

Tri-District EdTech Conference Presenters

Angie Bakke – Ms. Bakke is an experienced educator, presenter, trainer and conference planner who brings enthusiasm, humor, and instructional technology knowledge to her workshops, in-services, and conference presentations. Her passion lies in training classroom teachers and schools to seamlessly integrate technology and 21st century learning tools into the classroom, curriculum, and lesson design. Angie has more than 25 years of combined secondary classroom and instructional technology experience. She has taught grades 6-12 English, multimedia and web mastering, and has been the advisor for 17 nationally recognized student publications. She is Google® Education Applications qualified and is Technology Applications, EC-12 certified. She earned her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Texas at Arlington. Angie is currently an instructional technology coach in Grapevine-Colleyville ISD in Grapevine, Texas.

Melanie Burford – Ms. Burford has been an educator since 1997. She taught 1st and 2nd grade in Louisiana before moving to Texas in 1999. Since then, she has taught Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades and currently serves as a Library Media Specialist. In 2013, Melanie was named TCEA's Library Media Specialist of the Year. Melanie continues to be an advocate for seamlessly integrating technology into the curriculum and has made great efforts to bridge the gap between 21st Century learning and the teachers' comfort level.

Joan Gore – Ms. Gore is an experienced educational technology consultant specializing in technology integration at all levels, BYOD implementations, and mobile learning devices. Her experience in the classroom and instructional technology department in a large Texas school district gives her a broad viewpoint of the needs of students and teachers. Joan has presented at national, state and local conferences and in school districts throughout the United States. She has co-authored four books on technology integration and professional development. Joan served as president for the Texas Computer Education Association Board of Directors and was awarded ISTE's Make It Happen award given to leaders in educational technology. Joan is a graduate of TCU with a B.S. in Education and remains an active alumnus, having served on the TCU National Alumni Board and as president of the Dallas TCU Alumni. She taught in both public and private schools for over 25 years, spending her last 13 years in the Instructional Technology Department of Lewisville ISD.

Karin Porter – Ms. Porter's has taught at the elementary and college level for the past twenty-five years. She began her educational career teaching 3rd grade and has also taught 4th and 4th/5th mixed-age grade levels. She became an Instructional Technology Specialist in 1998 and continues to serve in that capacity. Karin earned a B.S. in Education from the University of North Texas and an M.Ed. in Educational Technology from the University of Texas at Brownsville. By serving as an adjunct professor at Dallas Christian College in Dallas, Texas, and a Consultant for the Center of Educational Revision®, she is able to share her passion of integrating technology with a focus on curriculum with future and current educators.

Joy Royal (Project Manager) - Dr. Royal has been a professional educator for thirty-three years. She worked for fifteen years as an elementary classroom teacher, three years as an elementary technology teacher, and is now working as an adjunct instructor for California State University. In her years in PreK-12 settings she was also a district trainer and the instructional technology coordinator for eleven years. She has taught instructional design to teachers, enabling them to incorporate teaching strategies best suited for available technology tools to be woven into educators' already full curriculum. She has a K-8 Generalist Education Certification and is a Microsoft® Office® Master Instructor. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Southwestern University, a Master of Science in Computer Education and Cognitive Sciences and a Ph.D. in Educational Technology from the University of North Texas

Amy Vance (Director of Programs) – Ms. Vance began her career in education 23 years ago gaining experience teaching students in grades 6 through community college level. Amy has taught Pre-AP® and AP® Biology for over 15 years and has served as a consultant for the College Board® since 2004. She has been a grader for the AP Biology exam and was an editor of the textbook *Biotechnology: A Laboratory Skills Course*. In 2005, she received the prestigious Siemens® Award for Advanced Placement. Amy earned a B.S. in Education from the University of Texas at Austin, and an M.Ed. in Secondary and Higher Education from Texas A&M University, Commerce. While serving as the Director of Programs for Center for Educational ReVision®, Amy continues to teach Biology in an adjunct position at El Centro College in Dallas, Texas.

Emily A. Young (Project Manager) – Ms. Young has been a professional educator for sixteen years. She worked for five years as an Early Childhood Intervention Specialist and for four years as a Special Education Teacher. She currently serves as an Educational Technology Trainer for Mansfield ISD, as she has for the past seven years. She has developed programs and teaching strategies to incorporate technology into the curriculum and regularly assists teachers and students with the use of educational technology. She holds Master Technology Teacher and Level IV Assistive Technology certificates, is fluent in American Sign Language, and is an invited presenter and trainer at local, regional, state, and national levels. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching Degree with a specialization in Hearing Impairment from Stephen F. Austin University and a Master of Education Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas at Arlington.