

Hopin is the Virtual Platform for the 34th ACTEM Fall Conference!

Be sure to view the attendee videos to increase your easy access to the Hopin platform. 90% of attendees who spent time viewing the video reported uninterrupted access to sessions and the Keynote. Also, check out the ability to "Create your own Room" in the platform. You'll be able to create your own video space and then invite other attendees to your circle for instant chats or to follow up a session with your own crew. Many attendees did not realize they had that power last year. ACTEM hopes to make this option more visible to attendees. Also, once you register for the conference please respond to all emails from Hopin. Those emails deliver the links and confirmations necessary to enter Hopin and attend the conference! PS Remember the Help Desk is always available and ready to HELP!



THE CONNECTED EDUCATOR

CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE

ACTEM 2021 Fall Conference Going Virtual

by Cheryl Oakes & Stephanie Cheney

ACTEM will be back this fall as a Virtual Conference on October 14th, and 15th, 2021. The Conference Committee was planning to be live. The uncertainty swirling around the planning has set our course on yet another virtual ACTEM Conference! As was the case last year, the Hopin platform allows us to record 95% of the sessions for later viewing.

Michael Matera is another sure thing. Last year Mr Matera, as he is well known, presented virtually at the ACTEM conference. ACTEM is pleased he will return to us virtually on Thursday for the Keynote and several sessions throughout the conference. You may have heard Mr Matera is a champion of Gamification in the Classroom (and in virtual classrooms). You will be inspired and engaged throughout the keynote. Later, in his smaller sessions we invite

you to get up close and personal with the master of Gamification in Instruction.

"As a classroom teacher I can relate. I share stories that are not from years past, but from last week. My topics range from gamification to tech tools, there is truly something for everyone in my sessions. Truly, from Pre-K to PHD my joyful message resonates with audiences everywhere." ~Michael Matera

WAIT a minute!! There is more, Michael has a terrific book, Explore like a Pirate! You can order ahead of the conference through the registration process. You can check out the book at [this link](#).

Educators were so excited about



(Continued on page 3)

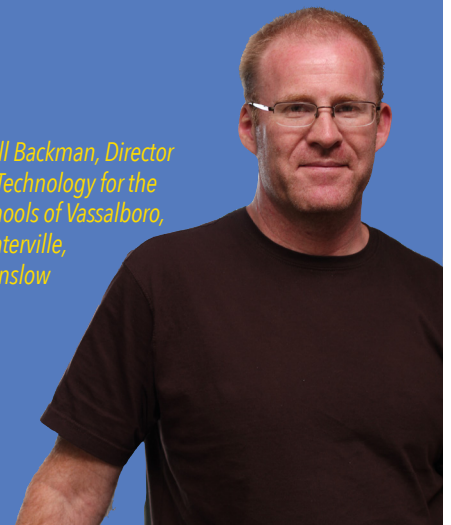
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Raising the Floor

Here we go again! Another uncertain school year with hopes of finding our way closer to normal, but armed with more experience this time around (and perhaps a few more household pets). For many schools in Maine, we have found ourselves buried in more technology than we would have ever imagined, and infused our teaching with the various tools that have been required to enable remote learning. For technology in education, the expectations for

minimum access to technology have been forever raised. We have not raised the bar, we have raised the floor. Not just in our classrooms, but also in the society we are preparing our students for. To torture the analogy a bit, this floor sits upon the foundation of educators who help guide our students towards the positive uses of technology, channeling their enthusiasm towards better learning and living. Wishing you all a great start to the new school year. It's a new world, all over again.

Will Backman, Director of Technology for the schools of Vassalboro, Waterville, Winslow



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actem 20-21 BUSINESS MEETINGS

September 23, 2021 - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

December 9, 2021 - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

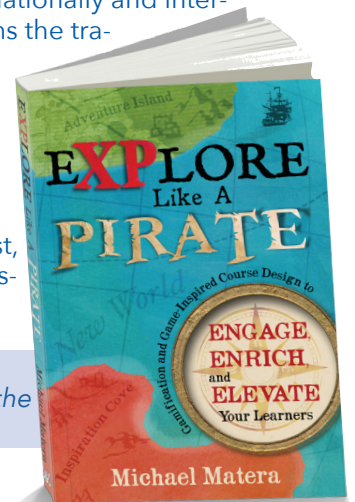
ACTEM Business Meetings are held from
9:30 AM-Noon followed by
METDA Meetings from 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

