

Electronic Educator

Connecting Technology Educators in Maine

A Publication of the Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine September 2014

A message from the

PRESIDENT

Michael Richards, Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D

At the end of the school year I try to envision how I will get my work done over the summer, prepare for the school year, attend some professional development activities, and find time to recharge the batteries. Every summer I have been successful in finding that balance but this summer all of that was changed. My family had to go through something that has always been in the back of our minds for the last 10 years, a liver transplant for my daughter. Most of my summer has been spent either at Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland or Children's Hospital in Boston. So I wasn't able to achieve all of my goals but I was still able to make some dents.

In the end, my daughter has a donated liver and is starting on the road to recovery while I have been spending most of my time in hospitals that didn't stop my professional development opportunities. I was able to tap into some of the Youtube videos from ISTE14, follow along on #edchat and other Twitter discussions,

and using RSS feeds and apps like Zite I could attempt to keep up with news and articles in the forefront

Michael Richards,
ACTEM
President



(Continued on
page 11)

Get Serious about your Professional Development

with ACTEM's 2014 Longer Sessions

Here are some highlights from the longer sessions being offered at ACTEM 2014:

featured speaker sessions, **Jeff Baily** from Wicked Decent Learning will present *Customized Learning on the Cheap* on Thursday afternoon, it's all about finding cheap and easy technology tools to help design, manage, and assess student learning as it becomes that much more important. Friday Morning, Jeff's cohort at Wicked Decent Learning, **Dan Ryder**, will present on *Design Thinking, Empathy & Technology*, an interactive session where participants will make LEGO models, take pictures, rock Post-It notes, film interviews & collaborate on an authentic problem solving. On Thursday morning **Richard Byrne** will introduce teachers to media production projects that their students can complete with mobile devices in *Making Media With Mobile Apps*. In this workshop (iOS and Android) teachers will learn by doing as they play the role of students who complete a handful of short projects to demonstrate their knowledge of topics of their choosing.

Apple has a great line up with presenters who have proven themselves in the Maine Technology community. On Thursday, look for *A Day in the iPad Empowered Elementary Classroom, "Let's Bring it All Together!"* — *Leveraging iOS, Mac, and iCloud, Apple's iTunes U & iTunes U Course*



Manager
Hands On
Workshop - Apple

Primary MLTI Solution, Experience Classroom Workflows with eBackpack Apple Primary MLTI Solution or Ebackpack Subscribers, and Creating with iBooks Author Both Apple MLTI Solutions. On Friday you'll find sessions on *Resources at iBooks/iTunes U for both MLTI Apple Solutions and Start Developing iOS and OS X Apps Today!* - Both Apple MLTI Solutions.

Keith Kelly (Kern's brother) will wow you with his offer to present on Friday, **3D Printing for the Classroom with or without a Printer** where you'll examine how use Prototype and Design process to allow students to create their own 3D objects using Free software (Sketchup) and 3D Printers to take the Virtual to the Real to the Surreal.

On Thursday Kern Kelly will set you up for **Google Certification Training**, a full day workshop covering the steps of becoming a Google certified trainer.

(continued on page 10)

INSIDE ACTEM Sessions for Administrators, ACTEM Annual Report, Adobe Creative Cloud for Schools, What's a Bus Moose?

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actem

Join us for the Business Meetings
 for 2014-15 school year

September 15, 2014,
 December 8, 2014,
 March 9, 2015 and
 May 11, 2015

Meetings are typically from 9:00 am to
 12:00 noon on Monday mornings in Room
 103A/B, First Floor, Cross Office Building,
 Augusta. Remote sites are generally avail-
 able for these meetings. Check the ACTEM
 website for meeting details.

A Fond Farewell to David Patterson

By Jeff Mao

It is with great sadness that I pass along the news of David Patterson's passing. David served the Department of Education and the Maine education community for many years including helping to pioneer the ATM video conferencing system and later AP4ALL.

David was 50 years old, a soccer coach, photographer, and blogger. He received his B.A. in Sports Studies from the University of Ulster in 1986, and his Master's in Education from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina in 1994. While coaching in Bangor, David was named Maine Soccer Coaches' Coach of the year twice, and was awarded New England Coach of the Year in 2010. David worked with the Maine Department of Education as an

Education Specialist working closely on the distance education program, AP4All.

People on the Move

Jeff Mao is leaving the DOE after ten years, headed for Common Sense Media. He sent the following for ACTEM's membership:

"Hi all,

As promised, a brief note about where I'm going. As I noted, I'm moving on from the Department on good terms, and had it not been for this new opportunity, I would not have left.

