



Meet SAS Education's World-Class Instructors

~~~~~ This month's profile ~~~~~



As with so many users, **Michelle Buchecker** first became familiar with SAS as an undergraduate student in college. She served as a lab consultant while working towards her Bachelors of Business Administration at New Mexico State University.

"Students had to type in a SAS program that was given to them and analyze the results," Michelle recalls. "When they got errors, they would call me over, and I had to debug a language I had never seen before. So I would casually glance down at their papers and declare, 'I think you need a semicolon there.'"

It wasn't long before Michelle's knowledge of SAS grew, however, when she was hired as a programmer for IBM in 1988. Her position required her to use SAS exclusively in analyzing mainframe SMF data. But after three years of programming and a Masters in Computer Information Systems from the University of Denver, she decided she needed a change.

"I thought, 'I don't want to be a programmer anymore. What do I want to do? I want to teach. What do I know that I can teach? I know, SAS!' At that time, SAS had just listed a position for an instructor in Chicago. Timing is everything."

Thirteen years later, Michelle serves as Chicago's Regional Education Director and is an invaluable part of their regional training program. She specializes in Base SAS, Macro, SAS/CONNECT, SAS/ACCESS and report writing. Michelle says that her favorite part of being an instructor is also her biggest challenge - keeping current on the SAS system. Her students feel that Michelle is up to the challenge, however. "Michelle is a great instructor," one of her students reported. "She is knowledgeable about the information and relays it very well. I was also impressed with her ability to see individuals in the class doing things differently and getting correct results, and explaining why they were good, bad, or just different."

"Michelle knows just what amount of information to convey to us," says another student. "If she gives you a detail, it's important. She does not overload you with too much information, and she provides wise pointers on how to get the most from the material you are working on."

Michelle's drive to help students attain their best doesn't end with her day job though. At night she uses her teaching experience to help a 47-year-old man with a ninth-grade education study for his GED. She has also organized a collection drive in the Chicago office for business travelers to bring back hotel soaps and shampoos, which she in turn donates to a local homeless shelter. In her free time, Michelle enjoys attending Chicago Bears games with her husband, knitting while watching Monday night NFL games at home, traveling,