ACTEM 2021



Thursday, October 14th MICHAEL MATERA

Michael Matera is an innovative educator whose passion for changing the game of school is infectious. By day, Michael is a dynamic middle school Social Studies teacher at University School of Milwaukee. He ignites both his classroom and professional development audiences with interactive play, passion and purpose-driven learning. Proclaimed nationally and internationally as a gamification guru, Michael transforms the traditional classroom into a high-energy environment where active student engagement is paramount. As a leader in the education field Michael offers support for the wider community through his book *Explore Like a Pirate: Gamification and Game-Inspired Course Design to Engage, Enrich, and Elevate Your Learners*, his Youtube channel, podcast, and blog. Order a copy of this book with your registration.



*Get Michael Matera's book *Explore like a Pirate* through Amazon or Barnes and Noble or through the registration process.*

Conference Schedule

- 3:00** Open! Enter Hopin
- 3:15-4:00** Session 1
- 4:15 to 4:45** Bingo with Vendors
- 5:00 to 6:00** Keynote
- 6:15 to 7:00** Session 2

Keynotes



Shreya Dave graduated from MIT with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and currently serves as CEO of Via Separations. She was recognized by MIT's Technology Review as one of the "Innovators Under 35" in 2018.

Ms. Dave is credited with developing a new technology that could save 90% of the energy used in the industrial processes to separate chemicals for food, beverages, drugs, and fuel. This process accounts for 12% of the total energy consumption in the U.S.

Shreya is passionate about creating things, educating people, and improving energy efficiency. Her keynote will include the important lessons that educators throughout her life have taught her.

Friday, October 15th: SHREYA DAVE

ACTEM 2021 Fall Conference Going Virtual (continued from cover)

this book and Michael's ideas that he has formed a [WAKELET](#) group and many archived boards. Please follow [#XPLAP](#) for weekly threads! There is a live chat on Tuesdays @ 9PM CST for those wanting more information.

As if this wasn't enough, Michael created his own youtube channel with motivational messages and classroom tips. You can check out his playlists! [We just love listening to his stories, his ideas, and his inspiring messages.](#)

Remember the ACTEM session last year at the 2020 Virtual Conference with Michael Matera, Design to Engage? Well, Mr Matera will be virtual on Thursday for the ACTEM keynote and then several sessions throughout the conference. Register now for the ACTEM conference. Gamification will be featured and you will be inspired when you return to your classroom.

You will notice that there are fewer session slots available. We read your comments from the survey last fall and hope this schedule will work

for more folks. Also, BONUS, 95% of the sessions are recorded and available.

Registration is FREE for members. Order Michael Matera's book right through your registration process! It will be delivered by mail.

Extra! Extra! Play Vendor Bingo and win prizes!

ACTEM is committed to serving our membership with our 2nd Virtual Fall Conference which again will be FREE for our members. How can ACTEM afford to offer this opportunity again? Our incredible Vendors who support our mission of "*The mission of ACTEM is to enhance and influence education in Maine through the use of technology*" and through your memberships and purchases throughout the year.

You can sign up for your ACTEM membership, an individual membership costs only \$20 annually. How do I join? The online membership form is available [HERE](#).

Comments from 2020 Attendee Survey Results!

We are listening to your great comments.

Loved the Hopin platform!

I would love to see recordings of the sessions I was unable to attend.

I loved this conference. It was the first one I have ever attended and found it very beneficial. I have already used some of the tricks I learned. I would like to see some more science related things. A lot of the things I saw in the sessions I attended were related closer to ELA or another content area.

Thank you for all your efforts in making the conference happen! I REALLY appreciated having it start after school hours so I could attend and not miss school time. I don't think the quality of the conference suffered at all from being remote; I missed seeing people, I learned as much from the sessions as always...

Thank you for everything you did to make this opportunity happen! It was so nice to connect with friendly/familiar faces again :)

Missed the vendor swag, and the tags we attach to our name tags. Not really feedback for the conference (which was excellent) just something missed from the live event.

A great conference as usual. Not as good as the live one but great considering the crazy circumstances this year. Maybe begin at 3 instead of 2:30 if it is virtual and do some of the sessions more than once. Thanks again to the conference committee and organizers!

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.