Beginning in October, I will be working for Common Sense Media. This is the same organization that has supported



ACTEM Board Members having some fun...

On August 5th and 6th this summer, the board members of ACTEM met with the Executive Director Gary Lanoie, and reported on the various activities and finances of the fiscal year. Pictured below (L-R, front row) Dennis Kunces, Dennis Crow, David Bridges and Gwyneth Maguire; (L-R, back row) Rachel Guthrie, Mike Arsenault, Jaime Steward, and Deb White. Andrew Wallace *did* attend but was called away before Gary snapped this photo.



our work here with their Digital Citizenship curricula. Together, we will be building a new working group at the organization that will provide support to districts and states with the implementation of 1:1 programs. This will include creating a lot of content -- basically, this move will provide me the time to write the "Book of MLTI". I hope that the finished work will be of benefit to both schools in Maine and elsewhere. Through Common Sense Media, we hope to provide both teacher professional development as well as direct consulting to education leaders in support of the implementation of 1:1 from conception to procurement, policy and implementation.

Fortunately, I'll be staying put here in Maine, so my kids will continue to benefit from MLTI, and I'll get to continue to shovel snow in the winter! Thanks, Jeff"

Kevin Perkins, new Director of Technology at RSU 57, Waterboro, Maine, replacing Bob Stackpole.

Noel Harroff is the new Technology Coordinator at Cape Elizabeth School District. Noel was the

Proud parents Erin & David Bridges (ACTEM VP) and big brother Sam welcomed Junior Member Sarah Bridges to the world on July 1st weighing in at 6 lbs. 8 oz. Congratulations!



database facilitator there.

Zachery Schiller is now the Technology Manager of RSU 26 Orono Public Schools.

RSU#26, Orono Public Schools, has promoted Zach to the newly created position of Technology Manager. Zach has served the district as Technology Technician since October 2010. He graduated from UMaine in 2011 with a BS in Physics and is currently working on a Masters in Computer Science. Zack is looking forward to continuing to advance the technology at the schools as well as bring the three schools' technology programs closer together to create a more cohesive technology plan for the district.

Sarah Glatz is the new Technology Integrator at Memorial Middle School in South Portland. She said, "I'm very excited to be working in my own community, doing what I already love doing, with Megan Welter and Andy Wallace. I'm also looking forward to the opportunity to more effectively impact Technology Integration by working in just one building, rather than seven.

I am a resident of SoPo, both of my own two children have come through South Portland Schools, I have been a Music Booster here for years, I did my teaching internship at SPHS, I have history with lots of people, I will

Trivia Question

The New Media Consortium (NMC) recently released the 2014 version of The NMC **Horizon Report: K-12 Edition**. This K-12 Edition explores the key trends accelerating educational technology adoption in schools and emerging technologies poised to impact teaching, learning, and creative inquiry. The report identifies important developments in technology for K-12 education and list an approximate timeline for adoption.

What are the TWO "Important Developments in Technology for K-12 Education" listed in the 2014 Horizon Report: K-12 Edition with a "Time-to-Adoption" horizon of one year or less?

June Trivia Question

The ACTEM conference has featured many nationally known keynote speakers over the years - one person was actually the keynote speaker twice. What was the name of the nationally known speaker that has keynoted ACTEM's conference twice in recent years?

Correct answer: David Warlick keynoted both the 2006 and 2012 MAINEducation conference. The June trivia winner is Cheryl Oakes of Wells-Ogunquit CSD.

Go to www.actem.org to submit your answer. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 L.L. Bean Gift Card. The deadline to submit answers is October 15, 2014.

ACTEM'S PD REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

Complete the online application, available at ACTEM's website under Professional Development. The application will automatically be Emailed to Dennis Kunces (ACTEM's Professional Development Administrator - dennis.kunces@gmail.com and the

ACTEM Executive Director.

- Dennis will review application and give preliminary approval pending confirmation of membership
- Executive Director will confirm membership for final approval
- Applicant will complete the professional

development activity

- Applicant will submit documentation (receipt/s and proof of completion) within 60 days of the completion date.
- payment will be verify and submitted to ACTEM Executive Director.
- Executive Director will issue and mail reimbursement check to member.

belong to a single school's staff, and it feels like home already."

Special Sessions for Administrators from Keynote Chris O'Neal

Who are our students? How do we deal with those who haven't experienced a life prior to mobile phones and Wi-Fi? Chris talks about how we overlay our great teaching skills and knowledge of pedagogy with students' natural interest



and technology skills for the best of both worlds. He's offering two 3-hour sessions on Thursday and two one hour session on Friday. Thursdays first session: *Get Your Digital Life in Sync*, dives into some websites and apps for help-

ing you bring a little more synchronization and order to the digital side of your life. Technology has helped us in so many ways, but many of us still struggle to keep things in order, and not get overwhelmed with the onslaught of information and connectivity.

