actem THE CONNECTED
EDUCATOR
CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE

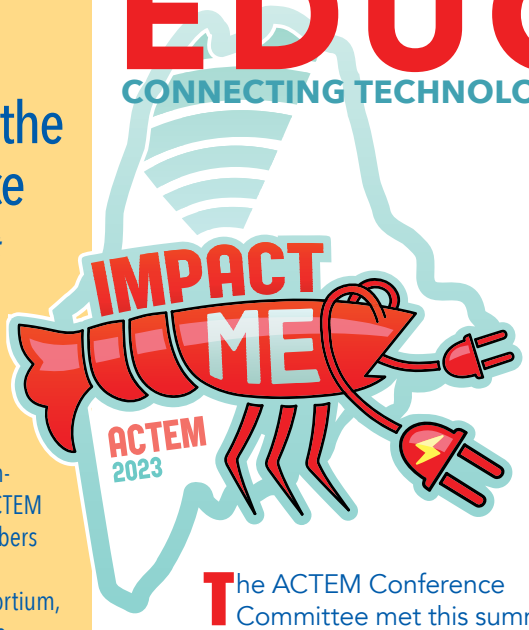
Bring your Administrators to the ACTEM Conference

Institutional Member Benefit

ACTEM's Institutional membership is available to any non-profit institutions inside and out of Maine such as schools, school districts, public libraries, or qualified educational organizations who wish to take advantage of ACTEM's purchasing consortium and vendor opportunities. ACTEM typically has 140+ Institutional members each year.

Along with the purchasing consortium, ACTEM offers one FREE fall conference registration for one day to an approved district/school administrator for institutional member districts. Approved administrators include Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Special Education Directors, Curriculum Director, Principals and Assistant Principals.

If your school/district is a current ACTEM Institutiional member and you would like to bring your administrator to ACTEM 2023 Conference, please contact director@actem.org for information on how to access this benefit.



The ACTEM Conference Committee met this summer to finalize plans for ACTEM's 36th Fall Conference, which will be held at the Augusta Civic Center on Thursday, October 12th and Friday, October 13th. We are excited to welcome educators for two days of fun, learning, and networking! Each element of the program emphasizes this year's theme: ImpactME, encouraging educators to share skills and ideas with each other that have/will have a significant impact for them, their students, their colleagues, or even other schools/districts across the state. We encourage you to be on the lookout for social media and emails that highlight different sessions – we have some awesome speakers from Maine and beyond joining us this year! #ACTEM23

NEW THIS YEAR: Playgrounds We are excited to announce a new type of learning experience for this year's conference! LEGO Education, Sphero, and Merge will all host "playgrounds" - or booths on the exhibit hall floor that are large enough for you to 'play' with their technology while sharing and learning ideas for how you could use it in your classrooms/schools. There will also be some quick learning sessions and K-12 students there to help make this a great experience!

NEW THIS YEAR: Board Game Night Dan Ryder and Todd Abbott will be hosting a late afternoon Board game session on Thursday after the vendor session from 5:30 - 6:30 until After Hours starts. People are welcome to drop in. Snacks and drinks will be available. Bring your favorite board game or see what Dan and Todd have going on.

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It's been an excellent summer for ACTEM! We had many of our members attend the ISTE Live conference in Philadelphia in June, connecting with some of the greatest educational technology minds in the world. ACTEM sent many board members and a busload of members to the conference. I am so proud that ACTEM could cover the registration fee and get our members to and from the conference by bus for $50! I saw many of you at the conference, and I hope you're all bringing the learning back to your schools for the upcoming school year. The opportunity to attend a national conference is an entirely different experience from our local events. The exhibition floor has vendor partners you've known for years and new partners you were unaware of. The session list in the program is a who's who of educational technology.

Speaking of great conferences, I'm excited to get back together with you at the 36th ACTEM Conference in Augusta this year. The theme of this year's conference is "Impact ME." If you haven't registered yet, please do so as soon as possible. It will be a fantastic event with tons of great presentations, two outstanding keynote speakers (Carl Hooker and Patricia Brown), and the fun ACTEM After Hours event on Thursday night hosted by Carl Hooker! There are sessions for all educators at our event, and you'll undoubtedly get caught up with the wave of Artificial Intelligence tools that are now available at this year's event. I'm particularly proud that Tech to School recently named ACTEM's fall conference as one of the best EdTech Conferences for K-12 IT Staff alongside events like ISTE, FETC, TCEA, CUE, COSN, and MassCUE. Alice Barr and Amanda Nguyen, our conference chairs, are putting together a tremendous lineup of sessions and bringing a ton of fun to our flagship event. I look forward to seeing you there!

The ACTEM Board met on July 31st and August 1st to plan our year. I'm humbled to be in an organization that can still draw five former presidents, DOE staff, and a fantastic set of board

(Cntd. on p 12)

Mike Arsenault, Yarmouth School Dept., ACTEM President

actem Maine
Association of Computer Technology Educators of

P.O. BOX 187
GORHAM, ME 04038

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actem 2023-24 BUSINESS MEETINGS

Sept. 21, 2023
Dec. 14, 2023
March 14, 2024
May 9, 2024

Meetings held virtually and at remote sites TBD around the State from 9:30 AM -Noon followed by METDA Meetings.

Keynote Speakers

PATRICIA J. BROWN known as "MsEdtechie", is a Technology Specialist for Ladue School District. She has been an educator since 2001. She breaks down traditional classroom walls by creating a culture that fosters the 4C's and authentic learning. She is passionate about providing educators with practical techniques to integrate technology and make global connections. Among her many accolades as an award-winning educator, she was selected as a National School Board Association's 20 to Watch, an Apple Distinguished Educator, Google for Education Certified Innovator & Trainer, a 2015 PBS Lead LearningMedia Digital Innovator for Missouri, and in 2006, she was honored as Teacher of The Year for the St. Louis Public Schools. She served on the advisory panel for ISTE's member magazine, Empowered Learner. She is an ISTE Digital Equity PLN Co-Chair, and a Code.org Facilitator. Her work has been featured in several publications including, Tech & Learning Magazine, Scholastic Administrator Magazine, Edtech Magazine, Entrsekt Magazine, and she also served as a monthly columnist for Edsurge, Tech & Learning Magazine, and The Pearson School Blog. She has been a keynote speaker and presenter at several state and national conferences including a featured TED Master Class speaker at the ISTE 2018 conference in Chicago Illinois. On a personal side, she is a proud wife to her husband Brian, and mom-in-chief to their five sons.

CARL HOOKER: Carl has been an educator for the past 21 years. He has held a variety of positions in both multiple districts, from 1st grade teacher to Virtualization Coordinator. He's a father of three girls, Sophia, Lauren, and Caroline and a wonderful, understanding wife Renee, all of which play a large role in any presentations he gives or blogs & books he writes.

As Director of Innovation & Digital Learning for the Eanes Independent School District he utilized his background in both education and technology to bring a unique vision to the district and its programs. During his time in the position, the district jumped into social media, adopted the Google Apps for Education and started to build a paperless environment with Google Docs. He helped spearhead the LEAP (Learning and Engaging through Access and Personalization) which put 1:1 iPads into the hands of all K-12 students at Eanes.

He is also the "Godfather" of the learning festival called LearnFestATX. This festival (formerly known as iPadpalooza) features many unique approaches to engage attendees that a traditional conference doesn't provide. His events have grown into a global phenomena over the years and has inspired spin-off events in other states as well Australia.

From his start as a teacher to district leadership, he's always had one common belief – the kids need to drive their own learning. He realizes the challenges in our current educational institutions and meets them head on. His unique blend of educational back-

ACTEM board members & guests at the Annual Summer Board Retreat

ground, technical expertise, and humor make him a successful driving force for this change. As a speaker and consultant, he brings this background as well as a wealth of practical tools and ideas that teachers can use in their classroom tomorrow. He speaks on a multitude of topics from thoughtful technology integration with mobile devices to strategies on how to utilize flexible furniture in the classroom. He also enjoys talking to students and parents in the community around the topic of digital wellness.

Carl has a 6-part book series titled Mobile Learning Mindset. All of the books in the series are now available for purchase. These books focus on a different stake-holder and the role they play in a successful mobile learning initiative .