ACTEM 2021-22 Dates to remember

ACTEM 2021 Fall Conference

■ October 14th-15th, 2021
Virtual Conference on Hopin

ACTEM 2022 Spring Leadership Conference

■ May 3rd, 2022
Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland, ME

ACTEM 2021-22 Business Meetings

■ September 23rd, 2021
■ December 9th, 2021
■ March 10th, 2022
■ May 19th, 2022

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 program. In accordance with ACTEM's mission to enhance and influence education in Maine through 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 day 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.

HOW DO I APPLY?

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

Exciting opportunity to engage in a design challenge to combat misinformation

The Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education is launching the Digital Literacy Accelerator and hope that you will join me in getting the word out. Many learners spend significant time each day online, yet have never received training on how to engage with the information they encounter. Our future depends on our ability to strengthen learners' digital literacy skills, in order to combat misinformation and promote civil discourse in digital spaces.

The Digital Literacy Accelerator calls upon interested participants to design, prototype, pilot, and refine an educational intervention aimed at helping students and adults learn crucial skills related to strengthening digital literacy, particularly around civil discourse and identifying and combating misinformation. Applications are due October 7, 2021.

The Digital Literacy Accelerator will offer participants a hands-on opportunity to iterate on new ideas that can be applied to innovative educational interventions related to digital literacy. Each team of 2-5 members will have a chance to win a minimum of \$2,000 in prize money by completing 4 milestones in the design process. Teams will receive a minimum of \$500 for each milestone associated with their acceptance and convening activities. Those selected to participate will receive support from leading experts in both digital literacy and design thinking as well as support from peers and leaders.

I encourage you to share this opportunity with those in your network (especially undergraduate, graduate, and young professionals) who are passionate about this topic and are looking to learn more about design thinking and edtech development.

The link to more information is here: <https://tech.ed.gov/dla/>

We will also be holding an informational webinar on Thursday, 9/23, at 1pm ET / 10am PT. Registration details can be found on the DLA website.



IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT? YOUR ACTEM MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

ACTEM has a fixed membership year from July 1st–June 30th annually. All memberships were up for renewal on July 1, 2021.

INDIVIDUAL ACTEM MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS \$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>.



Maine DOE Newsroom

BACK TO SCHOOL Resources for Schools and Districts: Key School Safety Elements and Topics to Consider

With the start of a new school year underway, the safety and security of students, teachers, and staff remains top of mind for schools and districts across the country. For the pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (pre-K to 12) community, school safety encompasses measures and systems ranging from mental health support, threat assessment and reporting, and fostering a positive school climate. Integrating these various components and elements of school safety helps school communities better address the range of threats and hazards they may face, while maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment for students to thrive and grow.

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has created an informational one-page document that includes key school safety elements and topics for schools to consider this year, including Bullying and Cyberbullying, Mental Health, Threat Assessment and Reporting, School Climate, Emergency Planning, Physical Security, and COVID-19.

BACK TO SCHOOL Resources for Schools and Districts (PDF)

For further information visit <https://www.schoolsafety.gov/> or reach out to the Maine School Safety Center.

State Finalists Announced for 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year

Three Maine teachers have been announced as State finalists for the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year program. The finalists were chosen from the 2021 Maine County Teachers of the Year honored earlier this year during a special virtual ceremony which was viewed over 2,000 times. "All 16 County Teachers of the Year exemplify the amazing dedication and creative spirit of Maine's educators," said Pender Makin, Maine Commissioner of Education. "These finalists have been selected for their passion, vision, and advocacy for education and for Maine students, and each will be an outstanding ambassador on behalf of all educators in our state."

The Maine Teacher of the Year program honors outstanding teachers who represent the thousands of excellent educators in Maine. Maine's Teacher of the Year serves as an advocate for the teaching profession, education and students, and represents Maine in the National Teacher of the Year program.

Each educator was nominated by a member of their community for their exemplary service in education and dedication to their students. They were selected by a distinguished panel of teachers, principals, and business community members from a pool of hundreds of other nominated teachers in their communities.

The Maine Department of Education, Educate Maine, Maine State Board of

Education and the Maine County and State Teacher of the Year Association are pleased to announce that Paige Fournier (Cumberland), Kelsey Stoyanova (Penobscot), and Hillary Hoyt (Waldo) are moving on as 2022 State Finalists.

Please join us in congratulating the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year finalists.

Paige Fournier

Freeport Middle School, Freeport
2021 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year

"I am honored to represent RSU5 through the MTOY process. I look forward to amplifying the voices and experiences of all students- particularly those that struggle- in an effort to ensure all students thrive, grow, and feel empowered to make changes in their lives."



