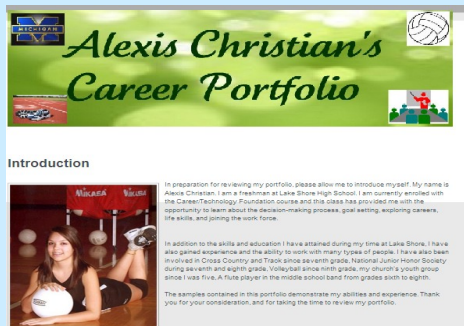


The Pages



Home: introduces employer to the candidate in letter or video format

Introduction: showcases primary employment documents such as the mission statement, resume, cover letter, and references

Professional: persuasive letters of recommendation which outline the candidate's work ethic and personal character

Academics: accolades including certificates, awards, trophies, plaques, and publications that demonstrate involvement

World of Work: support documentation serving as evidence that the candidate has mapped out his or her career goal thoroughly

Work Samples: examples of effort from a variety of courses with heartfelt reflections

**Interview empty-handed.
Leave with a smile because of the
job you just landed.**



Angela VanDerHeyden



Grant Khalil

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Electronic Portfolios:

The Weebly Wonders of the Web



**Join Mrs. Candela's
Career/Technology Foundations
students as they prepare for the
world of work and prevail over the
derailing economy**

Essential Question

How can educators and schools engage students to solve difficult problems while inspiring creativity and, ultimately, preparing students for the future?

The Problem

Michigan has an unemployment rate of 10.3% and is ranked 47 since March 2011¹. Teenagers are struggling to find employment due to our economic status. Businesses are simply 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 and our students are discouraged. Luckily, the lack of hope which has been lost within so many households in America will not have the same affect on Lake Shore High School students.

The Creativity

It all began with the idea to create electronic portfolios in a ninth-grade required class called Career/Technology Foundations. The main objective of this course is to prepare students for the world of work. Electronic portfolios were a natural fit. They provide evidence of attitudes, abilities, experiences, growth, and achievements. Moreover, electronic portfolios are an excellent way of showing off technology aptitudes, a necessary skill for the 21st century learner. To begin the process of creating electronic portfolios, students were introduced to Weebly. Weebly is a free, easy-to-use website creator. With its drag-and-drop interface, user-friendly tools, and ability to personalize pages, students quickly became Weebly enthusiasts. Six separate, professional pages were required. While this project will not guarantee employment, it certainly will provide them with a competitive edge and a boost in self-concept.

"Being able to use my creative mind and infuse my personality into my work has helped me develop a portfolio that I am extremely proud to show off. Although I am fully aware that the state of the economy is rough, I will reach my goal of becoming a lawyer." —Briana Johnson



The Future

The average American held approximately 11 jobs from age 18 to age 44, with the majority of the jobs being held before age 27². To survive and advance, our students will have to become skilled at job hunting. Their first job is just the beginning of a lifelong process. Electronic portfolios are the solution to helping a student demonstrate why he or she is the perfect candidate for the position and ultimately secure those job prospects.

The Technology

The following Microsoft software products and other resources were used in the creation of our portfolios:

Microsoft Word
Microsoft Excel
Microsoft PowerPoint
Windows Live Movie Maker
Windows Photo Story 3
Weebly.com
Slideshare.com
Vimeo.com



"The biggest lesson I have learned throughout this course is to be passionate about my selected career. I feel that my portfolio certainly captures the professional and active person that I am." —Alex Marlin

The Portfolio Difference

Since the initiation of this project in 2008, this lesson has won a Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning \$1,500 grant and a portfolio partnership with two college professors at Central Michigan University and Oakland Community College has been formed. In addition, I have presented Electronic Portfolios: The Weebly Wonders of the Web at three state conferences and have received countless praise by staff members and students. Upperclassmen have credited their employment successes back to their Career/Technology Foundations class and the work of their electronic portfolio. Although it is impossible to gauge just how many students will get employed, I have the highest confidence that every single student has made tremendous gains in fundamental concepts and practice. Moreover, eighty-nine percent of all students in this class found their portfolio to be extremely useful or very useful. Authentic assessment is truly the most important pedagogic teaching strategy in existence. These portfolios will be used by my students for the rest of their lives.

Source: ^{1,2}Bureau of Labor Statistics



"Our Weebly portfolios have prepared us for the future by making us marketable! We have already landed our first job at Kyte Monroe, a community sports park. We are thankful for all of the work preparation experiences that Career/Technology Foundations offered!"

—Carly Vargo and Paige Plotzke