Aside from his speaking and consulting work, Carl also works as an influencer and advisor for multiple Ed Tech start-up companies. He's also a national advisor for the Future Ready Schools Initiative. He blogs regularly at his blog HookEDon-Innovation.com and guest authors a regular blog on Tech & Learning and has written guest blogs for the Huffington Post and Edutopia.

REGISTRATION: Registration is open on the conference website! We're looking forward to seeing you all in-person again this year - for one day or two! Sign up before September 22nd in order to get the early bird discount.

Additional discounts are available for districts, schools, or organizations that register a group of educators, for administrators from districts that are ACTEM institutional members, and for college students. Please see the conference website for more information or reach out to director@actem.org.

SCHED: Check out the ACTEM 2023 **Sched** to learn more about the 100+ sessions and presenters lined up for this year's fall conference! We encourage you to set up an account and favorite sessions that you're interested in ahead of the conference. This will help presenters prepare their sessions!n Additionally, presenters are encouraged to upload their session materials to Sched so that participants can have access to them even after the conference ends.

- Note: There is limited space in each session. "Favoriting" a session is not registering for it. Attendees will be accepted into the room on a first come basis.

JOIN US FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL

After Hours

Carl Hooker returns for the 2nd Annual After Hours Event! Join us from 6:30pm - 11pm for food, networking, a fun team challenge that will have you engaged in several activities across the Civic Center, and more!

ACTEM '23 Conference Registration Open

Register today to get Early-Bird pricing:
https://www.actem.org/event-5359580

Early Bird Registration: Through 9/22/23	Non-member Rate (includes Membership through June 30, 2024)	ACTEM Member Rate
One Day	$145	$125
Two Days	$235	$215
Registration (After 9/23/23)		
One Day	$175	$150
Two Days	$265	$245
Special Group Rates Available for schools/districts bringing 25+ attendees. Contact info@actem.org		

Everyone initially gets registered at the non-member rate. After verification of individual current ACTEM membership, your member discounted rate will be applied. ACTEM members should wait for the updated invoice with the member discount before paying online.

Maine's own Amanda Nguyen was a Featured Closing Speaker at ISTE

ACTEM @ ISTELive 2023

June 25th-28th – Philadephia, PA

The ACTEM ISTELive 2023 bus seemed to be a huge success this past June. The bus brought 26 Maine and another 4 NH educators to ISTE Live 23 conference in Philadelphia, PA. Maine Educators rode the bus for a cost of $50 round trip. What a deal!

The bus left Maine at 8AM on a Saturday morning with a quick stop at the NH Transportation center to pick up some southern Maine and NH riders. The bus arrived in Philadelphia just before 5PM that evening.

The trip was filled with fun and shenanigans led by our bus coordinator, Dennis Crowe. Games, trivia, plenty of snacks and beverages along with a movie helped fill the long rainy drive to the conference.

ACTEM also had five board members attend ISTELive 23. The board members needed to arrive early in order to attend the annual ISTE Affiliate Summit on Saturday morning so they were not on the bus.

Amanda Nguyen ISTE Featured Speaker

Maine was well represented at ISTE Live 23 with a bus of educators along with many other that just chose to attend on their own. One Maine Educator - Amanda Nguyen (ACTEM Board member and conference co-chair) was even a featured speaker at the closing session at ISTELive! 23. Way to go Amanda!!!

More Than 17,500 Attend ISTELive 23 In-Person and Virtually

More than 17,500 attendees, both in-person and virtual, attended ISTELive 23 – one of the largest edtech conferences in the world – from June 25-28 in Philadelphia, PA. Attendees came from 82 countries and all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Thousands of teachers, edtech industry leaders, and pioneers from across the world came together to explore the best strategies for using technology for effective teaching and learning.

For four days, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) hosted more than 1,000 programs and sessions presented by 2,098 global experts and filled an exhibitor hall with more than 1,100 booths representing companies that provide innovative edtech solutions for practical strategies that can be implemented in classrooms, schools and districts.

Sessions provided insight ranging from AI, digital citizenship, equity, and AR and VR to project-based learning and reimagining the blended classroom setting. Other highlights of the conference included the ISTEverse and Discovery Museum where attendees could explore a VRcade and ARcade, a connections theater showcasing real ways teachers are implementing these experiences, an arena for gamification elements, and even VR wellness experience to explore mindfulness in the virtual realm.

ISTELive 24 will be held in Denver, Colorado, June 23-26, 2024.

SEED

Cultivating Great Ideas

It is hard to believe that SEED started 25 years ago! ACTEM's conference theme for this year is IMPACT ME - with the dual implications of technology's impact on you as an individual and on the widespread impact around the state of Maine.

ACTEM will recognize SEED and all SEEDlings at this fall's ACTEM conference during the Thursday evening Awards Ceremony. Everyone who participated in SEED is welcome – that includes Developers, Adopters, Regional Coordinators, Technology Learning Leaders and other assorted SEED-y Types.

ACTEM invites you to attend the Awards Ceremony at the Augusta Civic Center at 3:25 on Thursday, October 12th to be recognized along with the rest of the members of the Garden in attendance.

You will receive free admittance to all of the after hours events, including free food and drinks so you will have the opportunity to network with friends and colleagues after the awards event. The full schedule of evening events is here: https://actem2023.sched.com/ or full conference info here: https://www.actem.org/

We are also seeking a few good quotes or comments about SEED and its impact on you to share at the event.

We are using the Google form below to collect memories and to register you for this event so your name tags and drink tickets will be waiting for you at the door.

https://forms.gle/CkRgcoM2oXY7CgCf9

Also, a lot of SEEDlings have flown on the winds into unknown territory, so please spread the word to others. We'd really appreciate it!

This image was shared by a an ACTEM member, if you have a photo you'd like to share, email it to us and we will add it, please include a photo caption, your name and email address..

ACTEM has a fixed membership year from July 1st to June 30th annually. All memberships are up for renewal on July 1st 2023

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

$20 ANNUALLY

- Quarterly newsletter
- Lunch at quarterly business meetings
- Discounted registration fees at the annual ACTEM conference and other sponsored PD
- Opportunity for Professional Development reimbursement up to $400
- Access to OverDrive eBook & Audio book PD library
- Educational discounts on software & other items (as permitted by vendor)
- Access to a member-only resource area on ACTEM's website (Recorded workshop videos)

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

$50 ANNUALLY

($25 small, single school districts)

- Gives school and districts the opportunity to purchase software and other items at our low educational, volume pricing. Some of ACTEM's vendor partners also provide special benefits to our institutional members.
- Also provides one free fall conference registration to an approved district/school administrator for institutional members.

Renew your membership by sending a PO or check to the ACTEM office at P.O. Box 187, Gorham, ME 04038. Members may also renew online with a credit card or PayPal at http://www.actem.org/join.

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CEO, ISTE and ASCD

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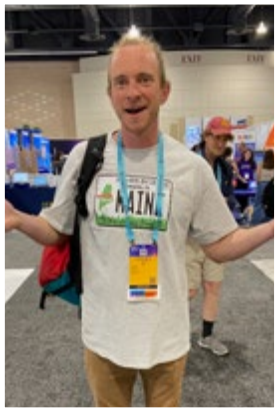

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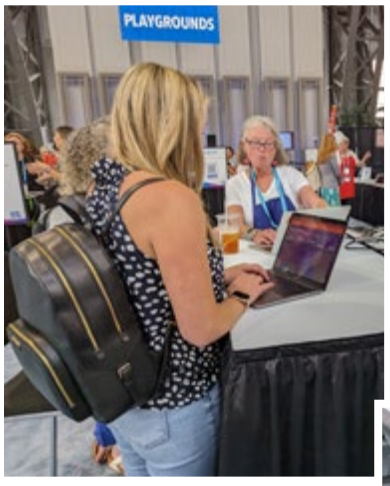
PLAYGROUNDS