Dr. Paige Fournier is a middle level special educator at Freeport Middle School in Maine. She began volunteering in a special education

classroom as a high school student and discovered it was her life-long passion immediately. Dr. Fournier earned a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education/ Elementary Education at C.W. Post- Long Island University while playing Division II soccer and lacrosse, winning a National Championship in lacrosse. She frequently references her athletic experiences as part of her drive to empower and advocate for students.

Dr. Fournier holds a master's degree in Special Education from New England College where she also most recently earned her Doctorate of Education in K-12 Leadership. In her studies she researched the impact of mindfulness on the general mental health and wellness of students at the middle level. Dr. Fournier is a Representative Assembly Board Member of the Maine Council for Exceptional Children, Co-Chair of the RSU 5 Wellness Committee, a mem-



ber of the leadership team, a 2012 Maine Teacher of the Year semifinalist, a local and global teacher mentor, and a Board Member of the Freeport United Soccer Club. She has presented at conferences across New England, has been published in the New England College Journal of Applied Educational Research, and has successfully co-written grants to support technology, school gardens and a school-based greenhouse, and social emotional programs. She is passionate about inclusive practices and advocating for the success of all students, particularly those students that face adversity.

Kelsey Stoyanova

Reeds Brook Middle School, Hampden
2021 Penobscot County Teacher of the Year

"In the midst of a pandemic where uncertainties have been abundant, my journey with Maine Teacher of the Year has made it certainly clear – Maine educators know that what is best for students is to listen to them, know them as humans first and value their ideas, and then learn alongside them," said Stoyanova. "I'm proud to represent my students and colleagues in RSU 22, Penobscot County, and our state to continue to advocate that we prioritize representation, choice, and voice of ALL students in our schools, in our curriculum, and in education policy."

Kelsey Stoyanova is an 8th grade language arts teacher at Reeds Brook Middle School, part of Regional School Unit 22 in Hampden, Maine. Stoyanova has a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with an English concentration, a master's degree in Education with a literacy focus, and is working toward her Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership – all as a University of Maine Black Bear. Stoyanova is



passionate about reading and helping students find an authentic love of reading through integrating a strong foundation of independent reading in her classroom. That passion really shined when she was selected as a grant recipient by the Book Love Foundation in 2020. As an advocate for student involvement in curriculum creation, Stoyanova became the RSU22 Middle Level Language Arts Curriculum Leader – working to audit, align, and enhance the curriculum. She serves on the Equity in Education Committee where she designed and implemented the RSU22 Reads Three Reading Challenge for students and community members to participate

in thus far highlighting BIPOC authors and characters, women in literature, AAPI voices, and LGBTQIA+ authors and characters. In addition to these roles, Stoyanova is sought out as a technology enthusiast, mentor, and loves to share and design creative projects and assessments with her colleagues in all content areas. After school, you can find her going

on outdoor Maine adventures with her family, or with her nose in a book which she will undoubtedly talk about in class tomorrow.

Hillary Hoyt

Leroy H Smith School, Winterport
2021 Waldo County Teacher of the Year

"I am honored to be a finalist and be able to share my belief in the importance of engaging our students with their learning, each other, and the community," said Hoyt. "Through this, we can show them that their dreams can come true!"

Hillary Hoyt teaches third grade



at Leroy H Smith School in Winterport, Maine. She teaches math, reading, writing, social studies, and her favorite subject, science. It is no surprise that she is also the elementary science leader. Hoyt received her Bachelor of Science in Education with a concentration in Liberal Arts and minors in dance and English from the University of Maine in Orono.

Hoyt is a nationally board-certified teacher whose goal is to excite learners and show them how learning and reflecting can open new horizons. From classroom transformations such as Underwater Day to creating a rehabilitation center for animals through project-based learning using math and research skills, her goal is for students to be engaged in every lesson. On any given day, you may see her students being secret agents of the Fairytale Bureau of Investigation or engineers collaboratively building a dam while learning about natural disasters. Hoyt aims to create problem solvers, reflective thinkers, and creative designers in her classroom and beyond.

Through her experience as a classroom teacher, dance teacher, and coach at Husson University, she sees the importance of conversation, community, and connection. In all her positions, she works to have students understand how to share and listen to each other. She hopes to have students learn how they are part of the community and the importance

of their role. As for the connection, her goal is for her students to see their relationship to each other, their community, and most importantly, the world.

