

**Nassau BOCES and the
Nassau Association of School Technologists Present**

The NASTECH Year End Conference 2019

First Annual NASTAR Awards

**The first annual NASTAR awards recognizes
Nassau Association of School Technologists Award
Recipients for their innovation and exemplary technology
leadership in district and beyond.**



MEET THE NASTARS!

Jamie Assortato **East Meadow UFSD**



Jamie Assortato is a computer teacher extraordinaire! She is always willing to try new technology and introduce new applications and programs in her computer classes. Currently, her students are exploring the many features of Google Classroom, Book Creator, Buncee, and Nearpod to name a few. Ms. Assortato was also instrumental in creating the K-5 Computer Scope and Sequence and launching the district's Grade 2 Keyboarding pilot.

Tim Brush **Islip UFSD**



Tim Brush is an innovative technology leader who brings a rare combination of deep understanding of the instructional process, as well as a cutting-edge view, into the latest ed tech. Teachers see him as a valuable and trusted educational technology resource. Students have benefited immensely both from the work he has done with teachers and the direct hands-on tech support Mr. Brush provides.

Judith Conforti **Garden City UFSD**



Judith Conforti is the epitome of a tech leader. She wears many hats including building tech support, Makerspace Master, Coding Queen and Motivational Speaker. Ms. Conforti works to not only support technology integration in her building but also to move her teachers out of their comfort zone to try new ideas like robotics, computer science, and maker projects.

Ms. Conforti is beloved by students as she never turns anyone away. She spends her

lunch and prep time building and coding robots, mentoring students, providing Lunch and Learn opportunities for teachers and administrators and working with parents on schoolwide projects.

Ms. Conforti is what we all hope to be as a teacher, a mentor and an educational leader.

Fanny Diaz **Oyster Bay- East Norwich CSD**



Fanny Diaz works tirelessly to provide ongoing technology opportunities for all students. Throughout her time at Oyster Bay, she has supported ENL access and participation in coding and computer science programs, accompanying and translating for new students at after school technology programs and events. Ms. Diaz proposed an innovation grant that placed a new device in the hands of all entering and emerging ENL students. She manages device access for newly enrolled students and assisted in launching our pilot to provide wireless access points to students without high speed internet in their homes. Ms. Diaz provides ongoing technical support for teachers with whom she collaborates and seeks out opportunities to learn new tools to integrate into her classroom practice. Ms. Diaz is engaging, exciting and personalizes learning for all OBEN students!

Brenda DiPaola **Glen Cove CSD**



Brenda DiPaola has taken on a host of new roles and responsibilities with the expansion of the district's 1:1 Chromebook program in the middle school. Her library has become the go-to place for all things Instructional Technology, whether it is a student with a question or a broken device, lunch students looking to explore the MakerSpace, or teachers looking for new ideas or to collaborate on projects.

MEET THE NASTARS!

Leighanne Dunckley **Jericho UFSD**



Leighanne Dunckley goes above and beyond with everything she does. She is an expert with PowerSchool, Canvas, iPads, and AP testing. She works closely with students, teachers, and administrators integrating technology throughout the district. Even with all of these responsibilities, Ms. Dunckley manages to do it all with a smile on her face.

modalities of content delivery, and increased the variety of professional development opportunities, bolstering our teachers' comfort and skill in the employment of hardware, software and digital content in their instructional practice.

Her influence is far reaching and the district could not be as successful as it is without her leadership and efforts.

Joseph Giacalone **Great Neck UFSD**



Joseph Giacalone has been teaching Fine Arts at Great Neck North High since 2003. He is the Lead Teacher of Fine Arts in the Fine & Performing Arts Department and teaches digital photography. Also, Mr. Giacalone is the faculty co-advisor of Epiphany, the school's art & creative writing publication, and has been the longtime chairperson of the Great Neck North High School Technology Committee, which is the heart of the school-based technology decision-making process in the district. Under Mr. Giacalone's leadership, the committee addresses technology issues, concerns, priorities, training needs, and monitors the school's 1:1 iPad initiative. Mr. Giacalone's technology leadership at Great Neck North High School has been a significant factor in the success of the school's Instructional Technology Program.

On Joo **Valley Stream UFSD 30**



Over the past few years On Joo has designed and maintained an extensive blog/website that is a huge resource to students and teachers, as well as parents, in the Valley Stream 30 community. The page provides links to educational software, apps, eBooks, Makerspace projects, contest information and a multitude of resources for the school community.

Dan Levitan **Evergreen Charter School**



Dan Levitan uses technology to enhance the quality of his PE classes due to the large amount of ENL students at his school. He also uses a variety of learning methods for students in physical education to make teaching and learning fun and meaningful. After learning something about technology, Mr. Levitan attempts to implement it. He also uses apps to enhance his lessons, including a Bowling App for his students to practice bowling in class. Mr. Levitan always considers technology when redesigning his curriculum and he makes an effort to apply a variety of technology within his instruction.