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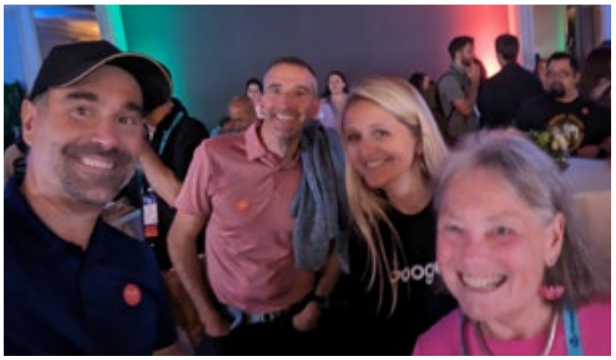


Charting New Pedagogical Horizons: Understanding the new AI tools

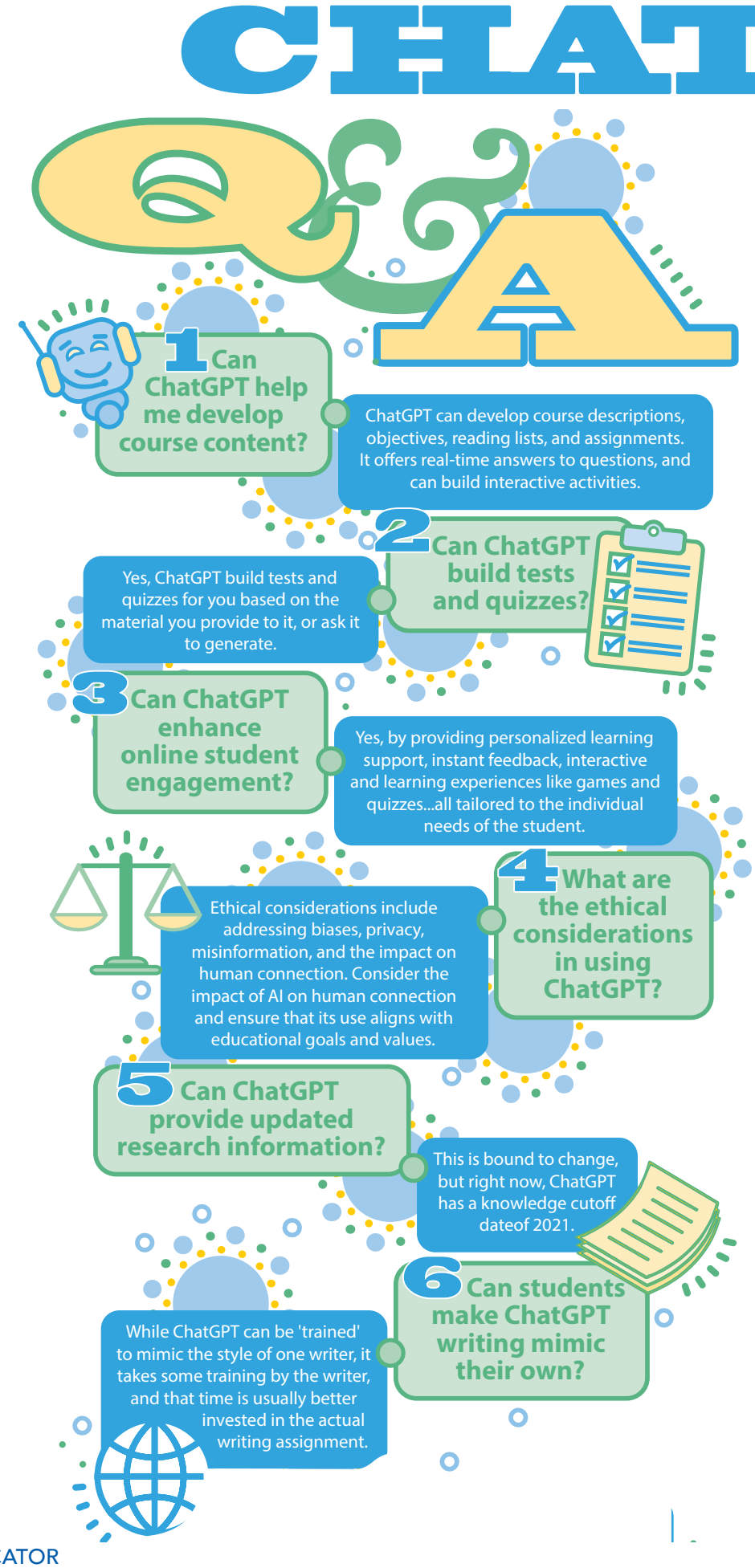
by Rachel Guthrie, M.Ed (with a little help from ChatGPT)

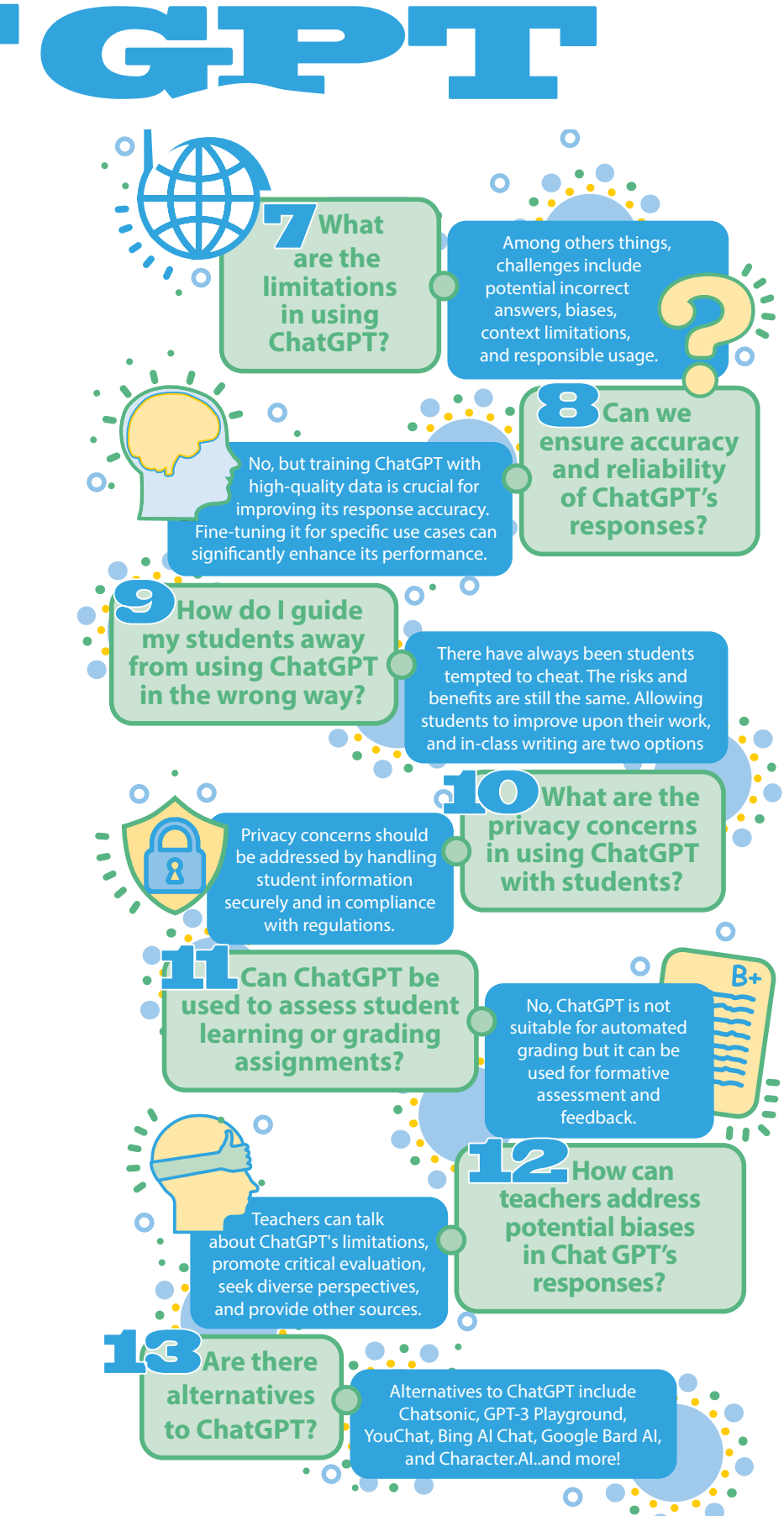
In the rapidly evolving landscape of education, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) tools has surged to the forefront of pedagogical considerations. Southern Maine Community College, a representative microcosm of this trend, has seen its faculty navigating the uncharted waters of incorporating AI tools into the learning experience. This transformative journey has been particularly pronounced for faculty members Rachel Guthrie and Rachel Parse, both of whom embarked on an expedition by enrolling in the EDU-970 ChatGPT Crash Course for Educators, crafted and imparted by Professor Todd Vasquez.