One of these three teachers will be named the 2022 Maine Teacher of the Year, an honor awarded each year to one teacher in Maine. The announcement will be in October after the final stages of the

(Continued on page 9)

Resources for Schools and Districts



Create a Safe Learning Environment for the New School Year.

With the start of a new school year underway, the safety and security of students, teachers, and staff remains top of mind for schools and districts across the country. For the kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) community, school safety encompasses measures and systems ranging from mental health support, threat assessment and reporting, and fostering a positive school climate. Integrating these various components and elements of school safety helps school communities better address the range of threats and hazards they may face, while maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment for students to thrive and grow.

[SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) offers a variety of Federal resources, tools, and products schools and districts can use to enhance their school's safety across a range of topic areas, including those listed above. You can also follow [@SchoolSafetyGov](https://twitter.com/SchoolSafetyGov) on Twitter for additional school safety updates and resources.



Key school safety elements and topics for schools to consider this year include:

- **Bullying and Cyberbullying:** Bullying and cyberbullying threatens students' physical and emotional safety and can impact their social and academic success at school. Adopting policies to help prevent bullying and cyberbullying and monitoring student behavior in school and online can help schools identify at-risk behaviors and provide interventions before they create safety issues.
- **Mental Health:** Students often come to school with complex physical and mental health concerns or social service needs. Access to mental health services helps to create a positive school climate, prevents worsening of mental health conditions, and leads to better outcomes for students.
- **Threat Assessment and Reporting:** The development and implementation of a threat assessment and reporting program remains a critical component of any school's violence prevention efforts. Establishing a reporting system that is continually monitored and allows for anonymous reporting, as well as having a threat assessment program, or a multidisciplinary group process, to evaluate these reports and respond to threats can significantly reduce acts of violence on school campuses.
- **School Climate:** School climate refers to the quality of school life. Developing students with strong character who are connected to their peers, educators, and communities in meaningful ways can improve school climate and prevent violence from occurring.
- **Emergency Planning:** Families and communities expect schools to keep their children safe from a range of threats and hazards, including targeted violence, natural disasters, and accidents. Emergencies can happen at any time, and schools should have a plan in place to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency events.
- **Physical Security:** Physical security measures can mitigate external threats and reduce the amount of harm inflicted if incidents occur. Conducting a site assessment and developing building security plans can identify existing vulnerabilities and enhance overall school security.
- **COVID-19:** Schools play an important role in preventing the introduction and spread of COVID-19. Following the latest guidance from the Federal government offers school communities ways to protect students and staff while maintaining operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.



SchoolSafety.gov

selection process are complete.

The Maine Department of Education's Teacher of the Year program is administered through a unique partnership with Educate Maine, the Maine County and State Teacher of the Year Association (MCSTOYA) and the Maine State Board of Education. Funding for the program is generously provided by Bangor Savings Bank, Dead River, Geiger, Hannaford, Maine Lottery, the Silvernail Family, and Unum.

For more information about the Maine County Teacher of the Year Program and to see a list of County Teachers of the Year, and Maine Teachers of the Year, visit <http://www.mainetoy.org>.

Seeking Maine Educators to Create Content for MOOSE

After a successful first year, MOOSE, Maine's Online Opportunities for Sustained Education, platform continues to grow as the Maine Department of Education (DOE) looks to hire educators to create new content during the upcoming school year. Nearly 300 teacher-created, student-driven modules were created showcasing an interdisciplinary, project-based model of education. MOOSE provides students, families, and educators with learning experiences that are accessible, inclusive, and available free online.

While maintaining an interdisciplinary and project-based approach, this year the content created on MOOSE will focus on creating PreK-12 learning progressions of specific topics. The year will be broken into two, six-month creation sessions. The learning progression topics for the first six-month session will be STEAM, Career Development, Climate Education, History of Genocide and the Holocaust, and Computer Science.

We are looking for Maine educators, including but not limited to teachers, curriculum leaders and representatives from Maine educational community organizations such as museums, libraries, and educational cen-

ters, interested in creating content for one of the topic areas mentioned above. The module creation work begins September 20th and concludes on March 18th. Each topic will have a full-time team leader who will support participants in the creation of these learning progressions. Topic area content specialists will work with content creators to curate and create resources for the learning progressions. Finally, Maine DOE digital learning specialists will support content creators in developing their skills in digital lesson design and tools.

