

J U D G E S

FOR THE PATHWAYS 2006 LESSON PLAN CONTEST

Certiport is pleased to announce the final panel of judges for the Pathways 2006 Lesson Plan Contest. In alphabetical order, the contest judges will be: Mona Bickham, Dianne Kehoe, Julian Luke, Gloria Peifer, and Suzette Surbeck. Below is a brief biography of each judge's educational and corporate-related experience and achievements:

MONA BICKHAM

Mona Bickham has a Master's in Guidance and Counseling, a B.A., Business Education, and B.A., Business (Office) Administration from Southern Louisiana University.

In October 2005 she was granted an award for outstanding contribution in supervising business education programs for "Southern Business Education Association's Supervisor of the Year." In the summers of 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, she coordinated computer workshops that were sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Education in Microsoft Office Specialist, IC3, Webmaster and Speech Recognition. In 1998, Bickham was awarded "Vocational Business Teacher of the Year" by the Louisiana Vocational Association and "Business Teacher of the Year" by the Louisiana Association of Business Educators. In the 1980's, Bickham attended the Nation at Risk study review at the request of her national Congressman. This group was responsible for developing SCAN Skills for Secretary of Labor Elisabeth Dole.

In addition to her accomplishments, Bickham is a member of the following organizations: ACTE (AVA) and LACTE (LVA) - Career and Technical Education Associations - national and state (formerly known as Vocational Associations); NBEA - National Business Education Association; SBEA - Southern Business Education Association. Bickham has served as the SBEA representative from LABE and Delta Pi Epsilon, honorary society for business educators and also as President for the Louisiana State University chapter, 1998-2000.

DIANNE KEHOE

Dianne Kehoe has 29 years of teaching experience. Through various teaching assignments ranging from resource room intervention to high school core curriculum areas, Kehoe has pioneered new teaching methodologies.

Kehoe's focus on ensuring all students are equipped with the skills to be contributors in the 21st Century has lead her to champion problem based collaborative learning and implementation of technology to provide enriched learning experiences. Such efforts have enabled her students to go beyond the core curriculum expectations in courses such as Global Studies, to become informed, engaged and active citizens-individually committed to make a difference in this world.

These successful efforts have been acknowledged at the National level-Nominee for the 2005-06 Canadian Prime Minister's Award of Teacher Excellence-"honoring outstanding and innovative teachers who utilize ICT to better equip their students with the skills needed to meet the challenges of a 21st century society and economy".

Kehoe was also the recipient of the United Nations "Best Practice Award" at the Conference on Teaching about the United Nations in 2004 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Kehoe's leadership guided the local Interact Club, sponsored by Rotary International to create and implement awareness program to address global issues such as the "Plight of Youth in Nepal" and "Peace and Security in the Kashmir Region by leveraging Digital Literacy".

Kehoe has recently been chosen to pilot a program developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross; 'Exploring Humanitarian Law', an international program for students globally, which is being launched in Nova Scotia.

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JULIAN LUKE

Julian Luke manages a successful training institute just east of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He holds an Honors Bachelor of Science from the University of Western Ontario; a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Toronto; and is certified as a Microsoft Office Specialist as well as an IC3 Authorized Instructor. He has 15 years experience working with adult clients, mostly individuals with barriers to employment.

As chairperson of the International Education Advisory Board's Workforce Development Committee, he works to promote digital literacy as a workforce development tool. In 2005, he was one of 15 global recipients of the Champion of Digital Literacy Award.

GLORIA PEIFER

Gloria Peifer taught middle school math, high school Algebra, and Computer Applications. In addition to teaching, she helped her school earn recognition in a national education journal as part of the school's technology council. The institution was recognized as an innovative model of hi-tech creativity for their integration of technology across curriculum.

Over the past eight years, Peifer has also presented at many academic conferences both local and national. During summer months, she conducts computer camps for kids, including a camp for girls in foster care through her role as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

Peifer began her career in the business world working for the Xerox Corporation. After eight years with Xerox, she went back to school to obtain a teaching certificate. Four years later she graduated from the University of New Orleans with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Mathematics.

SUZETTE SURBECK

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Suzette L. Surbeck earned a B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of New Orleans before beginning her career in education teaching math.

As computers entered the classroom, Surbeck became intrigued with the educational possibilities technology brings to enrich teaching and learning experiences. She completed a computer literacy certification and eventually completed a Masters of Education in the area of Educational Technology from McNeese State University. Surbeck has been an integral member of her school's technology council and has developed detailed instructional packets for teachers of all levels to aid in their use of technology.

Surbeck has presented her unique perspectives at conferences such as NECC, FETC, and ISAS. She has taught K-12 students and other educators for more than 20 years.