

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2008

Contact: Lelia Richardson <[masscue@masscue.org](mailto:masscue@masscue.org)>

Heffernan awarded Pathfinder 2008 technology award

John Heffenan, Technology Teacher and Coordinator PK-6 Williamsburg Schools, has been chosen to receive a Pathfinder 2008 award by MassCUE (Massachusetts Computer Using Educators, Inc.), the voice of education professionals on Massachusetts education technology issues. The Pathfinder award is given to local educators, administrators, or community members who have demonstrated leadership in their ability to find effective pathways for planning, integrating, and facilitating aspects of technology in education.

John, a Conway resident, has provided leadership in the field of educational technology since 1992 when he changed from a software engineering career to third grade teacher. He was the first teacher in Amherst to use the Internet for educational purposes. He led his school's technology team and received a special superintendent's award for integrating technology into the curriculum. In 1999 he joined the Hampshire Educational Collaborative (HEC). As part of his work with HEC he wrote and received grants focused on teacher professional development in technology, video conferencing, and distance learning. He designed and developed multiple web-based databases for districts and HEC. In addition, he worked for 2 years at the state level on the Virtual Education Space initiative, which is now known as MassOne.

In 2003, John began working in the Williamsburg Schools as technology teacher and coordinator. In this role, John has introduced and expanded many innovative programs such as robotics, video game programming, and animation creation. His grade six Tech Troops program enables students to develop in-depth technology projects. As the district's integration teacher, he works with teachers to plan, integrate, and deliver technology-enriched lessons in the classroom. John has offered many professional development workshops for the district including a recent course on using Web 2.0 tools for education.

John Heffernan's commitment to student and teacher training in the field of Educational Technology uniquely qualifies him to receive a MassCUE Year 2008 Pathfinder Award. This award will be presented at MassCUE's annual conference on November 19 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel.

MassCUE is a state-wide organization of educators whose mission is to promote new visions of teaching and learning, transform the educational environment, support professional growth of Massachusetts educators, influence educational decision-makers, and build a community of teachers helping teachers.

MassCUE provides inexpensive, timely access to state information, professional development opportunities, best-practice modeling, hands-on opportunities, and collegial experiences for reflection, renewal, and professional growth. For more information visit [www.masscue.org](http://www.masscue.org) or contact <[masscue@masscue.org](mailto:masscue@masscue.org)>.