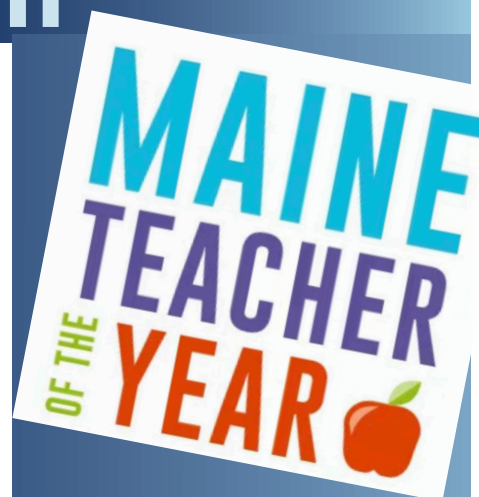
Content creators will earn a stipend of \$3000 for successful completion of the work.

You can access the application here.

If you are interested in applying but still have questions, the MOOSE team will be holding Q&A sessions via zoom on Wednesday, 9/1 and 9/8, from 3-4pm. Please select the date you are interested in attending to register.

To learn about the work completed in MOOSE's first year, view our video here.

For more information about MOOSE please contact Beth Lambert, beth.lambert@maine.gov or Page Nichols, page.nichols@maine.gov.



3 Must-Have Features District Phone Systems Need to Stay Connected and Secure



1 Reliability

From staff and teachers to students and parents, your district's phone system handles non-stop, critical communications. If your phone lines go down, not only will productivity decline, it can also jeopardize the health and welfare of students and staff in emergencies.

With ENA's cloud-based VoIP solution, ENA SmartVoice, communications run over your Internet connectivity and are proactively managed by an experienced partner who can guarantee 99.999% uptime. Additionally, ENA's mobile app enables communications to continue over Wi-Fi/4G/LTE – adding another layer of redundancy and security to your organization's crisis communications strategy.

2 Mobility

As schools return onsite with in-person learning, mobile communications are still important for flexible, confidential collaboration. Without an integrated mobile app, staff can't call or text each other or parents from their cell phones without exposing their personal numbers and are inaccessible anytime they're away from their desk phones.

Hosted phone systems like ENA SmartVoice put mobility at your fingertips with mobile and desktop apps that turn your smartphone or computer into your district phone extension. This enables onsite and on-the-go staff to stay connected with one district number that can do it all – call, text, chat, or meet – from anywhere on any device.

3 911 Services

A critical component to emergency response, your phone system should be a helpful, time-saving tool in a crisis, not a hindrance. But depending on your system's configuration and setup, the wrong location can actually show up on 911 dispatcher's screen when someone dials 911 in an emergency.

Cloud-based systems like ENA SmartVoice can help save critical time in emergency situations with 911 services. Automated group notifications can be sent to key personnel any time 911 is dialed, allowing important school leadership to know where and when an emergency situation is occurring for faster response. Additionally, pinpoint 911 allows 911 dispatchers to trace the exact location of a call down to the specific classroom, bettering directing emergency responders and saving critical time.



To learn how ENA SmartVoice can help Maine's districts stay connected and secure, [click here](#)

Schedule a quick conversation with Nicole O'Brien to discuss ENA's cloud phone system.



ENA delivers transformative connectivity, communication, cloud, security, and data analytics solutions supported by exceptional customer care. For more information, please visit www.ena.com, call 866-615-1101, or e-mail info@ena.com.



082119

Seesaw 3-State Consortia Saves Maine Schools over \$73,000

ACTEM joined a 3-state-consortia this spring to offer lower pricing on Seesaw licensing for Maine districts. Seesaw is a popular software which is currently used by many districts throughout Maine.

SEESAW FOR SCHOOLS

Seesaw is a Learning Management System (LMS) that offers a simple way for teachers and students to record and share what's happening in the classroom. Seesaw gives students a place to document their learning, be creative and learn how to use technology. Each student gets their own journal and can add things to it, like photos, videos, drawings, or notes.

The Seesaw consortia started with Jeff Mao, formerly of the Maine DOE, and now the Executive Director of Vita-Learn* when he approached ACTEM with a creative idea to offer this licensing in both our respective states. Jeff already had a relationship with Seesaw and Vermont had been offering consortia pricing for a while in the state. Vermont is a very small state like Maine. Our goal was to get greater numbers by combining orders which would offer better pricing on Seesaw licensing for all.