Amid the cacophony of emerging AI technologies, Guthrie and Parse's participation in the aforementioned course has proven to be an interesting endeavor, one that has opened their minds to the multifaceted possibilities and challenges presented by the dynamic realm of large language model (LLM) generative, adaptive AI engines. These engines, epitomized by ChatGPT, stand as testament to the evolution of AI capabilities, continually reshaping the contours of education.

In response to the exponential growth of AI-driven tools, these two professors have undertaken the commendable task of drafting AI policies tailored for their respective course syllabi. These policies stand as a testament to the need for the adaptability of educators, who are now tasked with addressing the unique ethical and practical dimensions that AI integration entails.

The culmination of their endeavors





will be showcased at an upcoming faculty convocation, where they will present several opportunities for their faculty. At the core of this presentation is an infographic, designed to answer the most common questions their colleagues may have. Complementing this static representation is an interactive PDF, with live links that serve as portals to AI resources, establishing a digital bridge between theory and practice.

Recognizing the necessity for ongoing support, they created a Google site that serves as an repository of AI-related resources, catering to educators seeking to delve into the nuances of AI integration. Their approach extends to a self-paced Brightspace course, effectively allowing educators to embark on an autonomous exploration of AI tools at their own rhythm, epitomizing the ethos of modern education.

In an effort to foster collaborative growth, Guthrie and Parse are also spearheading a five-session Professional Learning Community (PLC). This PLC serves as an open discussion where educators can engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange insights, and collectively chart the trajectory of AI in education. By fostering a space for synergistic exchange, they hope to cultivate a community of practice.

Parse, who chairs the Early Childhood Education Department, has aptly encapsulated their course, "Basically, this journey has been one mind-blowing experience after another. I'm consistently amazed by what ChatGPT can do. Once I figure it out–if that ever happens!--I have a tool that will make my job so much easier and so much more efficient. More than that, ChatGPT has the potential to make my job more engaging and dynamic. In the end my students and their learning will benefit." Guthrie, echoing Parse's sentiment, said "It's clear that we've all got work to do around this, as educators, so hopefully, the time we save by using LLMs to make our work easier, can be swapped for the time we need in redesigning older assignments and creating new ones."

Rachel Guthrie teaches New Media course at Southern Maine COmmunity College, and has been teaching for 25 years.

Free publications on AI

- AI Projects for the Classroom: A Guide on Ethics and AI
- Bringing AI to Schools: Tips for School Leaders
- AI for Everyone (Edsurge)
- Free Guides on for engaging Students in AI Creation
- Artificial Intelligence and The Future of Education

OFFICE OF Educational Technology

Report: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning

The Office of Educational Technology is working to develop policies and supports focused on the effective, safe, and fair use of AI-enabled educational technology. The U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Technology's recently released a policy report, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning: Insights and Recommendations. The report is available at **https://tech.ed.gov/ai/** The Department is committed to supporting the use of technology to improve teaching and learning, and to support innovations throughout educational systems. This report addresses the clear need for sharing knowledge, providing supports, and developing policies for artificial intelligence (AI).

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE [AI]

Today, many priorities for improvements to teaching and learning are unmet. Educators seek technology-enhanced approaches addressing these priorities that would be safe, effective, and scalable. Like all of us, educators use AI-powered services in their everyday lives, such as voice assistants in their homes; tools that can correct grammar, complete sentences, and write essays; and automated trip planning on their phones. As a result, educators see opportunities to use AI-powered capabilities like speech recognition to increase the support available to students with disabilities, multilingual learners, and others who could benefit from greater adaptivity and personalization in digital tools for learning. They are further exploring how AI can enable writing or improving lessons, as well as their process for finding, choosing, and adapting material for use in their lessons.

Educators are also aware of new risks. Useful, powerful functionality can also be accompanied with new data privacy and security risks. Educators recognize that AI can automatically produce output that is inappropriate or wrong. They are wary that the associations or automations created by AI may amplify unwanted biases. They have noted new ways in which students may represent others' work as their own.

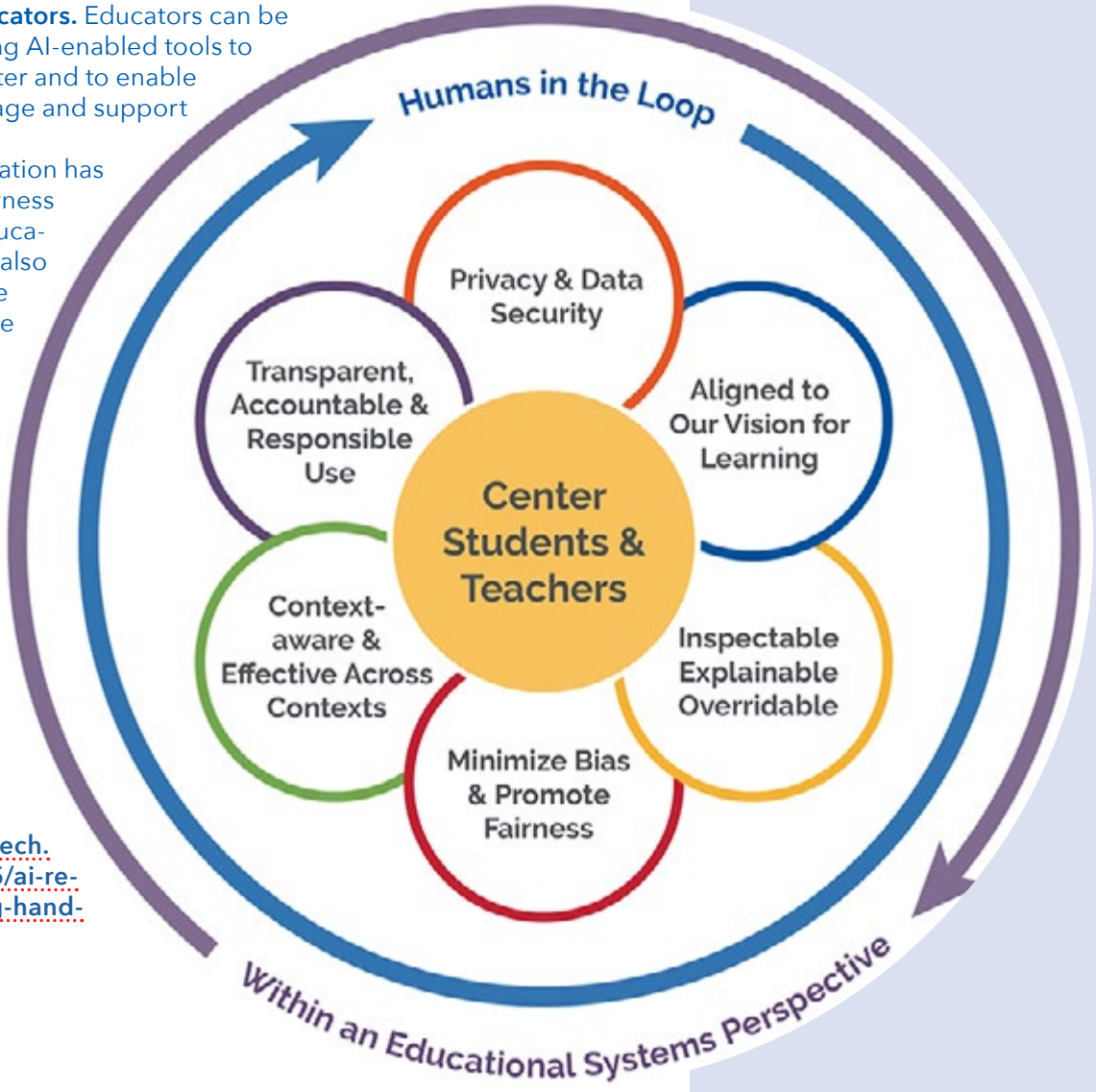
KEY INSIGHTS OF THE REPORT

- **AI enables new forms of interaction.** Students and teachers can speak, gesture, sketch, and use other natural human modes of communication to interact with each other. AI can generate human-like responses, as well. These new forms of action may provide supports to students with disabilities.

