Michigan Affiliate
Award Celebration

Saturday, March 5th, 2016
East Lansing, MI
# Michigan Affiliate Event Agenda

**MICHIGAN AFFILIATE EVENT AGENDA**  
**Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center**  
**Michigan State University**  
**East Lansing, MI**

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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Big Ten BC Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Big Ten BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>Introductions and Welcome</td>
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| 9:30 AM  | **Keynote: Sue Buck, Vice President Product Development, Vertafore**  
**Introduction: Teresa Isela Vandersloot** | Big Ten BC        |
| 10:00 AM | **NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Program**  
**Yolanda Charles, Regional Affiliate Manager, NCWIT** | Big Ten Lobby     |
| 10:05 AM | **Aspirations Awards**  
**Introductions: Laura Dinsmoor, Michelle Jennings, Aubrey Baker**  
**Educator Award: Tasha Candela, Lake Shore High School**  
**Introduction: Laura Dillon**  
**Acknowledgments and Closing**  
**Linda Ott** | Big Ten Lobby     |
| 11:00 AM | Photo                                                   | Big Ten Lobby     |

## Keynote Speaker

**Sue Buck, VP Product Development, Vertafore**

Susan is a senior global technology leader with over 30 years of commercial software development experience from small startups through large global enterprises. She has two great passions in life: creating software products and building high performing technology organizations. Making a difference in the lives of customers, the teams that build and support the products, and growth of the business is what drives her.

Over the years, she has held many positions from an entry level software developer, principal in her own company, through Chief Technology Officer and Chief Information Officer. In her current position as VP Product Development at Vertafore, Susan is responsible for the technical vision and all aspects of product development including architecture, software engineering, quality assurance, and operations.

Susan has a Bachelor of Science with majors in Computer Science, Mathematics and Psychology and a Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University. She enjoys volunteering in the Michigan startup community and is involved in encouraging young students in the area to pursue their interests in computer science related fields. In her free time, she loves to travel, indulge in her passion for the fine arts, and occasionally spend a night binge watching on Netflix.
2016 MICHIGAN AFFILIATE AWARD WINNERS

Alexia Arthur | Detroit, MI
Senior, Detroit Country Day School
Alexia’s interest in technology began in middle school with her love of gadgets. She has taken Java, C and C++ and is taking Digital Media and Computer Graphics. She has attended STEM camps for women at Michigan Tech, Lawrence Tech and Purdue. Alexia is a recipient of the National Blue and Gold Scholar Athlete Award, is a Captain and four-year varsity member of the DCDS track team, an All-Region and All-State hurdler, and an AAU Junior Olympic competitor. She is a member of her school’s varsity volleyball team, Metals Club and Diversity Club. She has been active in Girl Scouts for 12 years and is Secretary of her Ambassador troop. Alexia plans to major in Computer Science.

Ashley Bynum | Kalamazoo, MI
Junior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Loy Norrix High School
Ashley knows Scratch, C++, and Java. Over the summer, she worked with middle school age children who expressed interest in math and science at KAMSC. Ashley assisted teachers in an animation class, video game creating with scratch, "discover electronics" where students assembled noise making circuit boards, and a geocaching class. Ashley is involved in research project with a graduate student at Western Michigan University designing an integrated probe bicycle to research human reaction time on bicycles. Not only is she interested in computer science, Ashley hopes to study pre-med in college and apply her knowledge of computers to the medical field.

Ashton Bjork | Scotts, MI
Junior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Vicksburg High School
Ashton already has done so much with her education of technology. Ashton's attends Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC) where she takes very advanced technology courses. Ashton plans on attending college and going into the medical field. She understands the imp ortance of new technology that will be used in her future career and plans on building upon her current knowledge of computer science.

Bailey Flint | Midland, MI
Senior, H. H. Dow High School
Bailey fell in love with programming the moment Hello World first appeared on her screen in her sophomore year. The following summer she attended Women in CS at Michigan Tech where she developed an Android app for elderly people and saw the power computing has to impact people's lives. Junior year Bailey took AP CS. As the programming lead for her FIRST robotics team, Bailey was in charge of the code. The team combined a strong mechanical design with effective programming to advance to the FIRST Robotics World Championship Competition. Bailey plans to pursue degrees in Biomedical Engineering and CS on her way to becoming a pediatric doctor.