Jackie Gilmartin **Port Washington UFSD**



Jackie Gilmartin applies vision, establishes trust, and fosters growth among her peers.

Over the last five years Ms. Gilmartin has influenced change, laid out a vision for new

MEET THE NASTARS!

Jessica Liakonis **East Williston UFSD**



Student-centered instruction. Collaborative. Commitment to learning. Tech-savvy. App smasher. Literacy guru. Admired colleague. Jessica Liakonis' work in East Williston represents those descriptions and words beyond this brief snapshot. Ms. Liakonis' energy, passion for her craft, love of her students, and choreography of instruction inspire us all...every day. Technology integration is natural to Ms. Liakonis' delivery. She leverages Google apps, Buncee, Pear Deck, digital BreakoutEdu, and many other tools that we subscribe to in East Williston. Ms. Liakonis continues to break down the walls in her classroom through connecting with classes across the country during Global Read Aloud and other innovative projects. Her students are always at the center of her planning and delivery. When I think about voice and choice, Ms. Liakonis' classroom immediately comes to mind. She tells her students' stories on Twitter and participates in Voxer book chats with teachers from other districts. Ms. Liakonis is a rockstar!

Rachel Lindsey **Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD**



Rachel Lindsey has transformed K-4 STEAM education throughout the district, by providing technology rich STEAM lessons and units to all K-4 students. Ms. Lindsey, along with her team, is instrumental in planning and implementing the annual K-8 district-wide STEAM night, a night that encourages families to partake in STEAM based adventures and explore new ways to utilize technology at home.

Ms. Lindsey is also a district instructional

technology leader that many students, teachers, and administrators look to for advice and support in regards to implementing technology effectively in the classroom. Ms. Lindsey creates monthly newsletters highlighting students, provides technology PD sessions for the staff, is always available to help, and participates in various conferences and professional learning opportunities to better her craft and to be on "the cutting edge" of all things technology/STEAM related. Ms. Lindsey is an integral part of the district instructional technology team at POB and has built an amazing K-4 STEAM program.

Jessica McComsey **Lawrence UFSD**



Jessica McComsey has successfully incorporated Google Classroom into her geometry and algebra classes. She provides her students with all the work done, while providing support and exceptional organization. She always goes above and beyond expectations and tries to engage her students through the use of technology.

William McCrann **Island Park UFSD**



William McCrann provides exceptional tech support and services to the entire district, which consists of an elementary school, middle school and administration building. He is the sole onsite support for the district with a tremendous amount of responsibilities, and still manages to execute his duties with professionalism, precision, and concern for the needs of administrators, teachers, staff and students alike. His extreme expertise and intelligence makes him an invaluable asset to the Island Park district.

MEET THE NASTARS!

Nicole Montellese
Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD



Nicole Montellese has been a driving force behind technology integration for early learners. As the Technology Integration Lead Teacher for Franklin Early Childhood Center, Ms. Montellese has offered training, created resources, and worked collaboratively with her peers to incorporate technology in a purposeful way. Ms. Montellese is also participating in the writing of the Digital Learning Curriculum for the district. Her energy and passion for education are contagious!

Christine Payne
Syosset CSD



Christine Payne is always a teacher first and she never forgets that. Teachers, students, secretaries and administrators all go to her at various times to ask for her help or ideas. Ms. Payne is always innovative and creative with solutions and support. She works in two schools and is an asset to both. The district is very lucky to have her!

Dr. Adele Pecora
Seaford UFSD



Dr. Adele Pecora in her first year as superintendent has been a tremendous advocate and founder for Seaford's Personalized Digital Learning Environment.

Seaford faculty members and students in grades 4 through 12 are now provided a high end laptop as part of the district 1:1 technology initiative. Dr. Pecora hired additional faculty and increased professional development exponentially for both faculty and students so everyone feels supported. She also helped with the expansion of curriculum that is taking full advantage of the integrated technology.

Dr. Pecora is driven and determined to ensure the success of this program for everyone in Seaford.

Alexis Pesenti
**New Hyde Park-
Garden City Park UFSD**



Alexis Pesenti is the heart and soul of the district's technology plan. She knows everyone and their technology comfort level. She knows every piece of equipment the district has and how old it is. She helps everyone that asks her anything and continually offers to do more. Ms. Pesenti makes videos, sets up and trains people in programs, researches new programs and fixes, manages the "staff" and ensures that people stay happy and content with their technology. The district would be lost without her!



MEET THE NASTARS!

