

STEPHEN D. BEST

616.951.1233 (Office)
734.709.8904 (Mobile)
stephenbest@me.com

Teacher Professional Development Specialist
and Project Director for University K-12 Outreach

Professional Experience:

Project Director - Outreach and Communications

University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan

January 2006 - Current

Project Investigator/Director of a number of programs focusing on professional learning for teachers and educational reform efforts in K-12 education related to STEM (science, technology, engineering, & mathematics) fields. Administered all aspects of these efforts, including project design and documentation, curriculum development and alignment, research and evaluation, partnership development and communication, and professional development and learning design efforts, as well as logistics for these events. Developed and collaborated on funded grant proposals totaling over \$8M. Selected details of each are listed below:

Investigate the State/Greater Proficiency in Science - a multi-year professional learning program for teachers to support science instruction by collaboratively developing and implementing inquiry-based, technology-embedded projects that explore various scientific phenomena in local communities and sharing lessons and resources through online collaboration tools (<http://investigatethestate.org> & <http://gps3.org>)

- Developed and facilitated two years of professional development for 100 teachers in grades 3-9 to develop and implement inquiry-based curriculum units. Activities focused on curriculum design and instruction, technology integration, inquiry-learning strategies, lesson study, assessment practices, review of student data, and content information in various fields based on grade level needs of teachers.
- Created the project websites and curriculum materials for classroom use, and as models for teachers to use to design inquiry-based curricula. Includes 6-8 week project-based units on air and water quality, student materials, video demonstrations of setup of investigations, podcasts and web pages.
- Designed and implemented a research program to examine the impact of professional development on teachers' pedagogical content knowledge in science, classroom instruction practices, use of technology, and on student achievement and inquiry process skills in science.
- Developed the program as a platform for outreach to K-12 educators and students for STEM research proposals, including an NSF-funded grant examining effects of climate change on the Great Lakes basin, and additional proposals for outreach for the Michigan Space Grant Consortium, College of Engineering projects, and teacher leader programs in STEM fields for under-represented groups in the sciences.
- Developed templates for lessons and rubrics for curriculum design by 20 collaborative teams to create their own curriculum units on topics/standards identified as problematic (by student data review).

Michigan Mathematics and Science Teacher Leadership Collaborative (MMSTLC) - a leadership development program for middle-grades science and mathematics educators, Math/Science Center directors, STEM faculty from higher education, and district administrators throughout Michigan (<http://mmstlc.net>)

- Worked with four institutions to develop this statewide program, and managed the collaboration effort for project grants, individual site efforts, and design of the learning activities.
- Created all of the project's online tools, including a public web site, wiki, document- and video-sharing site, and private Moodle site specifically set up for participant communication and collaboration on the project, as well as posting of all content generated in the project.
- Developed all of the science and technology content activities for educators over a three year period, including over 150 hours of professional development, in collaboration with Math/Science Centers and STEM faculty from over 15 institutions throughout the state.
- Provided mentorship to six teams involved in the project, including Detroit, Oakland, and other sites, including project design, data review, curriculum evaluation and planning, and professional development planning, among other topics requiring oversight and mentoring.
- Developed grant proposals, evaluation plans, program budgets, and annual reports for the collaborative group of four universities, the state Math/Science Center Network, and state Department of Education.

Middle Start - a professional learning program for teachers to support school improvement and classroom instruction by examining aspects of instruction, student work, and school policy and management.

- Developed a leadership development and school improvement program for 40 high needs schools in southeast Michigan. The program focused on leadership skills, analysis of student work, design of school improvement reform efforts, and uses of protocols and tuning instruments for school evaluation.
- Engaged/taught two groups of educators from the participating schools in graduate coursework on literacy strategies across the curriculum, and assessment practices and design.

Professional Experience (continued):

Professional Development Director - Center for Highly Interactive Computing in Education (hi-ce)

University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 1999 - January 2006

Managed and developed a number of programs and resources focusing on professional learning for teachers and educational reform efforts in K-12 education related to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields. Worked with a large multi-disciplinary team of faculty, graduate students, and staff to partner with and support program efforts in various schools and districts. Projects included:

Center for Learning Technologies in Urban Schools (LeTUS) - a systemic reform (policy, professional development, and curriculum development) effort to utilize technology to engage teachers in using project-based inquiry learning to support middle grades science education in 32 schools within Detroit Public Schools.