Becky Yang | Pontiac, MI
Senior, Pontiac High School
Becky is currently a standing valedictorian, Student Council President, and National Honors Society Vice President at International Technology Academy. In the summers of 2012 and 2013, Becky attended Oakland University’s STEM Camp where she learned Python and to program LEGO Robotics with sensors. In 2014 Becky was offered a REAP Apprenticeship at OU. In summer 2015 Becky attended Kettering University's Academically Interested Minds (AIM). She has excelled on her robotics team for four years. She is deciding between Oakland, Kettering and Stanford universities and plans to earn a BS in Mechanical Engineering or CS.
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Caitlin Beirne | St. Clair Shores, MI  
Senior, Lake Shore High School

Caitlin competed in the MCWIT's annual web design contest in the advanced division in 2014 and 2015. Her website won second place in 2014 and honorable mention in 2015, based on her presentation and overall website. She is planning to attend Indiana Tech. Her dream is to become a web designer. Her greatest technical accomplishment to date would be the website she created for a class last year. The website was themed around repurposing. Caitlin's website was 6 pages long. Caitlin is retaking advanced web design her senior year so she can continue to learn different techniques and gain a better understanding of technology.

Caitlyn Myers | Hope, MI  
Senior, H. H. Dow High School

Caitlyn has been involved with FIRST Robotics for three years, and Business Professionals of America for two years. Caitlyn has competed at Business Professionals of America Regional and State competitions placing in the top ten at the 2015 Michigan State Conference. After high school she hopes to pursue a computer science major in college.

Celia Chagnovich | Ann Arbor, MI  
Senior, Pioneer High School

Celia's main technical accomplishment occurred when she was participating on her school's FRC robotics team: PiHi Samurai (team 1076). Last year, Celia was on the electrical engineering subteam, and wired a large portion of both the prototype and competition robot. This year, Celia was chosen as the student leader of the electrical engineering team. In addition, Celia received the Women in Engineering (WIE) Scholarship from Michigan Tech to attend their WIE Summer Youth Program. Celia plans to major in either environmental or biomedical engineering. She is interested in these majors because they are directly applicable to the issues that concern her.

Chelsie Eiden | Kalamazoo, MI  
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Portage Northern High School

Chelsie has been interested in technology and computers for her whole life. She has taken Information Technology, Intro to CS, AP CS, Discrete Math and Advanced CS. Chelsie is on her school's programming team and has enjoyed attending competitions around the Midwest and the international ACSL All-Star competition in Orlando, FL. Chelsie and a partner are conducting research dealing with the Kinetic Traveling Salesman Problem at Western Michigan University. Chelsie plays softball, is in the band, and is an active member in the National Honors Society. Chelsie plans to attend college and study either computer or mechanical engineering.

Christina Anderson | Norway, MI  
Senior, Norway High School

Christina has a 4.0 GPA in high school and is the #1 senior scholar in her class, a recognition based on GPA and ACTs. She is taking Programming and Technical Integrations learning Scratch and Visual Basic. Her school activities include band, Quiz Bowl, drama club, Key Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the yearbook. Volunteer activities include community theatre, animal shelter, Norway City Band, church activities and a project digitally recording personal histories of the WWII era. Christina participated in Women in CS, the Engineering Scholars Program and the Women’s Leadership Institute at Michigan Tech. She plans to major in computer science.
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Elizabeth Koning | Holland, MI
Senior, Holland Christian High School
Elizabeth has attended summer STEM programs at Calvin College, the University of Michigan and Michigan Tech. After returning from Michigan Tech, Elizabeth built a 3D printer with her father. She is involved in FIRST Robotics leading the scouting division and programming. She is the student ambassador for a recently created Girls Who Code team. She is a National Merit Finalist and an AP Scholar, is part of her school orchestra, an invitation only chamber orchestra and has participated in Solo and Ensemble with her violin. She is considering Harvey Mudd College, Rose Hulman University and Calvin College and plans on studying Computer Engineering or Computer Science.