The second session, (for principals and other school leaders) *Rethinking Staff Meetings* asks "Do you lead by example?" Teachers and other instructional staff look to their leaders to demonstrate a commitment to technology and ongoing instructional improvement through efforts that make sense for your role. Explore some techniques and tools that are easily structured into staff meetings, departmental meetings.

On Friday in the first 1-hour session focuses on *Website-Management Overload* – We've used many tools over the years, let's share our favorite website-management strategies! We'll look at Diigo, Pocket,

Evernote, and others.

Chris's second session on Friday will cover *Alternatives to Powerpoint* – Do slideshows still have a place in the classroom? Sometimes, they do! In this session, he'll show a few other methods for using "visual backgrounds" to help share information.

Renew / Register Online!

ACTEM's membership year runs from July 1 - June 30, which means that your membership was up for renewal as of July 1st, this year. That applies to individual and institutional (formerly district) memberships, dues are the same as last year:

Individual Membership: \$20

Institutional Membership: \$50

Required for districts to participate in our purchasing consortium

Small Institution Membership: \$25

Small single building districts

Memberships can be renewed online at <http://actem.wildapricot.org/join>. This website can also be accessed under the Membership



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section ACTEM's website.

Now you can pay online for memberships and events (workshops and the conference) with PayPal and credit cards. If you have not done so already, renew now for 2014-15 to take advantage of the many benefits ACTEM offers it's members.

You can do a Favor for ACTEM!

As a nonprofit organization, ACTEM is qualified to have donations from *Amazon Smile*. You shop the same way as usual at Amazon, with one change: you choose a nonprofit to donate to and setup your Amazon account to do that automatically. *Amazon Smile* does not cost you a penny but .5%

of your purchase (most items qualify) is donated to ACTEM. You pay the same price, Amazon makes the donation on your behalf.

So, please go to **smile.amazon.com** and sign up to have ACTEM as your charitable organization and then shop on! It's that easy! Thank you for supporting us and allowing us to keep supporting all of you.

Idea from the Trenches...

One of the many things we have learned through the MLTI program and other educational technology initiatives is that administrative support matters. Does your administration know about ACTEM? Are they up on current technology issues?

One technology director in Maine

thought it was important that his school and building administrators have the ACTEM name in front of them to be aware of what is going on in technology in Maine. This Tech Director decided that one easy, and inexpensive way, to do both is to pay their \$20 individual ACTEM dues for the year. This gives his administrators the opportunity to receive the ACTEM newsletter four times a year, hear about what is happening in the State/nation and become aware of the many professional development opportunities available for their staff.

You may want to consider this low cost option for your administrators.

Adobe Creative Cloud for Education

Creative Cloud gives students, educators and staff access to the world's best creative apps for design, web, video, and photography, all right on the desktop along with seamless ways to share and collaborate. Only Creative Cloud offers all the essential tools to help students achieve their full creative potential.

TWO LICENSING OPTIONS

1. DEVICE LICENSING - is ideal for your classrooms, labs, and training environments because it's licensing for each computer rather than each user, so multiple students

can use

the same application on a single computer. Device User Licenses are assigned to a specific computer and can be reassigned, if necessary, to a different computer.

2. NAMED-USER LICENSING - is for individuals on their institutional computers, and it includes access to online services and «Home-Use» rights. Named User Licenses are assigned to an individual, and are tied to a specific Adobe ID.

Visit www.adobe.com for a PDF flyer from Adobe with more information about the two licensing options (Named-User and Device) along with details about what is included with these options.

Additionally you have the choice of



CERTIFIED RESELLER
Education

the complete set of Creative Cloud applications or just a single App option.

ACTEM Pricing for Adobe CC for Education. *NOTE: For single App licensing you will need to specify the app when ordering.*

Adobe announced just recently a 2-year price lock on the pricing for Adobe CC for Education. *NOTE: ACTEM still is offering Adobe CS6 perpetual licensing at this time. These licenses will be offered as long as Adobe makes them available. We are being told these will eventually be eliminated from the price list and are not sure how much longer the perpetual licenses will be available.*



Part #	Description	Subscription Term	Price Per license
65206866BB04A12	Adobe Creative Cloud Complete - Named-User License	12 Months	\$251.88
Varies per App	Adobe Creative Cloud Single App - Named-User License	12 Months	\$107.88
65230990BB04A12	Adobe Creative Cloud Complete - Device License	12 Months	\$179.88
Varies per App	Adobe Creative Cloud Single App - Device License	12 Months	\$ 95.88

actem

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

Association of Computer
Technology Educators of

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info@actem.org | www.actem.org