- Developed the professional development program for a large NSF systemic reform program affecting over 110 teachers in 32 Detroit Public School buildings over a six year period.
- Implemented a teacher observation and classroom support program for over 40 teachers during pilot testing of curricula, including documentation of instruction and curriculum and technology issues.
- Coordinated work circles among five groups of teachers, graduate students, and university faculty to develop/edit curriculum units and coordinate the professional development programs for the curricula.

Science in the City - a comprehensive reform program to address 6th grade science education in Grand Rapids Public and Christian School systems, incorporating 1:1 computing and a new instructional model (5e)

- Developed a collaborative program with the Van Andel Institute (VAI) support science specific instruction within a broader professional development program addressing technology skills and integration into instruction. Worked closely with VAI personnel to plan all aspects of the program.
- Created a professional development program for 26 sixth-grade teachers in 16 schools as an alternative to a statewide PD effort for 1:1 computing which also incorporated the draft grade level expectations, science content, instructional strategies and the 5e inquiry model for instruction.
- Led a curriculum development program for participants using video-based lesson study to create five new curriculum units addressing 75% of the 6th grade curriculum expectations and incorporating 1:1 computing tools from the Freedom to Learn initiative.
- Gathered teacher and classroom data to evaluate impact of the program on teacher and student knowledge and attitudes toward science, science instruction, and technology.

Primary Sources Network - a collaborative curriculum development, research, and professional development program with The Henry Ford (museum), Henry Ford Academy, and Melvindale Schools, using primary source materials from the museum resources as a focal point of inquiry studies in science, engineering, and history.

- Developed and facilitated workshops and a short course for educators on the use of software tools that use primary source materials to help educators engage in inquiry and engineering design.
- Managed and implemented the redesign of the Virtual Expedition and Virtual Curator software to implement over 600 new primary source artifacts, as well as design tools for use on a new platform.
- Developed graduate courses for practicing teachers in collaboration with museum curators, history and science faculty, and taught/co-taught courses on use of primary sources in differing contexts.

Project Based Inquiry Science - a curriculum development effort to integrate three NSF curriculum programs into a single cohesive middle grades curriculum. Published by It's About Time, Inc.

- Developed and refined curriculum materials for project-based units in simple machines, communicable disease, force and motion, air quality, water quality, and astronomy.
- Led a region-wide professional development effort in New York City Public Schools with over 170 science teachers to adopt and implement pilot curriculum units from the development effort.

Other projects and activities - managed and implemented a number of efforts related to the various curriculum, professional development, software development, and research programs of the Center

- Led research activities focusing on collection of data on classroom implementation of inquiry-learning practices, technologies, and curriculum resources.
- Coordinated research activities on the use of online professional development and workshop-based professional development on teacher knowledge/beliefs/attitudes about inquiry curricula and technology.
- Implemented a three year program of graduate courses for Detroit and other area teachers to learn about inquiry-based learning, assessment, science process skills, technology tools, and other resources.
- Managed and advised several graduate student research assistants in activities involving classroom research, professional development, and curriculum development.

Professional Experience (continued):

Consultant

Self-Employed

Various projects from April 2002 - August 2010

Worked with various organizations and corporations to support activities on educational programs, including:

AED/Middle Start - development of online learning modules for teachers to support educators' instruction in mathematics and family engagement support for mathematics learning. Created resources for online management of teacher learning, and integrated these resources with other partners' efforts.

National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform - creation and management of a web site, online tools, and a webinar series to support the dissemination of information about the Mathematics Improvement Toolkit. Provided content and technological guidance to five partner organizations involved in the project.

GoKnow, LLC. - supported teacher and administrator implementation of handheld technologies, including:

- Co-designed and led the Learning Without Limits program for over 50 teachers (and 2400 students), a 1:1 handheld program for middle grades teachers in the upper peninsula and Traverse Bay area
- Designed the handheld learning components of the Leading the Future program, supporting over 200 building principals and district superintendents in examining technology integration considerations
- Led several workshops, graduate courses, and conference presentations focusing on the use of handheld computing tools to support learning.
- Developed documentation materials for handheld computing implementation efforts in schools and developed evaluation protocols for handheld computing implementation and software design.