Gina Ennis | Midland, MI
Senior, Midland High School
Although being interested since 8th grade, Gina just recently started programming in her Sophomore year and has now completed her schools AP Computer Science class. She is also in the programming club, and has gone to multiple local programming competitions, along with actively being a part of her school's FIRST robotics team in multiple areas. In addition, she has interests in film and photography. Gina is going to attend Michigan Technological University in the fall of 2016 to study Computer Engineering.

Hannah Striebel | Midland, MI
Junior, Midland High School
As a sophomore in high school, Hannah participated in her school's chapter of Business Professionals of America competing in Visual Basic Programming placing fourth at the regional competition and second at the state level. She is also proficient in C++ and Java and is active in her school's programming club as well as its chapter of the American Computer Science League (ACSL). Hannah is currently enrolled in AP Computer Science. Hannah’s extracurricular activities include soccer, lacrosse, and volunteering through Key Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Hannah is currently leaning toward studying Software Engineering or Computer Science in college.

Hayley Smith | Middleville, MI
Senior, Thornapple Kellogg High School
Hayley is a senior at Thornapple Kellogg High School. She will be attending college this fall and will be majoring in computer science. She would like to one day enter the research and development field and use her knowledge to benefit the scientific community. She also participates in her school's jazz band and theatre programs. She plays violin with the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony.

Jillian Ritchey | Clarkston, MI
Senior, Clarkston High School
Jillian plans to study mathematics and computer science in college and is looking at big data analysis or optimization for a career. Her greatest technical accomplishment was winning First Place in Visual Basic programming at the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference and 11th place at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA. She is the secretary of her school's chapter of BPA. Jillian has competed in the Future Problem Solving Program since 6th grade, and her team has won the state championship 3 times. Currently, Jillian is enjoying learning Java. She enjoys photography, cooking and web design, is a member of Girl Scouts of America, and her church group.
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Joy Nuelle | Ann Arbor, MI
Junior, Pioneer High School
Joy has had a dream since she was seven years old to work with computers and still loves working with them. She has attended a Mibytes Computer Camp at the University of Michigan and has taken many computer classes. She has participated in programming competitions. Joy is taking multiple AP classes, and has participated in numerous science fairs and been a part of Science Olympiad. She enjoys playing field hockey and is a teen leader in her church's teen ministry. In the future, she would love to focus on using technology to benefit the lives of others. She would love to attend a top school, like the University of Michigan, and study Computer Science.

Katelyn Wenban | Midland, MI
Senior, Midland High School
Katie has been programming for two years and is currently enrolled in AP Computer Science where she is learning the Java language. In her spare time she enjoys playing clarinet and piano, running, and spending time with family and friends. She plans to attend Central Michigan University next fall to continue her study of computer science and possibly explore the medical field as well.

Katherine Yats | Sanford, MI
Senior, Midland High School
Katie is a 17 year old student at Midland High School. Her proudest accomplishment to date is being elected Governor of the Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State. Katie has been programming for two years, learning Visual Basic and C++, and is currently learning Java, which is her favorite language so far. Outside of school, Katie is a programmer for her school's FIRST Robotics Team. Katie plans to attend college to study Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence.

Kirtana Choragudi | Iron Mountain, MI
Senior, Kingsford High School
Kirtana attended Women in Engineering camps at Auburn University, Michigan Tech and others. Kirtana is president of her school's National Honor Society, an officer of Student Council, the three-year president of SADD, three-year section leader of her section in band, two-year Student Director of Chorale. She was awarded the Society of Women Engineer's Math and Science Award and the Ronald Reagan Student Leadership Award, and has received AP Student of the Month award six times. Currently, Kirtana has the highest GPA and is ranked #1 in her graduating class. Kirtana plans on going into Computer Science and possibly minoring in business and financial mathematics or music.