Robert Pontecorvo Sewanhaka CHSD



Robert Pontecorvo has been a leading innovator in the district, across Long Island, and even NYS in implementing the use of the free GeoGebra app as the graphing calculator that students use in class and on NYS Regents testing. Mr. Pontecorvo's efforts have brought equity to the district, enabling all but especially the 50% of the district's free/reduced price lunch students to have access to dynamic mathematics software in class and most importantly at home; working with the same learning tool that they will have access to on high stakes state exams. His efforts also enable teachers of students with IEPs to provide their learners with a tool that meets their many accommodations. Mr. Pontecorvo works tirelessly with the app developers of GeoGebra, JAMF, and the Board of Regents, to ensure testing security. Mathematics teachers across the district now have access to a tool that is revolutionizing the way teachers teach, and students learn, fostering student centered and discovery based learning in a way that was previously unmanageable. Mr. Pontecorvo's work has catapulted the district's technology innovation to new levels. Rob Pontecorvo truly is leading the technology charge to enable a successful implementation and integration into student learning.

Kristin Rochford Bethpage UFSD

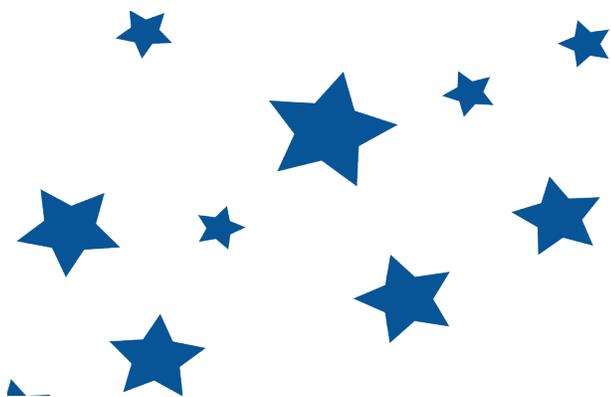


Kristin Rochford effectively integrates the use of instructional technology into her Grade 1 classroom. While the district is 1:1 Google Chromebooks in Grades 3-12, it did not stop Ms. Rochford from convincing district and building leadership to make more devices available. As a result, she has integrated Google Chromebooks as "stations" into her lessons. She has used technology to expand the walls of her classroom and partnered up with other classroom "pen-pals" outside of Bethpage during a persuasive writing unit. She also actively uses Twitter (@MissKRochford) to promote and share the learning taking place in her classroom! See for yourself!

Petra Schoen East Rockaway UFSD



Petra Schoen is an invaluable member of the East Rockaway School District faculty and wears many hats. As an instructional technology coach, Ms. Schoen supports elementary teachers in grades 4-6 on a weekly basis, pushing into their classrooms and providing job-embedded professional development. She is the first line of defense for anything and everything having to do with the Chromebooks at the elementary buildings. Ms. Schoen also provides Google Apps for Education training sessions at her Lunch-and-Learn PD sessions at Centre and Rhame Avenue Schools. She has been an indispensable co-chairperson of our District Technology Committee, providing a plethora of resources and compiling committee member contributions into the district Continuum of Technology Expectations.



MEET THE NASTARS!

Dr. Cynthia Seniuk
North Merrick UFSD



In her three years as superintendent of the North Merrick School District, Dr. Cynthia Seniuk has marshalled the potential of instructional technology into a multi-pronged approach that fosters collaboration and innovation. Her first order of business was establishing a three-year strategic plan designed to strengthen the academic program and increase the use of instructional technology.

North Merrick is a small K-6 district on a tight budget, so she partnered with Nassau BOCES to create greater capacity for growth. She initiated a physical redesign of classrooms, libraries and computer labs to align with workforce needs of the 21st century. This has included installation of Nureva Span Walls (visual collaboration systems mounted in hallways), 3D printers to use as a Makerspace problem-solving tool, flexible furniture in classrooms, and moveable modular furniture in the libraries. Dated computer labs are being transformed into innovative Learning Edge “think tanks,” complete with monitors for group work, flexible furniture, and interactive Span walls.

She has emphasized collaborative learning, with students piloting the Google Virtual Reality program, participating in an in-district STEM studio offered by a local university, and utilizing Chromebooks with Google Classroom. Professional development has accompanied every initiative. The district’s New York State technology plan spurred the creation of action teams that plan concrete steps to achieve the district’s vision.

Dr. Seniuk’s efforts to improve the district’s

infrastructure, curriculum, and technology are taking it to a new level of success and pride for the community.

Louisa Vecchione
Massapequa UFSD



Louisa Vecchione has successfully served Massapequa’s instructional technology program as a Technology Learning Coach. She is commended for her passion, expertise, and commitment to the success of district technology initiatives. Ms. Vecchione has developed positive relationships based on trust and respect. She is a tremendous asset to the technology team, instructional staff, and students they serve.