Maine



Membership

Individual	772
Institutional (District)	90
Small Institutional	32
Vendor	20
Life	22
Students	5

MAINEducation Conference

10/10/14 **32** Half-day **2** Full-day Workshops
Vendor Reception Sponsor Vintage Tech Recyclers
Educator/Leader of the Year Banquet
10/11/14 **75** One-hour sessions
Opening Keynote: Kevin Honeycutt
Over **60** Vendor exhibits
Closing Keynote
Google Guru Dan Russell

Companies Represented **62** Exhibitor Representatives
785 Registrations **164** Attendees
(117 complementary registrations)

THURSDAY ATTENDANCE FRIDAY ATTENDANCE
Morning Sessions 179 Attendees &
Afternoon Sessions 175 Exhibitor Representatives

2/14 Mini-Conference South Portland High School
42 Registrations & 40 Attendees

Sponsored by ProAV Profit **\$544**

Award Programs

Leader of the Year

Maya Crosby, Digital Studies Coordinator

Educator of the Year

Kern Kelley, Technology Integrator

Leader of the Year Finalist

Page Lennig, Technology Coordinator

Educator of the Year Finalist

Jacqueline Durant-Harthorne, 2nd Grade Teacher

Sponsorships

Cool2Career, Husson University
MLTI Student Conference, UMaine
EdCamp Maine, Waynflete School
TechConnect.Me, Colby College

Professional Development

In accordance with ACTEM's mission, members may apply for assistance in the form of reimbursement on qualifying technology professional development opportunities.

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Members received PD funding, here is where they went

- 29 TechnologyTeacher.Me
- 8 Tech Forum Boston
- 8 Google Summit
- 8 Leverage Learning Institute
- 4 Promise to Practice
- 4 ISTE 2014 Atlanta
- 7 Other

\$18,262 Reimbursed to Members

ACTEM OFFICERS

Michael Richards, President
David Bridges, Vice President
Deborah White, Recording Secretary
Andrew Wallace, Treasurer

STAFF Gary Lanoie, Executive Director & Business Manager

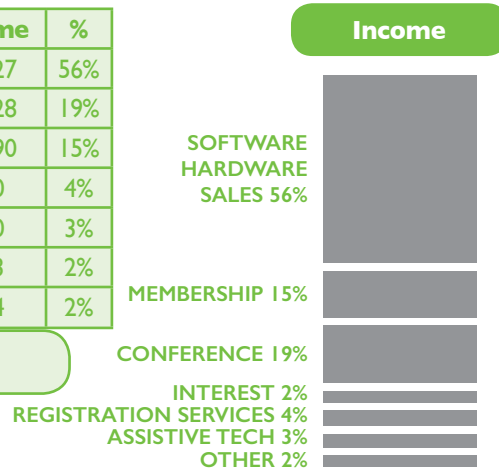
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Rachel Guthrie, Newsletter Editor
Dennis Kunces, Professional Development
Gwyneth Maguire, Digital Presence, Social Media Manager, Conference Co-Chair
Crystal Priest, Conference Co-Chair
Jaime Steward, Co-Chair Educator of the Year

ACTEM'S MISSION IS TO ENHANCE & INFLUENCE EDUCATION IN MAINE THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Category	Income	%
Software/Hardware	\$ 93,127	56%
Conference	\$ 30,728	19%
Membership	\$ 25,090	15%
Registration Services	\$ 6,300	4%
Assistive Tech	\$ 5,000	3%
Interest	\$ 3,043	2%
Other	\$ 3,844	2%

Income Sources



Fiscal Year Financials

Gross Sales Data

Hardware	\$262,028.00
Accessories	
Memory	\$173,962.00
Software	\$621,465.00

Software & Hardware Sales



MEMORY & SSD GROUP BUY

5800 4GB
2500

Memory Kits to Maine Schools for their MLTI III MacBooks
SSD Drives for the MLTI III MacBooks



Expenses

NOTE
Expense category breakdown excludes "Cost of Goods Sold"

\$7,959	AWARDS 4%
\$2,579	SPONSORSHIP 1%
\$85,852	CONFERENCE 37%
\$5,354	DEPRECIATION 2%
\$12,426	MEETINGS/TRAVEL 5%
\$23,396	OFFICE EXPENSES 10%
\$60,584	PAYROLL 26%
\$18,262	PD REIMBURSEMENTS 8%
\$1,755	PD EXPENSES 1%
\$3,197	PROFESSIONAL FEES 2%
\$229	TAXES 0%
\$2,508	WEB SERVICES 1%
\$7,202	NEWSLETTER 3%

The MainEducation Tech Conference accounts for 37% of ACTEM's expenses and 19% of the income. The 2014 conference has been renamed the **ACTEM** Technology Conference and will be held on October 9th & 10th, 2014, save the date!