Maansi Dasari | Midland, MI
Sophomore, H. H. Dow High School
Maansi has been fascinated by technology and software for as long as she can remember. She began putting together movies and experimenting with photo editing when she was little, but her true love is programming. She enjoys programming in class as well as at home and while attending tech camps in the summer. Her interests include programming robotics and mathematics, which she regularly competes in. Maansi is amazed by how she can combine computer science with her love for other fields, such as economics and statistics. She plans on pursuing a career in computer science, or a related field like data mining. She hopes to use her knowledge in computing to help others.
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Madison Werthmann | St. Clair Shores, MI
Senior, Lake Shore High School/Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center

Madison Werthmann has enjoyed coding for a large portion of her life, ever since learning basic code on a forum when she was 13. She is duel-enrolled in an advanced math, science, and technology school and has learned programming for basic input/output algorithms through this school. She has also learned HTML in her beginner’s web design class. Both of these classes helped her to realize her passion for coding. She now intends to attend a university to earn a B.S.E. in Computer Science. She has been accepted to University of Michigan College of Engineering and Princeton University.

Miriam Eikenberry-Ureel | Houghton, MI
Sophomore, Houghton High School

Miriam lives in the snowy Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Before high school, she won a first place and a runner-up award at the Western Upper Peninsula Science Fair. She was in Lego League for three years. She is now in her high school choir and has been programming with Copper Country Programmers for four years. She is an AspireIT Award winner and has presented Code Ninja Workshops to teach middle school girls how to program. She enjoys participating in programming competitions. After high school, Miriam plans to be in a choir and she will go to college to study art, computers, and robotics.

Natalie Simmons | Petoskey, MI
Sophomore, Cranbrook Kingwood Upper School

Natalie became interested in computers at a very young age. At first sight, she fell in love with robotics. Prior to eighth grade, Natalie moved to Petoskey and discovered that the middle school had a FIRST Tech Challenge team. She immediately joined and began programming learning to code in labVIEW and how to use CAD. At Cranbrook, Natalie is a member of their FTC robotics team, Model United Nations club, Gold Key club, Quiz Bowl club, UNICEF club, and the Future Doctors of America club. In her free time, she plays soccer, sails, swims, runs, reads, golfs, and plays clarinet. Natalie hopes to go to the University of Oxford to study medicine and become a neurosurgeon.

Nikita Bhatia | Kalamazoo, MI
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Portage Central High School

Taking computer studies and AP Computer Science in high school, Nikita fell in love with computers through the beginning programming software Scratch, and later went on to code in C++ and Java. Her experiences in solving Chapter One of the USA Computing Olympiad problems, participating in programming competitions, and competing in the IBM Master of the Mainframe Contests have only fueled her passion for this field. In her spare time, Nikita likes to sing, play her guitar, code, and perform community service. She plans to major in biophysics and minor in computer science in college.

Paige O’Connor | Kalamazoo, MI
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Gull Lake High School

Paige has participated in computer competitions across Michigan with her school team. She received the Medallion Award for academic excellence, integrity, and enthusiasm for learning. She has taken courses in C++, Java, HTML/CSS, and discrete math and has worked with SQL, mainframes, and circuit designing software. She went to the Women in Computer Science Camp at Michigan Tech. Paige loves to run and her cross country team is her second family. She is participating in research at Western Michigan University particle accelerator lab and is building a remote to control the voltage for the switching magnet for the accelerator beam. She plans to study Computer Science and English.
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Rebekah Walter | Midland, MI
Senior, Midland High School
Rebekah is an 18 year old student at Midland High School in Midland, MI. She loves to run, and is an All-State hurdler. She has been programming for two years, learning some of the C++ language as well as Java. Outside of high school, she participates in a Computer Programming Club that meets weekly, as well as being an active member of Midland County Youth Leadership, the National Honor Society, and her church youth group. Rebekah plans to attend the University of Minnesota, majoring in computer science while running track and field. She looks forward to exploring many new aspects of computer science.

Riley Martell | Galesburg, MI
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Gull Lake High School
Riley is currently a senior and attends Gull Lake High School and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center. She has attended multiple computer science competitions including the American Computer Science League All-Star Contest in Orlando, Florida. She is also currently completing a statistics and computer programming based research project and will be attending college next year.

Rosemary Torola | Calumet, MI
Senior, Calumet High School
Rosemary first discovered she enjoyed computing and technology when she signed up to take a high school software design class on a whim, and her interest in all things technological has been growing ever since. After graduation, Rosemary will attend Columbia University, with a plan to major in Computer Science. Her post education dream would be to use her interests and her major to improve lives on a global scale. She is considering joining the Peace Corps or a similar organization to work in underdeveloped countries.