- **AI can help educators address variability in student learning.** With AI, designers can anticipate and address the variations in how students can successfully learn—whereas traditional curricular resources were designed to teach to the middle or most common learning pathways.
- **AI supports powerful forms of adaptivity.** Conventional technologies adapt based upon the correctness of student answers. AI enables adapting to a student's learning process as it unfolds step-by-step.
- **AI can enhance feedback loops.** AI can increase the quality and quantity of feedback provided to students and teachers, as well as suggesting resources to advance their teaching and learning.
- **AI can support educators.** Educators can be involved in designing AI-enabled tools to make their jobs better and to enable them to better engage and support their students.

Everyone in education has a responsibility to harness the good to serve educational priorities while also protecting against the dangers that may arise as a result of AI being integrated in educational technology. AI brings powerful opportunities to address education policy priorities, but we must address both anticipated risks and the possibility of unintended consequences.

A one page handout: AI and the Future of Teaching and Learning can be found here: **https://tech.ed.gov/files/2023/05/ai-report-core-messaging-handout.pdf**



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Contact us or visit our website for more information!

www.ruths.org

Security Awareness Curriculum

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: COMING FALL 2023

Fortinet Announces FREE Security Awareness Curriculum for K-12 Students. Tied to the White House's Cyber Education and Workforce Initiatives, Fortinet is further building on its efforts to close the cyber skills gap and develop the cyber-aware workforce of the future with its new Security Awareness Curriculum. As part of the Security Awareness and Training Service, which was customized for the education sector and made available at no cost to all K-12 school districts and systems across the United States, the curriculum will reach over 55 million K-12 students to help them become the cyber problem-solvers of the future and ensure they are well-equipped to safely navigate the digital world.

DEVELOPED FOR TEACHERS, BY TEACHERS

With limited time in the school day, teachers need a cybersecurity curriculum that is easy to use, and includes crucial digital safety skills while supporting existing academic standards. Teachers will have confidence knowing that this curriculum was developed for teachers, by teachers, to support an engaging and meaningful interaction in the classroom.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

With the help of teachers across the United States, Fortinet wants students to learn how to apply cybersecurity skills to their digital interactions at school, at home, and everywhere they go. The Security Awareness Curriculum includes:

- TEACHER GUIDES
- READY-TO-TEACH LESSON PLANS
- LESSON SLIDES
- STUDENT HANDOUTS
- MULTIMEDIA ASSETS

Curriculum Levels

The Security Awareness Curriculum covers lessons for all students in K-12. Starting in October 2023, there will be seven cornerstone lessons available per age group that will cover the following levels:

- Rookies in learning (age 4 – 7)
- Novices in exploring (age 8 – 11)
- Specialists in the field (age 12 – 14) – Lesson available in October 2023!
- Leaders in the community (age 15 – 18)
- Experts in cybersecurity (elective courses) (age 15 – 18)

For more information please check out the following website:
https://www.fortinet.com/training/security-awareness-training/curriculum?utm_source=website&utm_medium=pr&utm_campaign=pr-curriculum

President's Message (from Cover)

members to donate their time and wisdom to support the ACTEM mission. We had a great time and came up with some amazing ideas for the upcoming year. We are doing everything we can to support Maine educators' educational technology professional development needs.

Have a great school year!

Fortinet E-Rate Webinar

Webinar Title: Empowering K-12 Schools: Exploring E-Rate's Network Infrastructure Best Practices with Fortinet

Date: September 21st @ 1pm ET

Participants who attend this event will learn the following:

- Navigate the E-Rate program with confidence
- Discover eligible products and services funded by E-Rate
- Fortinet's unique value proposition within the E-Rate program

Register now to enhance your educational institution with Fortinet's expertise and leverage the E-Rate program's substantial benefits.

Registration Link: **https://events.fortinet.com/eratewebinar_sept21/4037336?ref=ACTEM**

CYBERSECURITY RUBRIC

Cybersecurity attacks on schools are increasing at an alarming rate, putting school leaders under immense pressure to protect student data and ensure learning isn't interrupted. Unfortunately, existing cybersecurity standards and supports are complex, costly, and not designed for education.

Recognizing this challenge, a team of concerned education organizations formed the **Cybersecurity Coalition for Education** and developed the **Cybersecurity Rubric** (CR) for Education. The CR is a free self-assessment tool school leaders can use to assess their cybersecurity practices and make significant improvements.

Access the rubric today and take the first step toward a more secure school environment. Cybersecurityrubric.com

WHAT IS IT? It's an easy to use tool to visually identify your District's/School's cybersecurity posture. Aligned with NIST standards, but using terminology, areas and action that apply to K-12 as a whole.

WHAT DOES IT DO? It's a quick tool to see what your current cybersecurity posture (aka maturity). Then, a quick glance across can guide you in planning your steps to get to the ultimate goal of "Optimized" in all categories.

WHY IS IT HELPFUL? It is usable by anyone. Someone at a novice level can probably complete in an hour. Someone with experience can do it in about 20 minutes. It is a great visual tool to use with Admin, decision makers and other staff alike. Possibly most importantly, it gives you an idea of what you need for service when working with vendors and resources.

Brought to the Education Space by a coalition of Vendor Partners that were looking for a way to assist in the K-12 scramble for Cybersecurity identity, protection and guidance, is cybersecurityrubric.org Special thanks to ClassLink, ENA and Security Studio. They took the opportunity and initiative to give back to the K-12 community at their own cost.

Do you know a teacher or technology educator who deserves an Award?

Each year exceptional Maine educators are recognized by ACTEM through our ACHIEVE award. This ACHIEVE award includes cash prizes for both the individual winner/s and their schools!

ACHIEVE Award winners are professionals who effectively apply available technology now. They move forward utilizing current best practices and cutting-edge approaches. They see students as real people by activating student voice and choice in education. They teach through relationships, inspiring, encouraging and nurturing. These professionals also recognize that further change is necessary, but understand that it is a process for all stakeholders. They realize that teacher and student empowerment is the key element to technology integration. ACHIEVE Educators expect success and motivate through awareness and access to information.

Have you considered nominating a colleague? If not, you should! See the website for more information: http://actem.org/AchieveAward

Maine DOE Newsroom

Hundreds of Maine Educators Gather in Augusta for Maine Educator Summit

Educators and school/district staff from across Maine gathered at the Augusta Civic Center to attend the second annual Maine Educator Summit. Hosted by the Maine Department of Education (DOE), the 2023 Summit offered more than 130 professional learning opportunities and workshops across four days, with topics including school safety, project-based learning, computer science education, student well-being, outdoor education, interdisciplinary instruction, and more. Doubling the previous year's registration numbers, more than 600 educators attended the Summit which was themed ***Inspiration, Innovation, and Inclusion.***

Beyond professional learning, the Summit also gave educators and school and district staff the opportunity to connect with and learn from each other while building a network and community of Maine's Education Workforce. "I feel like this is a place where you would learn a lot of stuff that [may be] different from what you already know," one social studies teacher told WABI 5. The teacher went on to say that he was able to attend workshops and learn more about topics that were not strictly social studies including social emotional learning and inclusion.

Educators and school/district staff who attended sessions at the summit had the opportunity to fill out a survey to receive contact hours. The survey was completed more than 2,000 times by people attending sessions throughout the event.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Maine Commissioner of Education Pender Makin, 2023 Maine Teacher of the Year Matt Bernstein, and 2015 National Teacher of the Year Dr. Shanna Peeples. An additional lunchtime presentation included recognition of **Maine's 2023 finalists** for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) and the **2023 Maine History Teacher of the Year**. **Live and Work in Maine**, a partner in statewide efforts to recruit and retain Maine's education workforce, also attended the event providing t-shirt to attendees and to capture interviews for a campaign that aims to recruit people to work in Maine schools and districts.