Instructor/Co-Director, Master of Arts with Certification (MAC) Program

University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan

July 1996 - July 1999

Led and assisted in instruction in an intensive, interdisciplinary teacher education program. Worked with a faculty team to develop and teach a structured curriculum to address issues of teacher preparation, including educational psychology, curriculum development, research methods, literacy, and foundations of education. Primary coordinator and supervisor of intern teachers in a number of schools and disciplines. Academic advisor for students to complete certification and graduation requirements. Worked with professors in various departments to develop several independent study courses for students that focused on curriculum development efforts within their own areas of expertise for creation of secondary instructional materials for teachers in participating classrooms. Developed an integrated web site to supplement the face-to-face instruction.

Research Assistant, Studies in Urban Security Group

UM College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ann Arbor, Michigan

January 1993 - January 1997

Created surveys to determine planning considerations by city/regional planning departments regarding crime prevention. Developed security and emergency response procedures and analyses for large municipal water, police, fire, and EMS systems, and trained these groups using simulation exercises for emergency response.

Research Assistant, Project GREEN Teacher Enhancement Project

University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan

September 1994 - July 1996

Documented teacher and student use of multiple communication and computation technologies in an NSF funded, project-oriented, interdisciplinary environmental education program. Examined technology use and application issues among culturally and economically diverse interest groups. Worked with teachers and coordinators to develop technological applications for classroom use. Instructed teachers on use of various technologies, including use of the Internet in the classroom. Consulted GREEN staff on coordination and planning of an international environmental education conference for 250+ participants.

High School Mathematics Teacher / Solar Car Team Advisor

Konawaena High School, Kealahou, Hawaii

August 1992 - August 1993

Instructed general mathematics, geometry, and applied mathematics classes in a large high school with a diverse population. Developed lesson plans, activities, and application projects for these classes. Led faculty inservice sessions regarding use of technology and new content and methods use in mathematics education. Acted as head advisor of the high school solar car racing team during a period of restructuring. Worked with several students to design and build a solar powered vehicle. Developed community relations to promote team progress and establish team financing. Prepared budget, itinerary, and overall plan for a world record transcontinental trip of North America with the solar car by the students. Established alternative energy education programs in conjunction with activities of the solar car team.

Professional Experience (continued):

Middle/High School Mathematics and Science Teacher

Pittsford High School, Pittsford, Michigan

August 1991 - August 1992

Instructed general mathematics, geometry, physical science, and life science classes in a small rural high school. Developed lesson plans, activities, and application projects for these classes. Assisted administration and faculty in the development and implementation of an applied technology-based curriculum. Assisted faculty and community members in curricular, purchasing, and technical decision making regarding use of computers. Acted as advisor to the sophomore class.

High School Mathematics Teacher

Detroit Country Day Upper School, Birmingham, Michigan

August 1990 - August 1991

Instructed algebra and geometry courses in a small, academically rigorous, private high school. Developed lesson plans, activities, and application projects for these courses. Acted as student advisor in assisting individual students and their families with academic and social decisions. Assisted students in research and development of International Science Fair projects. Acted as advisor and assistant to soccer and basketball athletic programs.

Administrative Assistant

Society for College and University Planning, Ann Arbor, Michigan

April 1990 - December 1993 (summers)

Assisted a professional organization for college and university administrators and planners in developing and implementing presentations for the organization's national conferences. Aided in planning and management of a variety of conference efforts, including site management, program development, and other efforts. Worked with administration to develop budget analyses and membership benefits and information.

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)

May 1990

University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan

State of Michigan Secondary Provisional Teaching Certificate. Major: Mathematics; Minors: Chemistry, Physics

Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

May 1995

University of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Concentration on Technology Planning and Planning Analysis

Master of Arts in Education (MA)

May 1998

University of Michigan School of Education, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Specialization in Educational Technology and Curriculum and Instruction

Additional graduate coursework in doctoral program focusing on Curriculum Design and Reform, Impacts of Technology on Schools, Educational Reform Efforts, Technology Planning for Education, and Teacher Education.