Saniyah Shaikh | Rochester, MI
Senior, Rochester Adams High School
Saniyah is a Finalist in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. She is a member of the National Honors Society, the Spanish Honors Society and is Vice-President for her school’s Business Professionals of America chapter. She has competed in the regional and state conferences, winning an award in the Visual Basic Programming competition. She is an assistant coach for a middle school MathCounts team. She attended the 2015 FIRST World Championships in St. Louis. During her summer internship with DELRAY Systems, she worked with 3D printers and 3D modeling. Saniyah plans on majoring in computer science and finance.

Sarah Larkin-Driscoll | Houghton, MI
Senior, Home School
Sarah is in the fourth year of a five-year program which includes many advanced courses. Last autumn, she joined Copper Country Programmers as a beginner and learned BASIC, Logo, HTML, Processing, and Java. By March, she had reached the advanced level, and was one of five high school students to participate in the Northern Michigan University Programming Contest. She also competed at the BonzAI Brawl at Michigan Tech. This past summer she attended Women in CS at Michigan Tech. Her leisure activities include long walks, reading, playing piano and programming. Sarah’s future plans include majoring in computer science followed by graduate school in computer science.
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Simran Singh | Portage, MI
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Portage Central High School

Simran is currently a senior at Portage Central High School & Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center. She has taken a course in information technology and computer studies. Last year, she took AP Computer Science and competed at programming competitions around the Midwest. During the summer, she helps teach Introductory Programming Classes. Currently, she is looking forward to participating in programming competitions and university tech days. In the future, she hopes to attend college in Michigan and continue her study in Java and C++.

Veronica Buss | Portage, MI
Junior, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center/Portage Central High School

Veronica has always had a strong interest in STEM ever since an early age. As a junior at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center and Portage Central High School, her experience in computing led her program the robot on her FIRST robotics team to have an advanced vision processing system that helped them win the Engineering Inspiration award. She plans to study some type of computer engineering in college and wishes to further develop her skills and her passion for vision processing programming, hopefully eventually using those skills to advance technology for the better.

2016 MICHIGAN AFFILIATE AWARD RUNNERS-UP

Alexandria Seybold | Portage, MI
Arsha Ali | Troy, MI
Autumn Guffey | Richard, MI
Ava Wood | Kalamazoo, MI
Danielle Janowicz | Portage, MI
Elizabeth Kimmel | Portage, MI
Emily Lecea | Shelby Township, MI
Julia Kemple – Johnson | Kalamazoo, MI
Julia Rice | Sterling Heights, MI
Kristina Mills | Portage, MI
Maddison Davis | Midland, MI
Maggie Bowen | Grand Rapids, MI
Natalie Halphen | Midland, MI
Olivianne James | Saint Clair Shores, MI
Sara Knapp | Midland, MI
Sarah Michelson | Ann Arbor, MI
Shayna Sande | Manchester, MI
Simrin Kapoor | Novi, MI
Tiger Jackson | Ypsilanti, MI
Ziyan Mo | Portage, MI
2016 NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM MICHIGAN

Alexis Roberts | Kalamazoo, MI
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center/
Alexis (Lexi) has a love for computers and technology. Lexi enjoys solving problems and programming challenges. She has taken classes in Information Technology, Computer Science, AP CS, Discrete Math and is taking Advanced CS that she is enjoying greatly. Lexi knows C++ and Java and is learning Python and MATLAB. Lexi has been a winner of Part 1 of the IBM Master the Mainframe contest for three years. Lexi has also been active in the USA Computing Olympiad and has competed in the American Computer Science League. Outside of school, Lexi is extremely busy. She has been dancing for the past 12 years and is currently a competitive dancer at West Michigan Dance Center. Besides dancing, Lexi is involved in a Computer Science Team, a Research Team, her high school’s Student Council, and the National Honor Society. Lexi is also very proud that she has been a “big sister” for Big Brothers Big Sisters the past two years and is an active tutor and volunteer for her school. Once she graduates, Lexi would love to go to college to major and eventually get a master’s degree in computer engineering. She wants to continue to learn about the field of computers and stay up-to-date with the world of technology as it evolves around her.