Check out a video highlight from the four-day event: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQPOKiicev8&t=2s**

Following the second Summit, the Maine DOE looks forward to continuing assisting educators and school/district staff during the school year including offering a number of **professional learning and training opportunities**, in addition to refining and planning next year's annual Maine Educator Summit.

The Maine Department of Education's 2023 Summit was supported and funded by the American Rescue Plan funds received from the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about the 2023 Educator Summit, **visit our website**.

The Maine DOE Hosts First Computer Science Summer Institute

Nearly 100 educators from across the state attended a multi-day institute in July, focused around computer science education. Educators spent two and a half days engaging in sessions and collaborating to integrate computer science into their classrooms and upcoming school year activities. Topics included Robotics

& Programming, Coding & Hardware, Augmented & Virtual Reality, and much more!

These educators also spent some time exploring connections between the mobile computer science labs and SLAM clubs at their schools to help leverage the mobile lab technology to promote student leadership and engage students as experts with the mobile labs.

Check out this video to learn more about the CS Summer Institute. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MC8IbwMcc7M)

These educators will be sharing some of the awesome computer science learning experiences they've been creating at the CS Ed Showcase on August 17th. For more information about the CS Ed Showcase, **check out this article**. **#MaineTeachesCS #CSISummerInstitute #MLTI #MLTISLAM**

If you have questions or would like to know more about computer science education in Maine, contact the (Acting) Learning Through Technology Coordinator and Computer Science Specialist, Emma-Marie Banks at **emma-marie.banks@maine.gov**. This event was funded by the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funding (GEER).

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION SHOWCASE AT UMAINE

Students and educators from across Maine showed off their computer science skills at the Maine Department of Education's second annual Computer Science Education Showcase on August 17th at UMaine's Collins Center. This year's event heavily featured presenters who were part of the DOE's Computer Science Integrators (CSI) cohort, which is connected with the #MaineTeachesCS initiative. These educators shared computer science integration from the past year or their plans for the coming year. Many of these activities will be available this fall for other Maine educators to utilize in their own classrooms with their own CS mobile labs.

The event also featured educators and students sharing a wide variety of projects and programs from schools across the state. Elementary students demonstrating Edison robots, middle schools sharing games developed in Scratch and high school robotics teams showing off their robots were among the experiences for attendees.

A panel discussion about the state of computer science in Maine featured Brewer Superintendent Gregg Palmer, UMaine School of Computing and Information Science Director Penny Rheingans, Tyler Technologies' Judson McIntosh, Project>Login's Program Director Angela Oechslie, Computer Science Educator and CSTA Maine Vice President Allison Braley and Bucksport High School senior Kieleigh Sands. This was followed by a demonstration of high school robotics featuring FRC teams from Brewer HS, Mt. Blue HS and a VEX team from John Bapst School. The robots worked together to move around a variety of objects as they were rooted on by the audience and R2-Blue2 (the Mt. Blue team's 3D printed version of the famous Star Wars robot).

Maine DOE Newsroom

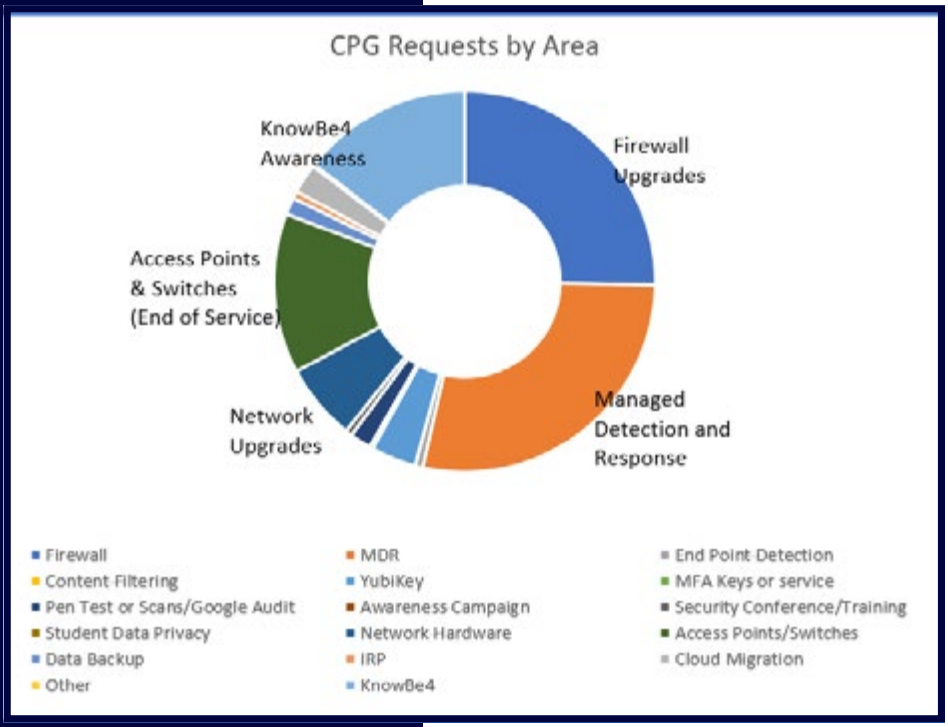
INFRASTRUCTURE 2023-24

The state sponsored K12 Cyber Performance Grants **(CPG's)** continue in the processing phase and school systems will be informed as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience. There were just over 60 applications.

The second year of the federally funded State and Local Cyber Security Grant **(SLCSPG)** is due to be submitted early this fall. The SLCGP is a federal grant program administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). CISA identifies K12 as critical infrastructure; school districts stand to benefit through the action items that will be proposed in the grant. School districts are encouraged to participate. More detail will be provided as the program unfolds.

Thank you to those directors that completed the survey for SLCSPG and those districts that prioritized project requests for the CPG. It is exciting to see federal, state, and local teamwork that helps to strengthen our technology infrastructure.

Please stay alert for an email to you and or your superintendent regarding both of these cyber grants.



Cyber Performance Distribution of Requests. Maine School Management Conference Presentation. Jim Chasse and Jim Morill will be at the MSMA Fall Conference to discuss the above grants, cybersecurity and Maine IT trends. Please encourage your superintendent and school committee to attend!

The Maine Educational Technology Directors Association Launches New Mentorship Program

The Maine Educational Technology Directors Association (METDA) will be launching a new mentorship program this fall that will provide a state-wide approach to providing professional development and support specific to Technology Directors who are in their first years as district decision-makers, resource managers, and instructional leaders.

Mentees will receive coaching from experienced mentors and have access to the expertise and resources of technology leaders in our state and beyond. The program will serve to elevate the success of Technology Directors in serving the needs of their local stakeholders while also building collective efficacy around best practices with educational technology across districts in Maine.

For more information, complete **this form.**

MLTI SLAM GOES TO ISTELIVE 23

Among the Mainers who took on roles as presenters were Kern Kelley from RSU19 and Jarod Lennon (Nokomis High School Class of 2023) whose session "Produce a Student Led Livestream with Google Tools" hosted in Google for Education's space focused on the development of the SLAM (Student Leadership Ambassadors of Maine). Kern and Jarod told the story of MLTI's SLAM program, which brings together students from around the state to engage with the MLTI SLAM Show produced out of Nokomis High School. After their session, the team conducted interviews with Adobe, Lego Education, Merge, Samsung and Sphero on ISTELive's massive expo floor about upcoming products and products that in Maine schools as part of the CS Mobile Labs. This session and interviews are available on the MLTI Youtube channel - **MLTI SLAM Show Ep 053 - ISTE Conference.**

LTT UPDATES

The Learning Through Technology Team is excited to announce that Jonathan R. Werner will be joining the team to serve as the MLTI Ambassador Program Coordinator.
Jonathan has served as an MLTI Ambassador over the past two school years and his passion for high quality professional development for educators and enthusiasm around building the MLTI Ambassador program promises to be a significant boost for the team. Prior to joining the DOE in this work, Jonathan worked at Cape Elizabeth Middle School and Gorham High School.

Maine DOE Newsroom

NEW MLTI AMBASSADORS

The Maine Department of Education's Maine Learning Technology Initiative 2.0 is excited to share that the Ambassador program will be introducing five new educators as well as a new program coordinator. MLTI Ambassadors are distinguished educators, on loan from their school for two years, to bring their expertise and experience as a resource and partner with MLTI.