Professional Organization Activities and Membership:

Leadership Activities:

Michigan Department of Education Committee on Professional Learning Policy

2010 - Current

Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL)

Director of the Special Interest Group for Professional Learning (SIG-PL)

2008-Current

Director of the Special Interest Group for Teacher Education (SIG-TE)

2005-2008

Fall Conference Coordinator, Teaching and Learning in the Cloud

2010

Fall Conference Coordinator, Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference

2007-2009

Fall Conference Coordinator, Handheld Learning Tools Conference

2006

Current Professional Organization Memberships:

Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL)

National and Michigan Science Teacher Associations (NSTA and MSTA)

National and European Science Education Research Associations (NARST and ESERA)

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

National Middle School Association (NMSA)

National and Michigan Councils of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM and MCTM)

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

National Staff Development Council (NSDC/Learning Forward)

Recent Publications:

Best, S., *"Managing Content and Assessment in the Cloud"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 32:1, Fall 2011 (forthcoming)

Best, S., *"Greater Proficiency in Science: Using Data to Guide Professional Learning"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 31:3, Spring/Summer 2011

Best, S., *"Using Video to Guide Instructional Decision Making"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 31:3, Spring/Summer 2011

Best, S., *"Project Based Learning in the Cloud: Online Tools to Support Every Step of the Project"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 31:2, Winter 2010/11

Best, S., *"Teachers Teaching Other Teachers About Technology Integration"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 30:3, Spring 2010

Best, S., *"Collaborative Learning Tools for Science"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 30:1, Fall 2009

Best, S., *"Collaborative Tools for Teacher Learning"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 29:1, Fall 2008

Best, S., *"New Strategies for Teacher Learning"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 28:2, Spring 2008

Best, S., *"Science in the City"*, MACUL Journal, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, Lansing, Michigan. Vol. 28:1, Fall 2007

Fishman, B., Marx, R., Best, S., & Tal, R. (2003). Linking teacher and student learning to improve professional development in systemic reform. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 19(6), 643-658.

Best, S., Fishman, B., Marx, R., & Foster, J. (2000). Comprehensive professional development reform efforts: Changing attitudes and practices about pedagogy and technology for science teachers with diverse needs. In D. A. Willis, J. D. Price & J. Willis (Eds.), *Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education* (pp. 1839-1844). San Diego, CA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education.

Fishman, B., Best, S., Foster, J., & Marx, R. (2000, April). Fostering professional development in systemic reform: A design proposal for developing professional development. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Research on Science Teaching, New Orleans, LA.

Best, S., Marx, R., Fishman, B., & Peek-Brown, D. (2000). Professional development for systemic change: A strategic approach to scaling educational reform through professional development programs. In D. A. Willis, J. D. Price & J. Willis (Eds.), *Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education* (pp. 285-390). San Diego, CA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education.

Recent Conference Presentations:

General, Poster, Keynote Presentations and Conference Workshops

"iTeach: Using iPods and iPads in the Classroom Two (Half-day workshops focusing on assistive technology tools)", Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports" Summer Institute, Traverse City, Michigan, June 2011

"Project Based Learning in the Cloud", 4T Virtual Conference, <http://www.4tvirtualcon.com>, May 2011

"iTeach: iPods and iPads in the Classroom", 4T Virtual Conference, <http://www.4tvirtualcon.com>, May 2011

"The Future of the Web", 4T Virtual Conference, <http://www.4tvirtualcon.com>, May 2011

Recent Conference Presentations (Continued):

"10 Things You Better Consider Before You Get iPods, iPads, or Other Devices for Your School", Educational Technology Leadership Conference, Muskegon, Michigan, April 2011

"The Future of the Web and Learning", MACUL Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2011

"25 iPod/iPhone/iPad Apps to Help You Teach", MACUL Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2011

"iTeach - Using iPods and iPads in the Classroom (Half-day Workshop)", MACUL Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2011

"Project Based Learning in the Cloud (Half-day Workshop)", MACUL Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2011

"iTeach - Using iPods and iPads in the Science Classroom", Michigan Science Teacher Association (MSTA) Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 2011

"Say What You Mean! Helping Students Better Communicate Science Understanding", Michigan Science Teacher Association (MSTA) Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 2011

"Science in the Cloud - Online Tools for Collaboration and Inquiry", Michigan Science Teacher Association (MSTA) Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 2011

