

MassCUE

Educate, Connect, Inspire

Massachusetts Computer Using Educators

2021 PATHFINDER AWARDS



Andr ea (A.J.) Cot e

Andr ea (A.J.) Cot e, M.Ed., brought her 20+ years of educational experience in the areas of digital learning, adult learning & professional development, assistive technology, and special education to her role as the Assistant Director of Educational Technology at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education over the past nine months. The first 15 years of A.J.'s career was dedicated to serving in Massachusetts public school districts supporting students and educators as an Instructional Technology Specialist and nationally Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL).

A.J. has been with DESE just shy of a decade, having worked as the Coordinator of Digital Learning and Accessibility

in the Office of Digital Learning and as the Statewide Professional Development Programs Manager in the Office of Special Education Planning and Policy Development. She has extensive experience teaching students as well as providing interactive and engaging adult professional development at the school, district, state, and national levels.

Over the last year in conjunction with the Director of Educational Technology and School Support, A.J. has worked tirelessly to support EdTech Directors, educators, students, and families through COVID-related challenges. The remote learning team worked to facilitate access to devices and the infrastructure needed to continue uninterrupted learning, promote equitable, high-quality instruction, and disseminate relevant, timely guidance, like the [Cybersecurity Practice Profile](#) and the EdTech Spotlight featuring the [Rural Internet Solutions Pilot](#). The team worked closely in collaboration with EdTech Directors and state & national EdTech leaders to produce the [Sustaining Progress in Access and Equity: EdTech Strategic Planning Guide](#), the first of its kind in Massachusetts.

A.J. is passionate about supporting educators and fostering innovation in the K-12 environment. With the newly formed Office of Educational Technology team in the Center for School and District Partnership at DESE, A.J. is looking forward to building on the work of the past year to continue expanding equitable access, promoting effective practices in EdTech, and exploring research and innovation in K-12 EdTech.



Jackie Gantzer

Jackie Gantzer joined the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2019 and took on the role of Director of Educational Technology and School Support in April 2020. In this capacity, she has played a leading role coordinating and implementing the state's pandemic response for K-12 schools as they quickly shifted to a largely remote setting. Simultaneously, she is working to develop the Department's post-pandemic edtech strategy with a focus on equitable access, effective practices, and research and innovation.

Jackie brings a variety of perspectives and experiences to her role at the Department. She began her career as a middle school teacher and a school and network leader, served in the Indianapolis Mayor's Office of Education Innovation, and led city-wide educator talent strategy for a nonprofit.