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Okemos Resident Receives National Recognition Award for 'Making It Happen' in Educational Technology

March 29– Lansing, MI – Barbara Fardell, Manager, Educational Technology at Michigan Department of Education was honored with the coveted *Making It Happen* award for her contributions to the successful integration of technology in education in K–12 schools.

While attending AdvancED Michigan/MDE School Improvement Conference at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Barbara was honored by the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), for her dedication to education and successful integration of technology in the classroom. The *Making It Happen* program has made a commitment to work with U.S. state and national organizations and conferences to identify individuals who are truly *Making It Happen* within their respective state or region and to recognize them publicly.

During the surprise presentation, Barbara was described by Mike Oswald, MACUL President and Assistant Superintendent of Regional Technology Services at Calhoun ISD, as a tireless champion for the use of media and technology to improve student learning. "If a state project involves educational technology, Barb Fardell is involved on some level," Oswald stated. "Of particular note is Michigan's Online Resources for Educators portal. Educators throughout Michigan and the country benefit from this project, thanks in large part to Barb's leadership to 'Make It Happen.'"

Successful integration of educational technology requires a common passion, initiative and pledge that can best be summarized by the *Making It Happen* Formula of Success.

The eight components of the Formula of Success are:

1. Educators [those in the field of education] who apply available technology now
2. Move forward and don't look back
3. See students as real people
4. Teach through relationships – inspire, encourage, nurture
5. Recognize that further change is necessary, but understand that it is a process
6. Realize that teacher empowerment is the key element to technology integration
7. Expect success
8. Motivate through awareness and access to information

Barbara joins a prestigious group of *Making It Happen* honorees, including classroom teachers, school principals, district superintendents, legislators, governors, and even former Secretary of Education, Richard Riley. Margaret "Gigi" Lincoln, District Library Media Specialist for Lakeview School District in Battle Creek, Michigan was also honored with the *Making It Happen* award earlier this month by MACUL.

[About Making It Happen](#)

Founded in 1995, the *Making IT Happen* program highlights the dramatic role educators are having on the learning process by using technology and rewards those individuals for their commitment and innovation. To date, nearly 500 individuals have been awarded this recognition through ISTE and its affiliates. The impact of this program has been felt at numerous conferences around the world. The focus of the *Making IT Happen* program is on current practitioners, highlighting their significant contribution and encouraging them to continue their work. *Making IT Happen* recipients are in the classroom, making it happen for learners every day.

About MACUL

The Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization established in 1975 and is dedicated to bringing educators from all levels together to ignite learning through meaningful collaboration and innovation. Its 7,000+ members come from Michigan, neighboring Midwest states and Canada. MACUL is an organizational affiliate of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Find out more about MACUL at: www.macul.org.
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About ISTE

The [International Society for Technology in Education](http://www.iste.org) (ISTE[®]) is the premier membership association for educators and education leaders engaged in advancing excellence in learning and teaching through the innovative and effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education. Home to ISTE's [annual conference](#) and exposition and the widely adopted [NETS](#), ISTE represents more than 100,000 professionals worldwide. <http://www.iste.org>.