"The Problem with Models, and How to Fix Them", Michigan Science Teacher Association (MSTA) Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 2011

"Designing Science Projects: Strategies for Creating Project-Based Learning to Engage Students", Michigan Science Teacher Association (MSTA) Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 2011

"Do the Mash: Mixing Tools to Create a Custom Cloud-Based Learning Tool", Teaching and Learning in the Cloud (MACUL) Conference, Holland, Michigan, October 2010

"Formative Assessment 2.0", Teaching and Learning in the Cloud (MACUL) Conference, Holland, Michigan, October 2010

"This is Your Future: The Cloud in Your Hand", Teaching and Learning in the Cloud (MACUL) Conference, Holland, Michigan, October 2010

"Project Based Learning in the Cloud (Half-day Workshop)", Teaching and Learning in the Cloud (MACUL) Conference, Holland, Michigan, October 2010

"Cloud-Based Tools to Support Teacher Learning", Teaching and Learning in the Cloud (MACUL) Conference, Holland, Michigan, October 2010

"Say What You Mean! Strategies to Help Students Better Communicate Science", National Science Teacher Association (NSTA) National Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2010

"Investigate the State: Collaborating to Study Science Issues in Michigan", NSTA National Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 2010

"Collaborative Online Tools to Support Teacher Learning" Half-Day Workshop, Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2010

"iTeach: Using iPods/iPhones in the Classroom" Half-Day Workshop, MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2010

"Web 2.0 in the Classroom: Collaborative Learning Tools for Science", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2010

Recent Conference Presentations (Continued):

"25 iPod/iPhone Apps to Help You Teach", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2010

"Learning About Our Teaching: SIGPL Action Research Grant Round Table", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2010

"Considerations for Designing Online Professional Development Resources", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2010

"Learning About Our Teaching: SIGPL Action Research Grant Presentation", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2010

"Say What You Mean! Strategies to Help Students Better Communicate Science", Michigan Science Teacher Association (MSTA) Annual Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2010

"The Problem With Models and How to Fix Them", MSTA Annual Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2010

"Creating a New Generation of Science Leaders", MSTA Annual Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2010

"Web 2.0 in the Classroom: Collaborative Learning Tools for Science", MSTA Annual Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2010

"Investigate the State: Collaborative to Study Science Issues in Michigan", MSTA Annual Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2010

"Science Book Studies as Professional Learning Communities", MSTA Annual Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2010

"Say What You Mean! Strategies to Help Students Better Communicate Science", NSTA Regional Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, December 2009

"Developing a Network of Teacher Leaders in Science", NSTA Regional Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, December 2009

"Web 2.0 in the Classroom: Collaborative Learning Tools for Science", NSTA Regional Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, December 2009

"The Problem With Models and How to Fix Them", NSTA Regional Conference, Phoenix, AZ, December 2009

"An Educator's Introduction to Collaborative Online Tools and Web 2.0", Collaborative Tools for Learning (CTL) Conference, Clinton Twp, Michigan, November 2009

"A Dozen Collaborative Tools You've Probably Never Seen that Will Change Everything", CTL Conference, Clinton Twp, Michigan, November 2009

"Collaborative Tools to Support Teacher's Professional Learning", CTL Conference, Clinton Twp, Michigan, November 2009

"Web 3.0 - The Next Generation of Collaborative Tools for Learning", CTL Conference, Clinton Twp, Michigan, November 2009

"The National Forum's Mathematics Improvement Toolkit", National Schools to Watch Conference, Washington, D.C., June 2009

"National Panel on Mathematics Reform and the President's Commission on Algebra", National Schools to Watch Conference, Washington, D.C., June 2009

Recent Conference Presentations (continued):

"The Michigan Mathematics and Science Teacher Leadership Collaborative: Creating a New Generation of Science Leaders", U. S. Department of Education Math and Science Partnership Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 2009

"Building a Better Investigation: Considerations for Planning Student Inquiry Projects", MSTA Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2009

"Investigate the State: Collaborating to Study Science Issues in Michigan", MSTA Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2009

"Creating a New Generation of Science Leaders", MSTA Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2009

"Web 2.0 in the Classroom: Collaborative Learning Tools for Science", MSTA Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, March 2009

"Collaborative Learning Tools in Science and Mathematics", Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference, Holland, Michigan, December 2008