ACTEM has found over the years with our vendor partnerships, that the key to getting better pricing on things like Seesaw licensing is greater numbers. The larger school districts can generally get better

pricing because they have greater numbers. ACTEM strives to help out all districts to get them better pricing. By combining orders from districts', we create greater numbers which gets better pricing for all districts large and small. Jeff Mao's additional idea was to combine numbers from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine schools to get an even larger number of licenses and thus lower cost per license for districts in all three states.

The regular Seesaw licensing cost is \$5.50 per student. With our combined numbers from all three states, the consortia was able to bring pricing down to \$4.15 per student (a saving of \$1.35 per license). ACTEM alone had orders for just under 26,000 Seesaw licenses for the first year which represents a saving of over \$34,000 to Maine schools. The savings is even greater when many districts extended their orders to

3-year licensing at the same low consortia pricing. Those licenses for the two extra years represent another \$39,000 in savings for Maine Schools.

Maine Schools are saving over \$73,000 in Seesaw licensing cost through our 3-state consortia! Thank you, Jeff Mao, for negotiating this consortia pricing with Seesaw!

ing with Seesaw!

**Vita-Learn is an independent non-profit organization similar to ACTEM in Vermont dedicated to preparing today's learners for the demands of tomorrow.*



eBooks
Audiobooks

Membership Benefit - eBook Lending Library

One of the many benefits of ACTEM membership includes access to our OverDrive Professional Development Library.

Your membership allows you to borrow up to 2 books at a time for up to 3 weeks. Our collection includes books from many of our previous keynote speakers including: Joe Sanfelipo, Jennie Magiera, Carl Hooker, Rushton Hurley, Tom Murray and Michael Cohen. *There are even some audio books to help you learn on the road.*

To access the library go to: <http://bit.ly/ACTEM-overdrive>

All you need to login to your account is your email address that is associated with your ACTEM membership.

OVERDRIVE TRAINING RESOURCES

Learning how to use OverDrive is easy and can fit into your busy schedule. OverDrive features access to on-demand training modules, downloadable PDFs, upcoming webinars, and tools to help you any time of day or night.

To access these resources go to: <https://resources.overdrive.com/k-12-schools/how-to-videos/sora/>



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>)

and sign up for their K-12 Technology newsletter.

Blogs to Visit With Small Pockets of Time

By Rachel Guthrie, M.Ed.

Sometimes I have these weird pockets of downtime, it might be a fifteen minute break I've offered students to get organized, or I might be in the car waiting to pick up my kid. I usually keep a good magazine in the car or at my desk for these moments, or I'll get out my device and add a word to my Scrabble game. Lately though, I've taken to reviewing blog posts made by my colleagues.

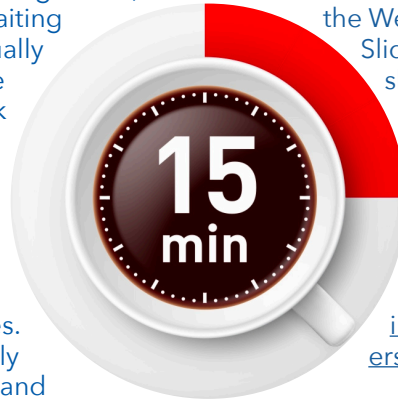
I've read a few lately that really hit the spot, and have even implemented some of the ideas already. Here are some of my favorite blog posts:

Hey Teach! by Suzanne Capek Tingley, Veteran Educator, M.A. Degree <https://www.wgu.edu/heyteach/article/8-essential-teaching-tips-someone-who-has-seen-it-all1901.html> Click this link for Suzanne's post of 8 Essential Teaching Tips from Someone Who Has Seen It All. I loved this post for the first tip: *don't grade everything*.

i ♥ edu by Megan Kelly - <https://www.i-heart-edu.com/>

The way that Megan makes a blog post, with beautiful examples and tutorials really speaks to the way that I teach, and of course, she offers links and resources connected to the post. In this post, Megan is describing a new feature in Google Slides. I don't know about you, but I use these a LOT. Not because it's the

best presentation software, oh no... it really is NOT. But because it's easy to share and manage. I have found that I can choose the "Publish to the Web" feature of Google Slides, then embed the show right on my class page in Brightspace. YES! Here is Megan's helpful tip for setting up placeholder images on Google Slides: <https://www.i-heart-edu.com/image-placeholder-in-google-slides/>



The Jose Vilson, by Jose Vilson <https://thejosevilson.com/>

This particular post about Vilson's son's ninth birthday is a moving account, that may help you to see standardized testing from an important perspective. I can't stress enough how important it is to hear this point of view...read this post first!