Natasha Goenawan | Kalamazoo, MI
Senior, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center/Kalamazoo Central High School
In middle school Natasha attended the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University, where she became interested in math and English. She enjoys coding—she has taken 4 years of CS classes and has participated in many contests including: SVSU Programming Contest, EMU MACUL, IBM Master the mainframe, MCWT website design competition, MSU Design Day, USACO, and ACSL. (She especially enjoys coding Minecraft plugins in Java!) Natasha loves to share her interest in CS. She organized an Hour of Code event for 6th graders. Natasha also enjoys research. One of the most exciting things she has done is travel along the coast of Michigan and Lake Biwa in Japan to collect water samples in a high school science foreign exchange program. Last year, Natasha conducted research at Western Michigan University’s nanotechnology lab on the early diagnosis of ALS through the folding and unfolding of Superoxide Dismutase 1 via two photon spectroscopy. Her research team won 1st place at the Southwest Michigan Science and Engineering Fair and moved on to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, where they won 2 special awards. Natasha has also been an avid pianist for 11 years.

2016 NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AWARD RUNNER-UPS FROM MICHIGAN

Ashton Bjork | Scotts, MI
Christina Li | Macomb, MI
Emily Veenhuis | Kalamazoo, MI
Jillian Ritchey | Clarkston, MI
Maansi Dasari | Midland, MI
Natalie Simmons | Petoskey, MI
Nikita Bhatia | Kalamazoo, MI
Paige O'Connor | Kalamazoo, MI
Savannah Crooks | Kalamazoo, MI
Veronica Buss | Portage, MI
Since sixth grade, when dialup Internet became a novelty, I simultaneously became a computer geek. Countless hours have been spent using search engines to locate information, communicating on Internet Relay Chat, and navigating rivers and fighting off thieves on the Oregon Trail. Fast-forward to today where I am reading hundreds of online articles per week, networking with people across the globe on Twitter and Facebook, and using a slingshot to fling animals into various structures in Angry Birds. The types of activities that have preoccupied me have adjusted little. The real change has been the access time. Thank God for high-speed Internet. After taking several computer classes in high school, I decided that a career as a business teacher would be the perfect fit. For me, the clicks of fingers pressing the letters on a keyboard are as soothing as a robin's song. My home row would not just be a location on that keyboard; It would be my destiny to serve in a tech-filled classroom.

As an alumnus of Central Michigan University, I have many reasons to be proud of my education. In December 2005 I graduated cum laude with a major in Business Teacher Education, minor in English, and vocational certification in business services. I have always enjoyed school. Graduating college in three and a half years made for some crazy schedules. Now that I am a National Board Certified business teacher at Lake Shore High School with master’s degree in Educational Technology, I have a newfound understanding of the word exhausted. Nevertheless, I love what I do. I have been named the state of Michigan's Technology Teacher of the Year, Lake Shore's Teacher of the Year, and a self-titled nerdette. Currently, I teach web design and field experience courses and I am responsible for helping teachers integrate technology at the secondary level.

I am a lifelong learner. I recognize the advantages of attendance at conferences and use that knowledge to enhance the classroom. Because of my thorough knowledge of the business and technology fields, I also presented at the Technology Student Showcase, Oakland University's Summer Summits, Michigan Digital Learning Conference, Mathematics, Science, and Technology Symposium, MACUL, MBEA, MCWT, Microsoft's Innovative Education Forum, and Edcamp Detroit conferences. These experiences have enabled me to network with other educators, increase my confidence and communication skills, and build on my own lessons. My goal in this ever-important profession is to push my students beyond their academic and social limits and prepare them for a life full of opportunity. Undoubtedly, I am in my dream profession and every decision that I have made has been with my students' best interests in mind. I love technology, teaching, and touching lives. It is not enough to write that I love my career. Teaching is such a noble profession and I cherish every minute of it. To learn more, visit http://tashacandela.weebly.com/ or http://bethetigger.edublogs.org/.

2016 MICHIGAN REGIONAL ASPIRATIONS AWARD COMMITTEE

Aubrey Baker, CQL
Laura Dillon, Michigan State University
Laura Dinsmoor, Oakland University
Linda Ott, Michigan Technological University
Michelle Jennings, Michigan Virtual University
Teresa Isela VanderSloot, Michigan State University
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