The Ambassador program is a signature program of MLTI 2.0 with a full team of ten Ambassadors who will deliver professional learning experiences and provide instructional coaching to MLTI-participating schools. The five new "Junior Ambassadors" will be working with the established "Senior Ambassadors" to build upon existing relationships across the schools in addition to the existing connections that they bring to the team.

CHRIS BECKWITH

Chris Beckwith comes to the MLTI Team from Reeds Brook Middle School, where he served as a technology integrator. A 30-year veteran with Masters in Instructional Technology, Chris has taught technology, computer science, science, mathematics and health. Prior to his time in RSU22, Chris worked at the James Doughty School and Ellsworth Middle/High School. He has also been running summer camp classes at Maine School of Mathematics and Science (MSSM) for ten years. He is currently part of the DOE's CSI program and has participated in both CS Ed Showcases. Chris is passionate about robotics, 3D design, drones and AR/VR and has shared these topics and others at state and regional conferences. Chris is an avid Star Wars fan and lives in Hampden.

JEFF IRELAND

Jeff Ireland comes to the MLTI Team from Oak Hill Middle School in Sabattus, where he served as a 5th/6th grade STEM teacher. A 27-year veteran with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership, Jeff worked for 10 years as a late elementary level teacher followed by 10 years as a building assistant principal and later principal before returning the classroom to teach fifth grade. He has spent his entire career in the same school system, RSU4 (formerly School Union 44). Jeff is also a Registered Maine Guide and Professional Fly Casting Instructor. He is married to elementary school teacher, is the proud grandfather of two and lives in Wayne.

GWYNETH MAGUIRE

Gwyneth Maguire comes to the MLTI Team from Old Orchard Beach High School, where she served as a library/media specialist and technology integrator. She holds Master of Education in Educational Technology from Boston College and a Library Media Endorsement from Central Washington University. A 25-year veteran, Gwyneth has

taught in both public schools, including Cape Elizabeth and MSAD60, as well as Department of Defense Schools. She was previously the ACTEM Conference Co-Chair and continues to serve on the Conference Committee. Gwyneth was called the district's "MVP" by her superintendent for her ability to connect staff to appropriate tech, produce useful tutorials and help with systematic organization of tech during Covid. She has worked with adults of all skill levels and backgrounds through positions at Department of Defense, the Cape Courier, the Portland Dioceses as well as EdTech professional learning contractors. Gwyneth lives in Cape Elizabeth.

DONNA NETZER

Donna Netzer comes to the MLTI Team from Princeton Elementary School, where she served as the math teacher for grades 6-8. A 15-year veteran, Donna holds a Masters of Education with focus on Special Populations (Trauma-informed). In her small school, Donna has worn many hats – math instructional coach, trauma coach, local teacher's association president and running a PK-8 tech club. Princeton Elementary was the school she attended and it is where she has worked for her entire career and she is particularly proud of the national Pegasus Award for Princeton's work on positive school culture. Donna is well respected in her school and in the Washington county region as someone who makes technology happen through writing grants, organizing training and building carts. She recently participated in the DOE's CSI program. She lives in Princeton.

AARON "AJ" ROG

Aaron "AJ" Rog comes to the MLTI Team from the Lyman Moore School in Portland, where he serves as Computer Science teacher and technology instructional coach. A 27-year veteran with a Masters of Education in Technology, AJ has spent most of his career working in Portland Schools. In addition to computer science and technology integration, AJ spearheaded an iPad initiative at elementary level. Prior to teaching in Maine, AJ taught in Las Vegas for 12 years, working in grades 3-5 and later grades 6-8. He has done a lot of computer science training of other educators through CSTA Maine and Project>Login. Outside of school, AJ is a longtime swimming coach and is currently the Head Coach of Seacoast Swim Club in Cumberland. AJ lives in Cumberland with his wife Alexis.

About actem

ACTEM is a non-profit 501(c)3 educational association with the mission to enhance and influence education in Maine through the use of technology. ACTEM is the Maine affiliate of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and connects with more than 70 other affiliates to share best practices, increase service to members, and strengthen impact in local education communities.

ISTE Affiliate Member

ACTEM 2023-24 Dates to remember

ACTEM 2023-24 Business Meetings
ACTEM quarterly business meetings are held from 9:30 AM to Noon & are held via Zoom with regional host locations around the State.

September 21, 2023
December 14, 2023
March14, 2024
May 9, 2024

Spring Leadership Conference
May 6th, 2024 | Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

Funds Available for Professional Development

THROUGH THE PD REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

One of the benefits of being an ACTEM individual member, is the ability to access funds through our Professional Development Reimburse ment program. In accordance with ACTEM's mission to enhance and influence education in Maine though the use of technology, individual ACTEM members, who have held membership for at least 180 days, are invited to apply for assistance in the form of reimbursement on qualifying technology professional development opportunities.

WHAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES QUALIFY?

The training may be in the form of a conference, workshop, a one or more days seminar, university course, online course or combination thereof. ACTEM will reimburse individuals for course and registration fees associated with the professional development activity. Course materials, lab fees, travel, hotel, meals and other similar costs will not be reimbursed. Reimbursement is limited to one approved activity per ACTEM membership year. The intent of the PD reimbursement program is to pay for activities that your district is not able to support.
PLEASE NOTE: Any ACTEM sponsored professional development is not eligible for PD reimbursement (ACTEM conferences or ACTEM sponsored workshops).

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO ME?

- Maine Educators with current INDIVIDUAL ACTEM memberships are invited to apply for up to $400 per year for professional development reimbursement.
- Your membership must be CURRENT when submitting your application.
- New ACTEM members must hold an individual membership for at least 180-days prior to the start of the professional development activity to be eligible for the reimbursement benefit.
- *PLEASE NOTE*: ACTEM PD Funds are not available to the new First Year Educator Membership Level

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Complete an online application at this link BEFORE your PD activity begins: http://www.actem.org/Online-PD-Application-Form
- Your application must be received and approved prior to the start date of the professional-development activity.
- You will need to pay for you PD activity upfront with personal funds. ACTEM does not reimburse districts through this program.
- Complete your PD activity.
- Submit proof of completion and personal payment to Dennis Kunces, ACTEM PD Administrator at dennis.kunces@gmail.com
- Reimbursement payments are generally processed within a few days after submitting your completion and payment documents.

PLEASE NOTE: The ACTEM PD Reimbursement Program Rules permit reimbursement only to individual members and not to school districts

OVERDRIVE MOVING TO SORA

verDrive has retiried the legacy OverDrive app and encouraging everyone to use Sora as the primary app to enjoy your digital collection.

- The OverDrive app will be removed from the Apple App Store, Google Play, and the Microsoft store. Download links for the legacy OverDrive desktop app for Windows and Mac will be removed from **overdrive.com/apps.**
- New users looking for the OverDrive app will be directed to Sora.
- Users who previously installed the OverDrive app will still be able to use it without disruption.
- All users can continue to use, borrow, and open titles from your school's **lib.overdrive.com** OverDrive website via a browser until we begin further migration to Sora.
- OverDrive's goal is to move everyone over to Sora by the end of 2022. Please visit the **Resource Center** for helpful materials, including Sora promotional kits, staff training resources, classroom activities, self-paced learning modules, and more. We encourage you to start using these materials now in preparation for this update.

OverDrive is committed to supporting a smooth transition for you and your students and will send updates on the plans and timing for the **eventual retirement of the OverDrive app.**

NEW First-Year Educators Membership Level

At the recent annual summer board retreat, a new ACTEM membership level was discussed and created for first-year educators (teachers & administrators). The new First Year Educator level will be offered at no cost and will include all of the standard individual member benefits except for the opportunity to apply for Professional Development reimbursement.

The ACTEM board hopes that by offering this one-year FREE membership for our new educators, we will be encouraging them to…

- Attend our conference (at discounted member rate)
- Take advantage of the other ACTEM individual member benefits
- See the benefits of belonging to a professional organization
- Hopefully continue with this membership in future years.