\$158,896.34	\$180,303.13	\$21,406.79
Fund Balance June 2013	Fund Balance June 2014	FY 2013-14 Gains

The Maine

Community Foundation Fund

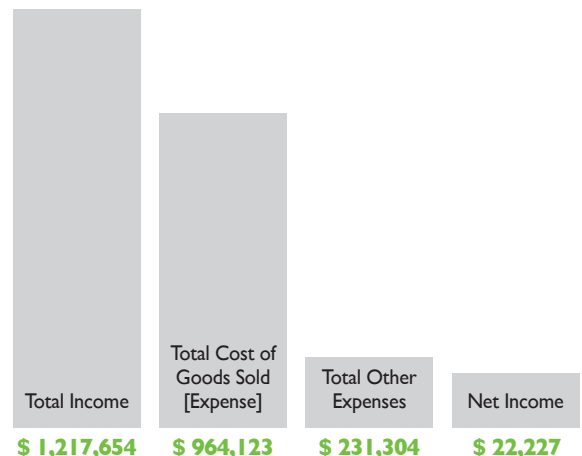
Maine Community Foundation works with nonprofit organizations like ACTEM and provides professional investment management services.

FY 2013-14 was a good year for ACTEM in the MCF fund with dividends, interest earned and gains coming in at over \$21,000



FY 2013-14 Financial Summary

ACTEM had a very successful year in 2013-14 and ended the year with a profit. We can probably attribute this profit to the successful memory and SSD group buy in 2013 plus our expanded product offerings



Are We Shifting Too Much Focus to STEM?



YES

Larry Edmonds

We need to improve our global economic standing in STEM areas. You'll get no argument from me on that. Our laser

focus on providing more STEM courses, however, might be blinding us to the fact that many students lack the crucial ability to put to use their STEM because they are not psychologically or socially prepared to participate in a global, collaborative economy.

We see students preparing to graduate who possess poor interpersonal communication skills, have no leadership ability, and demonstrate no sensitivity to gender issues or ethnic diversity. These

are vital skills for success in the digital age workplace. Unfortunately, an increased focus on STEM in our schools is not giving students the skills they need to effectively navigate their way through a job interview, lead a self-directed work team, or accept and collaborate with people who are not just like them.

Diversity, communication, and leadership skills are critical in today's global village. We have the technological ability to reach people in almost all regions of the world. But we can't count on that technology to ensure students will be able to effectively communicate with those who have disparate cultural norms and beliefs.

STEM education is important, but we must teach those subjects alongside,

not in place of, the behavioral sciences, arts and humanities, and interpersonal and leadership skills. A well-rounded human being is better suited to today's world than a person who knows one thing very well but cannot communicate effectively with others, appreciate the arts, or lead others to success. A graduate has to *get* the job (through effective interview skills) in which s/he will *lead* a diverse team (using interpersonal and leadership skills coupled with intercultural sensitivity) in order to produce results for an employer.

This means that neither STEM nor the humanities alone can be the answer. We need to share funding across these crucial disciplines to create a teaching *mélange* in which STEM



NO

Cindy Moss

We cannot accurately predict what jobs will be available in the future for the students currently in our K-12 schools.

What we do know is that today's students will need to be problem solvers and lifelong learners. A strong focus on STEM education is a critical ingredient for meeting this need.

STEM is not a curriculum or a set of resources. STEM is a culture of teaching and learning that gives students the opportunity to engage in solving real-world problems while addressing the Common Core literacy and mathematical practice standards. Our challenge in

K-12 education is to maintain, encourage, and empower natural human curiosity and creativity while helping students develop the skills they will need in the workplaces of the future. Students in classes using STEM strategies are more engaged, have higher test scores, and are able to build the types of skills they will need for long-term success.

While I was the director of STEM at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina, we employed a number of strategies to create an effective STEM program. We used engaging real-world problems, digital content, and professional development/coaching to empower our teachers. We connected with local businesses to use regional scenarios in our classrooms and create a vision

that would contribute to economic development. Perhaps most important, we changed our district's culture to focus on STEM education.

The results of these efforts speak for themselves. Our fifth and eighth grade science scores rose 44 points in three years, while state achievement scores increased only 7 points. Our third through eighth grade math achievement scores skyrocketed 33 points, compared to the state-score increase of 5 points.

