

**Team Effort Award**  
**Nomination for: Technology Bond Professional Development Committee**  
**October, 2016**

**Name of Nominees:**

Judy Bowling	Media Specialist	Cooper Upper Elementary School
Karen Comiez	Media Specialist	Cleveland School
Tim Klan	Administrator of IT	IT Department
Jill Manchester	Media Specialist	Garfield School
Christine Mitchell	Retired WL Teacher	Churchill High School
David Mitchell	Technology Teacher	Holmes Middle School
Lisa Zaar	Media Specialist	Randolph/Rosedale School
Sheila Alles, Chair	Chief Academic Officer	Central Administration

**Narrative:**

The Technology Bond Professional Development Committee is a dedicated group of staff members who represent all levels of our district, elementary, middle and high school. It was formed four years ago for the purpose of developing professional development programs to support the implementation of the technology tools purchased with the 2013 Bond funds. The team began meeting in the fall of 2013 and started the planning process by brainstorming a variety of different professional development formats with the goal of meeting the diverse professional development needs of more than 1,000 staff members.

We started with a blank slate because the district had never sponsored a full day of professional development with a singular focus on technology for all staff members. After a great deal of lively conversation and enthusiastic debates, the team decided to create a multi-year professional development program for integrating technology with teaching and learning. Our format for the PD would include one general session led by an expert in the fields of education and technology followed by multiple breakout sessions where staff would have an opportunity to select the session of their choice based on their interest and level of expertise. Deciding on the format turned out to be the easy part. We then needed to garner the willingness and interest of our staff members to present 30-35 different sessions for each of the multiple 50-minute breakouts. Convincing, cajoling, and coaxing staff members took our collective efforts. We had to convince 60-75 staff that their LPS colleagues would be interested in hearing them share their knowledge, skills, ideas, and suggestions for integrating technology in our schools and classrooms. Once that task was accomplished, next on our agenda was to secure food trucks for lunch; create a program and a brochure; bring in additional wi-fi access points, a rear projector, additional tech tools and supports and ensure they were all working properly; invite vendors and guests to present; secure student helpers; prepare gift bags and name badges for presenters; and the list goes on and on. Thus *Level Up LPS* was created.

The creative thinking, tenacity, perseverance and persistence of the Technology Bond Professional Development Committee allowed us to create a fabulous professional development program that included a combination of new knowledge shared with all 1,000 teachers and administrators followed by individual choice to support personal preferences. Not only did this amazing team coordinate and produce *Level Up LPS* once, they did it for a total of three times. Our goal when planning the next *Level Up LPS* was to make it better than the previous one. So we decided to survey staff. We read and categorized responses, and modified the next year's program based on the survey results. Each year the results told us we were being responsive to staff requests, the program was getting better, the sessions were more numerous, and the food trucks were a hit.

The creation of *Level Up LPS* was a tremendously ambitious endeavor and a tremendously enormous accomplishment. Many of our LPS teachers and administrators have enhanced their tech skills, expanded their use of apps, and brought new technology experiences into our classrooms and schools as a result of *Level Up LPS* these past three years. This professional development program was made possible due to the incredibly talented, tireless efforts, and passionate members of the district's PD Bond Committee who met after school and every other week throughout the summer for three years straight. It is through their talents, dedication, and creative energy that *Level Up LPS* 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0 were made possible for our teachers and administrators. I am very proud to have had the honor and privilege to work with each of them and am deeply appreciative of their endless commitment to this immensely important professional development project.

**Submitted by:** Sheila Alles, Chief Academic Officer