

# MassCUE

Educate, Connect, Inspire

## 2018 ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

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### Sherley Bretous

Sherley Bretous is the Executive Director of the Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School in Cambridge. The Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School is one of the top performing elementary schools in the state of Massachusetts due to the team that Sherley has assembled. As Deputy Director Sherley created the Curriculum, Instruction, Support Team (CIST). The group changed the focus from the operational “Leadership

Team’ to academics and how everything in the school is tied into academic goals. After the formation of CIST, Sherley coined the term “Banneker Experience” related to all the rich learning opportunities the students had beyond the traditional walls of the classroom. Field trips, weekend trips, guest speakers, concerts, musicals, outdoor education, makerspace experiences, STEAM Expo and the 1 to 1 laptop program. Each learning space in the school has a wireless access point, mirroring capabilities for teachers and students and ample bandwidth. All due to Sherley supporting the infrastructure. Sherley has been instrumental in creating a safe learning environment and aided in the transformation of the school facilitates and the technology infrastructure, brought digital, active learning into the larger content area discussions and introduced a personalized data study to pinpoint the exact needs of students, which ensures high quality access to active digital learning.

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## 2018 PATHFINDER AWARDS

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### Diane Horvath

Diane Horvath demonstrates vision and leadership in the Medfield Public School District. She is a lifelong learner who strives to become a better educator with a focus on blended technology and best teaching practices to provide a more student centered, UDL learning approach. Because her role is every changing at Blake Middle School as a technology integration specialist, she encourages and supports a vision for developing creativity and an innovator's growth mindset to teachers and students in the classroom and makerspace. She coaches the Technovation teams for her school to provide opportunities for girls to learn coding, entrepreneurship, teamwork and the power of bringing their own ideas forward. She created the makerspace and helped redesigned the library at her school, so it responds to students' current interests and needs. These are comments from Diane's coworkers:

- Innovative, always ahead of the curve.
- Resourceful connected educator.
- Connects students to real world problems.
- Pushes females into tech and STEM fields.
- Thoughtful, kind and gentle with students.
- Always willing to help students.
- Knows how to motivate students.
- Team player.

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## Peter Smith

Peter Smith is a middle school mathematics teacher at Worcester Academy. Peter initially worked in the tech department at Worcester Academy where he helped shape the vision for the computer science program as well as the adoption of the school's one-to-one laptop program.

Peter's enthusiasm for integrating technology into the classroom makes him the go to person for other staff members that are using new apps and tools or simply have a question about how something works. He was the lead faculty member for iPad integration and planned numerous professional learning opportunities for middle school students who could be a resource for faculty to learn from. Peter is a passionate advocate for the maker movement and encourages the use of the maker resources. He taught the school's first digital citizenship class and has been influential in demonstrating to students how social media can be used responsibly. He always looks for ways to collaborate with other faculty members and is the biggest cheerleader for teachers that are hesitant to try something new.

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## Vicki Wright

Vicki Wright is the library media specialist at Silver Lake Regional Middle School. Vicki serves on the district wide technology committee as well as on the district wide professional development committee in order to develop and implement workshops in the area of technology for all teachers K-12. Vicki's leadership at the building level have led to many initiatives, including Moodle, WeVideo and Google Classroom which were tested and then rolled out school wide providing 1-1 assistance to teachers. Her library is a popular choice among practicum students studying library science. Vicki develops digital tutorials so that students and staff are guided step by step, so they can utilize tools without her being present. All 7<sup>th</sup> graders visit the library with their science teacher to work with Vicki on four research-based technology projects over the course of the school year. One of Vicki's projects entitled Science Fiction and Scientific Literacy merges literature, research and video production. Green screen editing techniques are developed by students when they create a digital poster highlighting their favorite place to read.

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## Sheila Slawiak

Sheila Slawiak was the digital learning and computer science teacher at the Forest Park Middle School in the Springfield Public Schools. “Mrs. Slawiak has greatly enhanced the use of educational technology at our school. One way she has done this is by writing a blended learning/personalized learning plan for

Forest Park which included:

- Implementation and deployment of 1:1 laptop to every student
- Student created website for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- Creation of Falcon Wizards student club to help deploy the lap top and serve as the help desk.
- Training schoolwide teachers, administrators and paraprofessional for MS One Note so all teachers can collaborate with each other for their lesson plans.”

Sheila experimented with a makerspace learning environment by developing a project that integrates art with engineering, math and social studies standards to formulate a mosaic art project for her school’s beautification program. Sheila hosted an Ozobot Evo robot party for 10 teachers across the curriculum to introduce robots to the school. She also enhanced morning announcements by proposing and implementing a digital streaming broadcast. Students and teachers create a daily original program. The students practice a variety of media broadcasting careers like technical producer, script writers, broadcast journalists or reporters. These programs support state standards and provide authentic learning experiences for the students.