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Doctoral Student Presenting at NSBA Conference

Monique Friloux, Contributor

College of Education doctoral student Tammy Seneca has been selected to present at the National School Board Association's (NSBA) conference in the Walk of Excellence in Orlando, Fla.

Seneca, supervisor of information systems and educational technology for West Baton Rouge Parish (WBR), and Stephanie Thompson, technology consultant for WBR, will

present March 30 on their program titled, "We Don't Have the Blues in West Baton Rouge: How a Small School District Uses Technology To Jazz Up the Curriculum!"

"In this presentation, our department hopes to show other districts around the country what a small school system is capable of doing in order to increase the use of technology in their schools. Additionally, a school system does not need to use large amounts of money in order to make a difference. The proper use of technology in the curriculum will speak for itself," said Seneca.

The program implements a technology-training facility for teachers and administrators to provide technology training and professional development to use in their curricula. Also, teachers have been equipped with online courses, CD-ROMs based upon state and national standards, lesson plans which utilize technology to provide a catalyst for learning, one-on-one classroom technology integration assistance, and teacher-initiated programs.

Success has been evident throughout the life of the program. Teacher technology proficiency in technology integration has grown 31 percent over five years. Also, teacher and administrator basic technology and integration skills have increased 48 percent.

"The end results have been the establishment of a culture of educational technology integration that is supported by the school board, parents, and the educational community," said Seneca.

Seneca and Thompson will present interactive CD-ROMs, open source software, Moodle, content trailers, hands-on and technology-integrated lessons, and a homegrown educational technology database to conference attendees to show the tools WBR has used to successfully incorporate technology into the classroom.

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