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CERTIPORT EDUCATOR CONFERENCE

JUNE 26-28 2023

Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista

ORLANDO | FLORIDA

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**2023 CERTIFIED**
**Educator Conference**
*Breakout Sessions*

# Can We Do Something Fun Today?
## *Amy Waters, K12 Educator from Louisiana*

Every teacher knows that students learn best when they are fully engaged and enjoying their experience. In this session, veteran high school teacher Amy Waters will explore active, project-focused learning techniques and activities you can use to prepare students for their Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification. This includes demonstrations of several active projects that use Word, PowerPoint, and Excel to create uniquely enjoyable and engaging learning experiences for all students. You'll also learn how these projects can offer students choice and extension opportunities to cover a diverse range of abilities and interests.

# Accounting - The Next Generation
## *Lenice Deluca, Higher Ed Instructor from Florida*

Accounting/Bookkeeping is the latest and greatest profession to get your students interested in. Why? There are hundreds of positions available and not enough trained professionals. Utilizing Intuit Certified Bookkeeping Professional along with online training can prepare your students for this tremendous certification. Let's start the discussion and get our students involved.

# Make them Unforgettable
*Jennifer Stubblefield, Teacher Trainer from Kentucky*

In this session, we will facilitate small group discussions and create a mnemonic/acrostic using the letters UNFORGETTABLE to describe exceptional work ethics, communication skills, workplace etiquette, and more.

Through interactive activities, we will model effective teaching ideas for making email tone and non-verbal communication fun and engaging. Additionally, we will review practical strategies for embedding critical soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, into existing curricula.

# Teach the Skills that Pay the Bills
## *Zak Konakis, Assistant Professor from Utah*

In today's industry culture, skilled worker shortages are strongly impacting the economy, and the demand for competent, well-trained workers has never been higher. As a result, businesses are looking for forward-thinking strategies that will help them meet their labor shortages, and they have begun using work-based learning opportunities to develop their future workers. In this session, Utah State University assistant professor Zak Konakis will explore how getting buy-in for specific credentials from industry partners on the front end can help your students remove the guesswork and prove their knowledge, skills, and abilities when they enter the workforce. This includes best practices for approaching and working with industry partners to assess their needs—and then successfully placing qualified students in those high-demand and high-wage jobs.

# Preparing Your Students for Unity Certification
## *David Manning, Educator from Florida*

3D modeling and virtual and augmented reality are fast-growing, cutting-edge disciplines that can open promising new doors for your students. In this session, game design teacher David Manning will show how the Unity Programmer, Unity Artist, and Unity VR certification programs can create exciting new career options for your students. David will also share tips and tricks for helping your students prepare for and pass their Unity exams.



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# Winning Big with App Dev in Swift
## Brian Foutty, K12 educator from Ohio

Certification programs have the power to change lives and create new opportunities for deserving people who need them most. Join this session to hear how Brian Foutty—a long-time secondary math, app development and coding, and special education teacher at Trumbull Career and Technical Center in Warren, Ohio—has used Swift App Development and Adobe certifications to transform student outcomes in an economically challenged area. Brian will describe how helping students earn these attractive and marketable certifications has enabled them to successfully enter the workforce, complete university computer science programs, or both.

# Coding in Minecraft: Immerse Your Students in Coding
*Jennifer Brown, Educator and Minecraft Mentor*

Are you looking for an engaging, immersive, and fun way to teach your students to code?  Have you always wanted to use game-based learning as a teaching tool but didn't feel you had enough gaming experience?  With Coding in Minecraft by Prodigy Learning, you can—without being a gaming or coding expert! In this session, trainer and educator Jennifer Brown will show you how Coding in Minecraft creates a student-led, highly engaging learning experience where the teacher becomes the facilitator, and the students lead their own experience as they learn to learn how to code in Blocks, JavaScript, or Python. Don't miss this chance to see how Coding in Minecraft's immersive curriculum and credential pathway can provide all the resources you need to teach your students how to code—and make the whole experience fun and engaging.

# Get MORE Value from Your Certification Investments
## Karen Coulombe, K12 Educator from Washington

Are you looking for fresh, innovative ideas for using certifications to help your students and improve your school? This session is full of them. Join computer applications and computer science instructor Karen Coulombe to explore ways you can use certifications to meet a wider range of student needs, celebrate students' learning and achievements, promote your certification programs, and more. You'll walk away with a deeper understanding of the impact certifications can have on your students' lives—and how you can squeeze even more value from the certification programs in your school.



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# Embracing and Promoting Entrepreneurship and Design Thinking
## *Christina Deibler, K12 Educator from Florida*

According to research from JP Morgan Chase & Company, more than 99 percent of America's 28.7 million firms are small businesses, and more than 88 percent of those firms have fewer than 20 employees. In this small business dominated environment, you can't prepare your students to be effective employees unless you also prepare them to be entrepreneurs. In this session, Florida educator and CERTIFIED Ambassador Christina Deibler, will explore proven techniques and approaches for doing that. You'll leave this session with new ideas for teaching and promoting entrepreneurship and design thinking skills in your classroom.



