her students. She commented, “Students genuinely enjoy the hands-on project-based lessons within my classes.” The student’s not only enjoy the lessons but excel. Sophomore Eva Smith and senior Ashley Scalabrino entered a Web Design contest in the fall through the Michigan Council of Women in Technology. Both young ladies placed in the top ten out of three counties and Eva was awarded a fourth place distinction, a \$50 check, and a field trip experience to Daimler Chrysler Headquarters where she learned about their technology facilities. Because of the passion for the class and experience in this contest, both ladies will be pursuing degrees in graphic/web design.

In Candela’s web design class, students were tasked to create a website for Lakeshore Lanes, a local bowling alley, from scratch. Using basic design principles mastered in the introductory class while continuing to learn more HTML, CSS, and photo-editing techniques, students presented a finalized website to the owner by the end of the trimester. Students had roughly thirty-five hours to complete their websites. With a tough deadline, advanced web design gurus had to begin work immediately in order to accomplish this goal.

On May 18, Mr. LaHood, the owner of the bowling alley, selected seniors Marie Scheppman and Katie Verner as the winners of this web design contest and their site will be live this summer. Since her freshman year, Katie was eager to become a nurse, but she has now changed her mind and will pursue a degree in graphic design and web development. She says, “It is a great feeling knowing that I won something that relates to the career I am going into. I couldn’t be happier right now. It really shows that hard work and dedication does pay off.” Marie has chosen to stay in a career field that can show off her artsy talents; she has decided to take on the major of Video Productions and has already landed a summer internship with Epic Motion. Candela says that allowing authentic opportunities like this one is truly the hallmark of the teaching profession.



Student Corner



Amanda Conlon, a sixth grader at Kennedy Middle School, wrote the following essay one evening. This wasn’t an assignment, just thoughts that came to her as she sat on the couch with her I-Touch.

It is an interesting perspective and carries a lot of wisdom that readers of any age can appreciate.

When you think about it, going into life, we expect it to be easy. We expect love to find us, we expect friendship to be always fun and flawless and we expect every choice we make to turn out good because the paper in our fortune cookie said it will.

But we have to take a step back before diving headfirst into life and think about this: No one's life is a Disney movie. No goods things just... come. Almost, if not all good things in life have to be earned. We have to chase after our own dreams, taking every single opportunity and chance we get. We can't just sit back and let life 'take its course'.

No! Life goes on the course WE put it on! People, especially young, need to realize every choice you make now effects your entire life. What's 'cool' now, may not be so cool in 20 years when your struggling to save your relationship and job.

Kids need to take a deep breath, get a head on their shoulders, and start on the path to success. One day we're going to be the people who make all the choices for our environment or surroundings. And that's going to be sort of hard when in 6th grade we're basically stepping back and letting someone else do our work, which usually, by the way, doesn't change. It's disturbing to me that we don't realize what most kids are doing.

Life isn't just going work out the kinks itself. Life isn't designed to make you hate it or to make you not want to live it. I think it's designed to shape you as a person, but for the most part, you control the way that happens.

So let's take life by the reins, step up, and live it expecting that things will go terribly wrong and you'll have to work harder than ever before, but in the long run it will all be worth it.

I don't know how or what way that final happiness will come, but if you live your life and take control of it and work through it in your own way, it will come.

So let's go, people. It's your turn to take this in and go live.

Golf Outing - Continued from page 1

The annual golf outing is held every June and is just one way the Foundation raises money for students. They also do an Annual Community Funds Drive, Lake Shore employees choose to have payroll deduction to help students, and community members donate memorials or continually throughout the year. With the ominous future of budget cuts to schools from the state, the Foundation is engaged in seeking new resources, soliciting gifts, and generating revenue to meet the educational needs of today’s youth.

If you are passionate about education and are looking for a way to volunteer your time to a group that has the best



Lake Shore Board of Education Member James Graver gets ready to line up his shot at the annual outing.

interest of students in mind, contact Lake Shore Foundation for Education Excellence at (586) 285-8460 or through the district website at www.lakeshoreschools.org.

Lake Shore Foundation for Educational Excellence

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