But the greatest accomplishment we attribute to STEM education is instilling in our students a strong spirit of lifelong learning. We are preparing them to change, adapt, and problem solve, which will ready them to face a future whose opportunities are not yet clear.

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skills are supplemented by citizenship, effective communication, and practical life skills.

In other words, as always, one basket does not fit all the eggs. Today's students certainly need STEM courses to understand the physical and theoretical world, but they also need courses that will help them to better understand the people they will meet along the road of life. We must create funding schemata that will allow our students to succeed in the world, not just in the laboratory or the classroom.

—Larry Edmonds is a full-time lecturer and doctoral student at Arizona State University. He is also a member of ISTE, the World Communication Association, and the International Leadership Association.

Our national approach to STEM education should not be based on fears that we are doomed to be overtaken technologically by other nations. Rather, our choices as educators should be driven by what we know is right for our children. Students today need authentic learning environments that mirror what's going on outside the classroom. In our increasingly global society, a STEM education and the skills it develops will propel today's students to succeed in college, careers, and citizenship. That is why we should spend more time on STEM.

—Cindy Moss, director of global STEM initiatives for Discovery Education, is charged with supporting school districts in their work to develop and deploy student initiatives to drive science, technology, engineering, and math achievement nationwide.

readers respond

Here's what other ISTE members had to say about this topic.

Don't Be a Loser

STEM is the choice of winners everywhere in the world. Those who emphasize STEM advance. Those who don't lag. When a country neglects STEM education, its people will fall behind the STEM-strong countries. They will be more ignorant, more dependent on the handouts of their governments, and more useless to the world. American corporations, hospitals, and universities have to recruit heavily from immigrants and overseas if they want to retain the talent to stay competitive.

Rick Bruderick
Owner, iRLB
Detroit, Michigan

Keep the Balance

Overemphasis on STEM will destroy the crown jewel of the United States—its balanced academic ecosystem of learning and innovation that attracts global talents, which in turn enriches the U.S. economy/society. It's not STEM alone, or else India or China would have dominated.

Sandipan Nath
Author and founder of MindWaves
Calcutta, India

More to the World Than STEM

STEM is too narrow. The ISTE Standards for Students and Partnership for 21st Century Skills framework are better descriptors of the entire bank of skills and competencies students need. Almost every set of benchmarks for what students need for future work and citizenship includes global awareness, including world language and cultural proficiency.

Nicole Naditz
High school French teacher
Sacramento, California
Comment on ISTE's Facebook page

STEM Breeds Innovation

STEM education encourages growth in the 21st century skills of creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. Students who are involved in STEM education become innovators who are not waiting on the world to change [but] have the skills to perceive a need, develop possible solutions, and determine the most viable [ones] through the scientific method.

Evelyn Wassel, EdD
Supervisor of technology integration
MarLin, Pennsylvania

Missing the Mark

The polarized groups that claim there is a STEM crisis, and that we have an abundance of STEM graduates,

YES 58%

NO 42%

POLL RESULTS

are both right. Because the STEM curriculum is so outdated, hardly any of those graduates are ready for the positions technology companies need to compete globally. We [should] align college curricula to the skills that 21st century employers need.

Kyle Schmitt
Coordinator of education technology and integration
Lake Forest, Illinois

STEM's Not for Everyone

Fully funded education is essential for the good of humankind. We ignore non-STEM at our peril. I suspect this lobby is coming from big industry more than education because of the need to produce workers, not thinkers. There is more to life than consumerism and being part of the industrial machine.

Nigel Thomas
ICT/AV tech support, learning spaces manager
Aberystwyth, Wales, United Kingdom

Life or Death Matter

The idea of STEM is ... to make society functionally science literate. If our communities [understood] the rationale of boiling drinking water, it would immensely reduce infant deaths due to diarrheal diseases. If [they] appreciated the necessity of washing hands, there would be a marked reduction in microbial infections. If [they] understood the importance of preventive medical services, they would not hesitate to participate in child immunisation programmes.

Mwananyanda Mbikusita Lewanika, PhD
Founder and CEO, STEM Education Centre
Mongu, Zambia

LETTERS

[Kate Conley's last column], "Don't Let Your Brains Fall Out" (Issue Oriented, L&L, March/April 2014) was timely for the digital transformations our schools are considering across the country. I teach a digital transformation course, and I made the mistake of sharing a TED Talk [to get teachers] excited about the possibilities our students have in a 1:1 district. One teacher commented, "That all looks great, but I can't jump from where I am to where that teacher is." I started to take a more thoughtful look at the TED Talks I share.

Janna Elfrink
Instructional Technology Specialist
Reeds Spring, Missouri

What's a Bus Moose?