THE FIRST YEAR EDUCATOR MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES THESE BENEFITS:

- ACTEM's quarterly newsletter - The Connected Educator
- Lunch at the quarterly business meeting regional sites
- Discounted registration fee on the ACTEM fall conference
- Access to ACTEM's **OverDrive eBook and audio book PD library**
- Discounts on software & other items available through our purchasing consortium (as permitted by the vendor).

Check out the **What is ACTEM** brochure that explains more about ACTEM along with details of benefits for the different member levels. Educators can join ACTEM by completing an online membership application at this **link**. Please forward this information along to the first-year educator in your d istrict

BIG DEAL MEDIA

Trusted Resources for Educators

Big Deal Media saves educators hours of research and thousands of dollars while identifying top-quality resources and OERs for schools and classrooms. It is a content-rich collection of trusted print and electronic publications that offer the information and tools K-12 educators need-all vetted through the prism of the curriculum. It consistently delivers wish lists of resources and funding opportunities, and has done so since 1995.

Big Deal Media publications provide timely, relevant, and reliable resources in a rapidly changing educational environment, created with insight and attention to detail by seasoned educational publishing professionals and practicing K-12 educators.

CHECK IT OUT

https://www.bigdealbook.com

Here is a link to the ACTEM branded K-12 Newsletter

actem Purchasing Conso

Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine

actem offerings

Contact the ACTEM office for these offerings.

Maine Schools receive discounted educational pricing on the products and services listed here for ACTEM institutional members.

ACTEM Purchasing Consortium offers significant price savings on popular software titles from Adobe, Microsoft, Sophos, and many other vendors.

ACTEM works to partner with vendors that can offer better pricing for Maine schools and also offer something in return to assist with our mission.

Microsoft | ACTEM has agreements with Microsoft for Select Plus (perpetual) and Microsoft EES - Enrollment for Educational Solutions (subscription) licensing.

Select Plus Districts register under ACTEM's agreement then can purchase software at educational volume license pricing.

Enrollment for Educational Solutions (EES) is a subscription licensing based on a people count (FTEs) in a school district. ACTEM offers pricing at the 3,000 FTE level for all schools.

Adobe | ACTEM offers Maine schools & staff subscription licensing for Adobe Creative Cloud. This licensing through Adobe's Value Incentive Plan (VIP) offers either **single app, all apps and site licensing options.** All ACTEM Creative Cloud subscriptions have an annual renewal date of Aug. 9th each year. Licensing purchased partway through the renewal period will be pro-rated in cost and will be up for renewal in August at the annual pricing.

Sophos | Security software and hardware, providing endpoint, encryption, email, web, mobile and network security as well as Unified Threat Management products.

Seesaw | ACTEM is pleased to announce that it has partnered with Vermont & New Hampshire again in 2022-23 for the Seesaw Licensing Consortia. The consortia will enable us to increase the total number of licenses purchased so we can save money for all schools/districts.

Seesaw for Schools is a simple way for teachers and students to record and share what's happening in the classroom. It includes learning journals, portfolios tools, parent communication tools, and more.

Filemaker | Filemaker Pro is an easy-to-use cross-platform relational database software application.

Deep Freeze | Software that preserves your computer configuration. Any changes - either malicious or unintentional - are reversed on reboot.

Kami - World's #1 digital classroom tool for creating flexible and collaborative learning environments. With Kami, you can empower your students and transform the way you teach, feedback, and assess. Kami licensing is offered through our 3-sate consortia. Contact the ACTEM office for a quote for Kami licensing.

Lanschool | Classroom management software that is used by schools to monitor students' activity in a digital classroom.

Parallels | Software for Mac that allows you to run both Windows and MacOS applications side-by-side without rebooting.

Rosetta Stone | an online subscription platform to learn a foreign language. ACTEM consolidates a group purchase to allow better pricing for all Maine schools.

Kajeet | Purchase via ACTEM and receive 5% off the Kajeet Education Broadband solution (includes hardware, wireless services, filters, and management portal.)

ortium *for Maine Schools*

Vendor Partner Offerings

These vendors have a partnership with ACTEM and offer their products or services at discounts for Maine schools. Please contact vendors directly when ordering.

BrainPOP | ACTEM member schools and districts can subscribe to BrainPOP and save up to 20%.

CDW-G | CDW-G offers discount pricing and FREE shipping on orders to ACTEM Institutional members.

ClassLink | ClassLink provides single sign-on to web and Windows apps, and instant access to files at school and in the cloud. ClassLink is an ACTEM partner and offers a discount for Maine districts.

Connection | Connection is partnered with ACTEM to extend discounted pricing on technology products. Connection has a special purchasing portal for ACTEM institutional members. Portal link: www.govconnection.com/actem

Edspire eHallPass | e-hallpass is a unique digital hall pass management tool for schools, designed to enhance control, security and oversight via electronic hall passes. 10% discount for ACTEM members.

Edspire Flextime Manager | Flextime Manager allows teachers to create, and students to register for, school activity periods. 10% discount for ACTEM members.

Eduporium | Our partnership with Eduporium offers members extra discounts on all their products. An online portal provides a link to the many educational tools, customized tech bundles and activities for students. Portal link: https:www.eduporium.com/actem

Explore Learning | All Maine schools receive a 10% discount on all Gizmos, Reflex and Science4Us orders. Contact Brandon Nash at 866-882-4141 x357 or email brandon.nash@explorelearning.com

Impero | Impero is a cross-platform software solution, combining features into one tool for a school's network management, classroom management and online safety needs.

Lightspeed Technologies | Districts with ACTEM Institutional memberships are eligible for discounts of 22% off Lightspeed brand classroom audio technology.

Neverware | With Cloudready, you can get the speed, simplicity, and security of Chromebooks on nearly any PC or Mac, up to 13 years old. Contact Sean Terry at sterry@neverware.com or 646-880-3597 to get started.

Newslea | ACTEM member schools and districts can subscribe and save between 5-25% on Newslea PRO, Powerwords, and Collections!

Vocabulary Spelling City | A game-based website and app that can supplement your core literacy curriculum, saves time streamlining data and improves student performance.

Wyebot | Wyebot is the leader in WiFi automation. It's vendor agnostic Wireless Intelligence Platform provides visibility and analyzes the WiFi network using patented AI-based engine and market-leading multi radio sensor, automatically providing problem and solution identification resulting in up to 90% reduction in mean-time to problem resolution.power adapters for MLTI MacBooks.

For more information or quotes, contact:
ACTEM Executive Director
PO Box 187
Gorham, ME 04038
director@actem.org
(207) 222-4353

TOLL FREE:
(866) 99 ACTEM
FAX: (207) 222-2057

Check the ACTEM website for more information
http://www.actem.org/PURCHASING

UPCOMING EVENTS AND

Professional Development

October 4, 2023 High Leverage Practices & Collaboration for Inclusive Classrooms, University of Maine Augusta - Randall Student Center, 46 University Dr., Augusta, ME 04330

October 12-13 ACTEM 2023 Fall Conference, Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME

October 18-19, 2023 MassCUE Fall Conference, Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, MA

November 1-3, 2023 Vermont Fest, Killigton, VT

November 27-30, 2023, Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference, Manchester, NH

December 8, 2023 2023 Annual Education Symposium – Educate Maine, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

January 23-26, 2024 FETC - Future of Educational Technology Conference, Orlando, FL

March 22 – 25, 2024 ASCD Annual Conference 2024, Washington DC

April 8-10, 2024 CoSN Annual Conference, Miami, FL

May 6, 2024 ACTEM Spring Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

June 23-26, 2024 ISTELive 24, Denver, CO

ISTE LIVE 24 DENVER JUNE 23-26

ACTEM OverDrive/Sora PD Library Free with your ACTEM membership!

Google Teacher Certifications
Become a Google Certified Educator
https://edu.google.com/intl/ALL_us/for-educators/training-courses/?modal_active=none

Apple Teacher

Maine: Become an Apple Teacher
https://education.apple.com/#/home/rp/T006360A

MLTI 2.0 Professional Learning
https://www.maine.gov/doe/Learning/LTT/MLTI/ProLearning

MLTI
SLAMShow
http://mlti.me/
Thursdays at 11:00 am

#EdChatME
Mondays 8:30-9:30pm