"An Educator's Introduction to Collaborative Online Tools and Web 2.0", Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference, Holland, Michigan, December 2008

"Collaborative Tools to Support Teacher's Professional Learning", Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference, Holland, Michigan, December 2008

"Online Productivity Tools for Educators", Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference, Holland, Michigan, December 2008

"Supporting the Needs of Middle Grades Mathematics: The Mathematics Improvement Toolkit", National Middle School Association Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 2008

"Collaborative Online Professional Development Support for Rural Mathematics Educators", National Schools to Watch Conference, Washington, D.C., June 2008

"Grant Writing for Classroom Technology", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2008

"A Primer on Basic Collaborative Learning Tools", Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference, Clinton Twp, Michigan, November 2007

"Collaborative Tools for Teacher Professional Development", Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference, Clinton Twp, Michigan, November 2007

"Advanced Primer: Collaborative Tools Designed Specifically for Students and Teachers", Collaborative Tools for Learning Conference, Clinton Twp, Michigan, November 2007

"Successful Grant Writing for Classroom Technology", Michigan Handheld Computing in Education Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, November 2006

"A Primer on Handheld Computing in the Classroom", Michigan Handheld Computing in Education Conference, Ann Arbor, Michigan, November 2006

"Using Handheld Computers as Collaborative Tools for the Classroom", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2004

"Handheld Computers as Distance Learning Tools" Pre-conference workshop, MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2004

"Handheld Computers in the Science Classroom", MSTA Annual Conference, Lansing, Michigan, March 2004

Recent Conference Presentations (continued):

"Collaborative Tools for Handheld Computers", Michigan Handheld Computers in Education Conference, Holland, Michigan, November 2003

"Managing Handheld Computers in the Classroom", Michigan Handheld Computers in Education Conference, Holland, Michigan, November 2003

"Assessment Strategies for Handheld Computers", Michigan Handheld Computers in Education Conference, Holland, Michigan, November 2003

"Developing a Comprehensive Professional Development Program for Technology Integration", MACUL Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2002

"Handheld Computers in the Science Classroom", Symposium on the Nature of Science, Fermi Laboratories, Batavia, Illinois, March 2002

"Knowledge Networks on the Web (KNOW): Online Professional Development for Science Teachers", NSTA National Convention, San Diego, California, March 2002

"The Center for Learning Technologies in Urban Schools: Project Based Science and Systemic Reform", NSTA National Convention, San Diego, California, March 2002

Research Paper Presentations:

Best, S. (2009, September). "Removing Barriers to Reform: Using Networking, Partnerships, and Leadership Development as Professional Development Tools for Science Education", European Science Education Research Association (ESERA) Conference, Istanbul, Turkey

Best, S. (2009, September). "Considerations for Designing Online Professional Development Resources to Support Systemic Reform of Science Education", ESERA Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, September, 2009

Best, S., Fishman, B., Hug, B., Marx, R., Peek-Brown, D., Reynolds, J. (2002, March). Knowledge Networks on the Web (KNOW): Online professional development for science teachers. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Science Teachers Association. San Diego, CA.

Best, S., Fishman, B., Marx, R., Foster, J. (2002, March). Comprehensive Professional Development Reform Efforts: Changing Attitudes and Practices about Pedagogy and Technology for Science Teachers with Diverse Needs. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. San Diego, CA.

Best, S., Fishman, B., Marx, R., Peek-Brown, D. (2002, March). Professional Development for Systemic Change: A Strategic Approach to Scaling Education Reform through Professional Development Programs. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. San Diego, CA.

Fishman, B., Marx, R., Bobrowsky, W., Warren, D., Merrill, W., & Best, S. (2001, April). Knowledge Networks on the Web: An on-line professional development resource to support the scaling-up of curriculum enactment. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Seattle, WA.

Fishman, B., Best, S., Marx, R., & Tal, R. (2001, March). Fostering teacher learning in systemic reform: Linking professional development to teacher and student learning. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Research on Science Teaching, St. Louis, MO.

Fishman, B., Best, S., Foster, J., & Marx, R. (2000, April). Fostering professional development in systemic reform: A design proposal for developing professional development. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Research on Science Teaching, New Orleans, LA.