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# A Portfolio for Lifelong Learning
## Serge Treyger, Administrator from Florida

Creating opportunities for students to gain tangible and transferable career-ready skill sets at all grade levels is the goal of the various Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. The objective is to encourage students to become Lifelong Learners and enrich their professional and personal development. Albert Einstein once said, "Commit yourself to lifelong learning. The most valuable asset you'll ever have is your mind and what you put into it." A common challenge in achieving the Lifelong Learning goal is aligning partnerships and resources to provide substantial CTE options for students from Elementary schools to careers.

# Why stop at Photoshop?
## *Erica Blum, Associate Professor from Missouri*

Most educators are familiar and comfortable with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and maybe a couple of the other flagship products in Adobe Creative Cloud. But what else can Adobe products offer you and your students? What other less visible tools are waiting to be discovered? And how can you use them to delight your students and provide them with practical and valuable new skills? In this session, associate professor of art and design (and Adobe Creative Cloud expert) Erica Blum will explore the answers to these questions. You'll walk away with new ideas for using some of the lesser-known Adobe Creative Cloud apps and capabilities to give your students new experiences and take their creativity and skills to new levels.

# Discovering Untapped Potential through Certification
## *Tracey Sigers, Higher Ed Department Chair from Ohio*

One of the most important, rewarding roles educators can play involves helping young people discover, embrace, and turn their untapped potential into new opportunities and happy, productive lives. In this session, Tracy Sigers—the IT department chair for NCUS TEC Career College in Columbus, Ohio—will explore approaches and ideas for engaging young people within communities, showing them the benefits of certification, and helping them earn the industry credentials they need to unlock new opportunities.

# Using Certification Projects to Link Abstract Skills to Practical Applications
### John Beale, K12 Educator from Florida

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# Using Rigor and Soft Skills Together in Real-world Applications
## *Jenny Mohess, K12 and Higher Ed Educator from Florida*

Balance is a valuable lesson for any student. In this session, Valencia College instructor Jenny Mohess will explore the value and importance of using rigor and soft skills together to create better application outcomes. This includes a discussion on the importance of understanding and respecting the "whole student" as teachers engage with their students. Jenny will also examine popular methods, old and new, and show how they differ based on the learning styles of students across all subjects and disciplines as they work to complete their certifications.

# Meeting the Exploding Demand for Project Management Talent
## *Carol York, K12 Educator from North Carolina*

The demand for project management skills continues to rise at an unprecedented rate, which is creating exciting new career pathways and opportunities for well-trained project management practitioners. Join this session to hear business education teacher and the 2022 Certified Educator of the Year Carol York discuss how she is using the PMI Project Management Ready certification to help her students immerse themselves in the field, develop and PROVE their skills, and develop the connections that will lead to success in school and in the job market. Carol will also share ideas and approaches for adding project management to your existing certification program or creating a standalone course that aligns with the materials from Certiport's "learn, practice, certify, advance" model and incorporates Certiport's recently updated PMR courseware, practice tests, and certification exams.

# Using NEW Entry-level IT Certifications as Stepping-stones to a New Career
## *Patti Keefe West, Higher Ed Educator from Florida*

In this session, Cisco Networking Academy curriculum instructor Patti West will present an overview of these new certifications, as well as the free educational resources available to prepare your students to enter the IT workforce. She will also demonstrate the interactive online course materials and the Packet Tracer network simulation product, a virtual network that makes it easy for students to practice their new skills any time, from any location. Finally, this session will include an overview of the roadmap that enables students to progress toward higher-level Cisco certifications.



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# Start Your School Up on Certification!
## *Scott Rolando, K12 Educator from Michigan*

If you have never used certifications in your classes, this session is for you. Join veteran teacher and certification expert Scott Rolando as he shares practical tips and step-by-step suggestions for launching a successful certification program at your school. This includes insights and ideas for getting your program going, aligning specific certifications with your current classes, getting funding, scheduling certifications into your existing programs, and more.

# Experience a Day in the Python Classroom
## Ashley Faulkner, K12 Educator from North Carolina

Variables, arguments, parameters, and syntax, oh my! In this session, high school teacher Ashley Faulkner will demonstrate how she integrates GMetrix, LearnKey, and Intuit into a unified python curriculum that's designed to prepare students for their Information Technology Specialist Python exam—and how you can use this same curriculum to help your students succeed. Ashley will also share insights on integrating My Pathway, provide tips for helping your students explore specific career options based on the certification's pathways, offer suggestions for providing increased validation for earning certifications, and outline ideas for unlocking new levels of success through the certification process.

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# A Day in the Classroom: Experiencing IC3GS6 and MOS Certification Teaching Methods
## Abner Henry-Soto, Higher Ed Teacher from Washington D.C.

With GREAT energy comes GREAT engagement! Join this session to learn how you can discover all the superpowers of all the superheroes in your classroom. Abner Soto will explore the process the Latin American Youth Center Career Academy (LAYCCA) uses to engage students from diverse backgrounds in the IT certification pathway to prepare them for college and successful careers. You'll learn how LAYCCA—a tuition-free adult charter school serving District of Columbia students from 16 to 24 years-old and other community members—prepares students through 15 IT industry training recognized certifications and about 25 exams certifications. Abner will also share practices he has used to create high expectations that lead to classroom success and explore effective management, communication, graphic design, and storytelling tools educators can use to improve performance in their classrooms.

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