

## The May 2020 Conference Committee Report

First, the committee wants to thank Barbara Greenstone for her many years and support while on the conference committee. Barbara retired from public school 3 years ago and was ready to travel with her husband. Last year she missed her first ACTEM conference when she and her husband traveled to England. With more adventures on her horizon, once the travel bans have opened up, we wish her the best of luck with her travel adventures. Bon Voyage to Barbara Greenstone! I also want to thank Barbara for her support as an editor for our submissions to the newsletter!

ACTEM 2020 Conference has gone virtual. The ACTEM Board approved this move and equally and enthusiastically the Conference Committee met virtually to support this journey.

Given the following information:

- The Augusta Civic Center will allow us to cancel without any financial penalty for 2020.
- It is looking like MassCUE and Christa McCallaiffe (NH) conferences are leaning towards going virtual for 2020.
- Leverage Learning is canceling its 2020 conference this coming fall because of too many unknowns and also realizing the fact that school budgets will be extremely tight and conference funding may not be available.
- There are software platforms and Apps (Attendify, possibly Allodo) available to make virtual events happen. We are currently exploring our options.

With the current situations and unknown projections for the fall, it seems to us that a face-2 face conference may not be possible for the fall of 2020. Moving to a virtual event might be our best course of action. ACTEM discussions have centered around offering a smaller, low cost (maybe just membership fee) focussed event.

On May 13, 2020, the Conference Committee conducted a virtual brainstorming session to gather information about how to create a virtual, robust, creative, and informative conference. The information will be used to create the first ACTEM Virtual Conference. Committee members were invited to join MLTI virtual conference to get some first-hand experience and that will happen. The committee members produced several pages of unique ideas on how to carry out this type of conference. Gary and others are researching different platforms that can support a virtual conference. There are several ideas that the committee will be implementing in order to make a robust conference. Proposal submissions will end on June 30, 2020. All presenters have been made aware that they should be prepared to record their session once it has been accepted. The keynote and some sessions will be presented synchronously while many sessions will be asynchronous with some accompanying social media in order that attendees can network and collaborate.

The committee felt strongly that ACTEM needed to continue with the 33rd year of the Conference. Also, given how tenuous budgets might be, the committee wanted to keep the registration fee very affordable so anyone can attend. With all the great minds and creative spirits on the committee and in the presenter community, the October 2020 Conference will be a success.

Thank you, Cheryl Oakes and Stephannie Cheney  
May 21, 2020