

Meet the Staff

KAREN L. MAHON, ED.D.

Scientific Consultant

Karen Mahon is the president and founder of Balefire Labs, an online educational app review service that focuses on evaluating the instructional quality and usability of mobile apps for grades PreK–12. She is an educational psychologist and instructional designer with more than 15 years' experience in education technology. Prior to founding Balefire Labs, Dr. Mahon was global senior manager of learning sciences at Mimio Interactive Teaching Technologies, where she established Mimio's global content strategy and instructional philosophy. She was a principal investigator and research scientist at Praxis, Inc., a Waltham (MA) education technology startup that produced instructional software for children with severe and profound intellectual disabilities. While at Praxis, she successfully generated National Institute of Health Small Business Innovation Research grants totaling close to \$4 million.



Karen L. Mahon

Other previous appointments have included research assistant professor at the University of Kansas, Parsons Research Center; and positive behavior support specialist at the Autism Training Center at Marshall University. In all of these roles, Dr. Mahon has consulted with numerous schools and conducted countless teacher trainings.

Dr. Mahon received her Ed.D. and M.A. in educational psychology from West Virginia University; her Product Management Certificate from the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business; and her B.A. in psychology from the University of California, San Diego. She also holds a graduate minor in the experimental analysis of behavior.

Balefire Labs' most recent accomplishment was winning the EdTech Digest Cool Tool Award for the Best New Product or Service of 2014. In addition to reviewing apps, Balefire Labs consults to app developers and offers professional development services to schools.