

**Awarded during the Great Computer Challenge  
Old Dominion University  
May 16, 2009**

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINNERS

### 2009 Excellence in Technology Awards

“Not what they do for themselves, but how they involve and inspire others.”

### Technology Educator of the Year

If you spend any time examining the new ISTE Technology Standards for Teachers, you will find a strong emphasis on using technology for creativity and innovative teaching as well as a strong sense of collaboration. The judges felt that two Educators met these criteria and have decided to offer a tie for the 2009 Technology Educator of the Year.

**Cameo Slaybaugh**, Grade 5 Lead Teacher,  
Suffolk SECEP School



As a veteran educator at SECEP, Ms. Slaybaugh enriches her instruction with technology that allows students to go beyond the classroom walls. In 2007, she “took her students to Alaska with her.” In 2008, she spent six weeks conducting research as part of a scientific research team with PolarTREC, funded by the National Science Foundation. Ms. Slaybaugh built and tested a remote operated vehicle to survey under the ice in Antarctica. Students participated in her work by building their own ROV with thrusters, remote control, and video cameras and conducting local research. Students communicated with engineers and watched video events from their classrooms. Ms. Slaybaugh shared her experiences with not only her own students, but also students across the United States.

Ms. Slaybaugh also created and helps to maintain a website ~ <http://www.teacherthinktank.org> ~ that provides information for teachers about obtaining free teaching materials and applying for grants.

For her collaboration with students in innovative technology-driven lessons, the judges are proud to award the 2009 Technology Educator of the Year Award to Cameo Slaybaugh.

**Kristen Taxson**, First Grade Teacher,  
Brighton Elementary, Portsmouth



Kristy's first grade inclusion classroom is an active and engaging classroom. Using an interactive whiteboard, a document camera, a student response system, a classroom blog and VoiceThreads into her instruction, she creates a child-centered environment that helps all students be successful.

Her classroom blog gives parents a snapshot of what is going on in the classroom. Each week, she sends home the link to encourage parents to stay involved. Student writing and publication on VoiceThread is also shared with parents via the blog.

For starting students off right with a technology-enriched classroom and using technology to help all students, the judges are proud to award the 2009 Technology Educator of the Year Award to Kristen Taxson.

# Technology Integrator of the Year

**Sheila Teri**, Computer Resource Teacher,  
Trantwood Elementary, Virginia Beach



As the CRT at Trantwood Elementary, Ms. Teri works on a variety of levels to integrate technology and include the 21st century skills of problem solving, creative thinking, and team work in instruction within the classrooms. She has encouraged teachers to examine their old lessons and re-design them to include higher level thinking. Her training with teachers on using VoiceThread has led to collaboration with students in other schools.

Ms. Teri is a technology force within her school. She created and maintains the school blog, the school website, and Portaportals for every grade level. She applies for and has received several grants, most recently for Promethean Slates and Activotes. She sponsors the Computer Club, and she has served on several division-wide technology committees.

Ms. Teri also goes beyond her own school to share her skills. She has presented Voicethread training for both Discovery Education and at VSTE 2009. She is also offering it for summer PDP for The Virginia Beach City Public School Division. She created and maintains wikis for Hampton Roads ModSim and the Computer Resource Teachers, and she is the Voice of VSTE on Twitter.

For working within her school and going beyond the school to share her mission of technology integration, the judges are proud to award the 2009 Technology Integrator of the Year Award to Sheila Teri.

# Technology Administrator of the Year

**Shannon Panko**, Principal,  
Riverside Elementary School, Newport News



Mrs. Shannon Panko serves as a model for all of her colleagues in Newport News when it comes to effective leadership in a 21st century school. Through her four and half years at Riverside, she has led the transformation of the school from one teetering on the brink of a loss of accreditation to a high-achieving center for academic achievement by focusing, in part, on innovative instructional technology integration school-wide. She earned the opportunity for her school to house the only two elementary-level "technology incubation classrooms" among all 28 elementary schools in the district. Her school is also the only district elementary school to pilot Parent Assistant, a web-based tool that allows families to access school-related information such as attendance and grades. When Mrs. Panko read how iPods were being used in secondary classrooms in other states, she decided to bring the power of the devices into her first grade classrooms – and now Riverside students as young as six years old use them to track their reading fluency growth, practice retelling skills, watch educational videos, and more. And when the district told her they did not have the funds to bring electronic response systems into her school, she

formed a partnership with a vendor to use several sets on a trial basis, eventually purchasing them outright at a greatly reduced rate. Mrs. Panko does not confine her advocacy efforts to the boundaries of her own school. She has presented and co-presented at the ASCD Annual Conference, the Florida Educational Technology Conference, and the NNPS International Conference.

Whether she is advocating for integration, supporting integration by her teachers, integrating herself, or spreading the message of integration to educators across the country, she continues to set herself apart as a visionary leader who knows how to set up and support effective modern learning environments for students. For her driving and inspiring force that has led to Riverside Elementary to becoming the technology hotspot in elementary education in Newport News, the judges are proud to award the 2009 Technology Administrator of the Year Award to Shannon Panko.