On a bus trip with a group as active and excitable as the ACTEM membership, it's important to make sure there is someone who's in charge of keeping us all organized and ready for fun. Making sure that things run smoothly and that everyone has what they need is a big job, a job for an experienced bus moose.

This year, Dennis Crow has generously offered his skills to fill this need. He's got the experience and the antlers...stay posted for updates about what you can look forward to on the

bus trip
to ISTE
2015!



Registration now Open for Leverage Learning 2014:

iPads in the Primary Grades

Is your district implementing iPad in the primary grades? Are you part of a team working to make sure the most is made of the powerful opportunities represented by that iPad implementation?

Designed to continue the growth of their high quality Leveraging Learning Institute series, Auburn's planning committee for their 4th "iPad in the Primary Grades" event have been busy. They have announced that the LL2014 theme is "Reach for the Top - iPad as a Tool for Creation," because they believe that, "From leadership to learners - we all need to do something with what we have learned. Creation is at the top of Bloom's Taxonomy, and when we create, we own the knowledge used."

Designed once again for team participation, the dates for LL2014 have been set as Wednesday November 12 through Friday

November 14, 2014. Registration will open on Thursday, August 21st. To keep updated on LL2014's planning progress, please visit <http://institute2014.auburnschl.edu>

Longer Sessions at the ACTEM Conference

(cont. from page 1)

On Thursday morning consider *Transform Learning with an Authentic Audience* with **Eric Patnoudes & Chad Stevens**, and in the afternoon you can join **Barbara Greenstone** for *iPads for Assessment*, or *Accessibility Features of Mac OSX & Apple Mobile Devices* with **Sarah Herlinger**.

On Friday morning, you can *Re-View your course through the iTunes U lens* with **Mia Morrison & Nick Miller**, and in the afternoon, **Cheryl Oakes and Beth Goodwin** will help to *Level the Playing Field for All Learners*, while **Alice Barr** presents on *The Transparent Classroom* and **Douglas Pacher** gets into *Augmented Reality = HyperTeaching-Learning*.

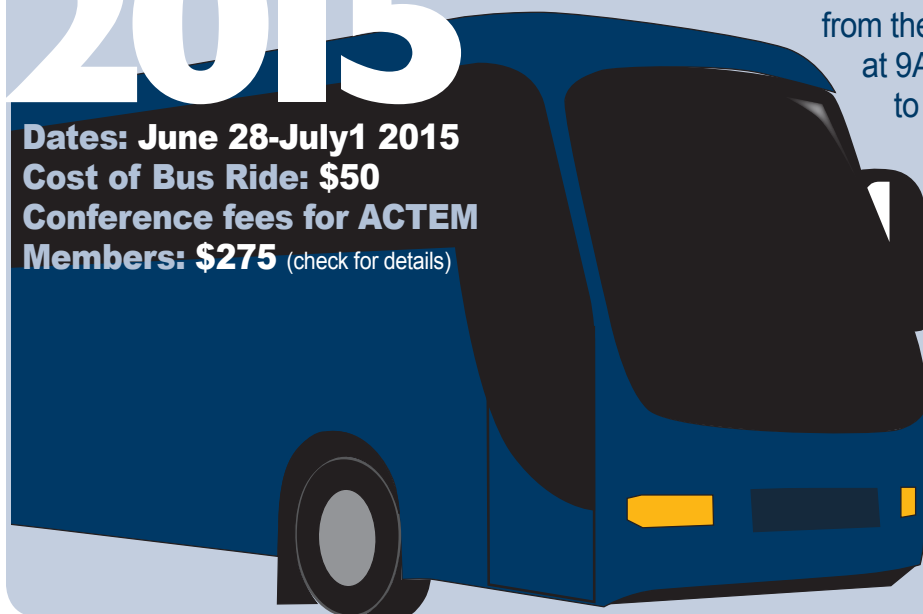
ISTE 2015

Dates: June 28-July 1 2015
Cost of Bus Ride: \$50
Conference fees for ACTEM Members: \$275 (check for details)

On the Road again! June 28 2015, ACTEM is hitting the road. ISTE, the world's premier education technology conference, is in Philadelphia in the summer of 2015, and ACTEM is sponsoring a bus to take Maine's premier geeks down to Philadelphia!

The ISTE conference is June 28-July 1st, the bus will leave from the Portland area on Saturday June 27th at 9AM and will return July 1st. Tickets to ride the bus are \$50 and includes a t-shirt, snacks, (nonalcoholic) drinks, Wi-Fi, and power. We also guarantee fun and shenanigans.

With ISTE being above the Mason-Dixon line and fun/affordable bus, it's a great chance to attend one of the best professional development opportunities in technology education in the world. Registration will open soon, stay tuned.





Robot gives Students a Virtual Presence

By Gwyneth Maguire,

We all know technology can keep you connected, but what do you think of robots in the classroom? During the last weeks of school, Noble Middle School (MSAD#60) had the chance to find out how technol-

ogy can keep a student connected not just academically but also socially.

Knowing that a student in her 6th grade ELA class was slated to under go spinal surgery, Melanie Stevens, sat down with me to work out how to provide an interactive virtual classroom experience for her student using our technology (we are a 1:1 school with Chromebooks). First, we thought about G+ but after a brief chat with others in the tech department I learned about the VGo (learn more about VGo) robot which lead me to Grahamtastic Connection. This AWESOME organization provides technology to ill children to keep students connected and enable them to be a real presence in their classes. Through the VGo robot, the student was able to attend class and be part of the school environment. The VGo robot uses an app which provides remote control of robot movement and the video display. It makes it possible for the student to ask questions and move about the class/school just like always. Our experience wasn't without a few hiccups (short wifi loss when moving from floor to floor) but the ease of use, integration into our school day and the smiling face of the student is proof that staying connected to peers and the school environment with the help of a robot is something we all should consider.

Message from the President

(Continued from cover)

around technology and education. Having a strong personal learning network and ubiquitous access to WiFi has allowed my professional development opportunities to occur in a 24/7, on-demand style instead of taking a class or finding a workshop in the area. Being able to adapt to new circumstances but still learning new content is a goal in being a life longer learner that we need to instill in our students.

As my daughter is focusing on moving forward so is ACTEM. ACTEM has some opportunities coming up that might be of interest to you. The ACTEM conference is now officially two days with two days of keynotes. The organization is excited to have Richard Byrne of FreeTech4Teachers.com speaking on Thursday and on Friday ACTEM has Chris O'Neal. Chris offers professional development opportunities around the world including work with ISTE and U.S. State Educational Technology Directors Association. Continuing the trend started last year, we have an ending keynote featuring Dan Ryder and Jeff Bailey (aka The Wicked Decent guys). I am really excited about this change and how it re-shapes the conference.

In February, ACTEM will continue offering a mini-conference at South Portland High School and Hamden Academy. The dates are going to be 17th with Snow Day on 18th for South Portland and 19th with Snow Day on 20th for Hampden. The mini-conference and their 3 hour sessions gives people a great opportunity to pick up, learn, and practice new knowledge and skills without the pressure of writing sub plans or worrying about students getting behind. We hope to continue this progression with two sites this year with more information shortly after ACTEM14.

At the end of the school year, ACTEM will be rolling out the bus with a trip to Philly for ISTE15 and some cheesesteaks. The ISTE conference is the largest technology in education conference. Attendance at this year's conference was over 16,000 people. This is a great chance to meet new people, put faces to names, and learn new material for the upcoming school year. The details are still being worked and will be available right around the conference in October.

As we move forward with new opportunities, I wish everyone a successful 14-15 school year. I know there are going to be a lot of changes but I'm walking in to the school year with new optimism and I hope you will be, as well.

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Upcoming Events

ACTEM 2014 Education Technology Conference

Rebooted & Reimagined

Oct. 9-10, 2014

Augusta Civic Center

Details of keynotes and workshop sessions Online Conference

Registration Form at actem.org

MassCUE/M.A.S.S. 2014

Oct. 22-23, 2014 at Gillette Stadium,

Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators (MassCUE)

and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.).

http://www.masscue.org/pages/MassCUE/Conferences/2014_MassCUE_M_A_S_S_fall_conf

Vermont Fest 2014

Vermont's Premier Education Technology Conference

November 5 - 7 at the Killington Grand Resort

<https://sites.google.com/a/vitalearn.org/vermontfest2014/>

LL2014 - Leveraging Learning: iPad in the Primary Grades

November 12 -14, 2014 – Auburn, ME

Hilton Garden Inn Auburn

Riverwatch

http://institute2014.auburnschl.edu/LL2014/Quick_View.html

2014 Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference

December 2-4, 2014

Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH

<http://nhcmtec.org>

ACTEM Mini-Conference South

Feb. 17, 2015 –

South Portland High School

ACTEM Mini-Conference North

Feb. 19, 2015 – Hampden Academy

ISTE 2015 Philadelphia

June 28 – July 1, 2015

<https://www.isteconference.org/2015/>

ACTEM 16GB Flash Drives only \$12.50 each plus shipping. Contact the ACTEM office at 207-222-4353 or glanoie@actem.org to order.

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