Caitlyn Tucker by Dr. Caitlyn Tucker - <https://catlintonucker.com/>

The post I loved on this blog was this one: <https://catlintonucker.com/2021/09/sustainable-student-led-workflows/> Which is all about workflow, and how, by asking students to do meaningful work (rather than creating a series of graded exercises to prove that they are doing meaningful work), you release yourself from the burden of grading, and you release students from feeling anxious about their grade. That description is woefully inadequate, read the blog post!

Educate Maine's Annual Education Symposium

Save The Date: December 10, 2021

Each December Educate Maine convenes hundreds of educators, business leaders, policymakers, and diverse citizens from across our state's communities at our annual Education Symposium. This year we are excited to celebrate an exciting milestone: 10 years of increasing the educational attainment and career readiness of Maine people. Learn more and mark your calendar to join us in-person at the Holiday Inn by the Bay on December 10th!

actem Purchasing Consortium for Maine Schools

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.

ACTEM Offerings

Contact the ACTEM office for these offerings.

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 subscription licensing based on a people count (FTE's) in a school or 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.

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.

Kaspersky | Antivirus & Internet security software offers premium protection against viruses, malware, spam & other threats for your home or business.

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).

MacBook Batteries & Power Adapters | Education pricing on aftermarket batteries & power adapters for MLTI Macbooks.

For more information or quotes, contact:

ACTEM, Executive Director, PO Box 187, Gorham, ME 04038

EMAIL: director@actem.org | PHONE: 207-222-4353

TOLL FREE: 866-99-ACTEM | FAX: 207-222-2057

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 & Districts can subscribe to BrainPOP and Save Up to 20%.

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

ClassLink | ClassLink provides single sign-on to web and Windows applications, 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 eHall Pass | e-hallpass is a unique digital hall pass management tool for schools, designed to enhance control, security and oversight through 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, customize 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 brandon.nash@explorellearning.com

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

Lightspeed Technologies | Districts with ACTEM Institutional Membership 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.

Newsela | ACTEM Member Schools & Districts can subscribe to Newsela and Save between 5-25% on Newsela 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.

Wyebo | Wyebo is the leader in WiFi automation. Its vendor agnostic Wireless Intelligence Platform provides visibility and analyzes the WiFi network using the 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.

Check the ACTEM website for more information:

<http://www.actem.org/PURCHASING>

actem

Association of Computer
Technology Educators of

Maine

www.actem.org

MLTI - Stories of Impact

Large Scale EdTech 1:1 Was Born in Maine - Let's Collect Our Stories



The Maine Learning Technology Initiative ("The MLTI" or "The Laptop Project")

It's time to collect stories from teachers,

learners, librarians, technology staff, school leaders, and community members - everyone whose lives were impacted in the early days of the original MLTI; 2001-2009

Now that the Maine Learning Technology Initiative is being replaced by "MLTI v2.0," a couple of things are clear. First, the arrival of the original MLTI was unique, forever changing the education world in Maine. Secondly, it is time to act to be sure the folks who were involved from the early days of this amazing chapter in Maine's history can all be heard from.

Your stories are valuable, and we are ready to listen. Through support from ACTEM, we are able to meet for a conversation in person or virtually. Stories will be shared through The Maine Historical Society's "My Maine Stories."

Please Contact: Jim Moulton at jim@jimoulton.org or (207.449.2177)



Stories about Classroom Change



Stories about Professional Growth



Stories about Community Impact



SHARE YOUR STORY

Please share your memories of how the MLTI changed learning and teaching for you.



"YOU OUGHT TO..."

Do you know someone whose story should be heard? Let us know and we'll connect.



GOT ARTIFACTS?

Please share training materials, images, or other artifacts from the early days of the MLTI.

Get Certified!

Expand your skills with timely techniques for using Google, Chromebook, screencasting, and more.

Grow your professional learning network while building powerful expertise with TCEA certifications and certification bundles.



► **SIGN UP TODAY**

 tcea.org/certifications

UPCOMING EVENTS *Professional Development*

October 14-15, 2021 ACTEM FALL CONFERENCE 2021_Virtual

October 16, 2021 CSTA New England Regional Conference, Virtual

November 3-5, 2021 VermontFest 21, Killington Resort, Killington, VT

November 29-December 1, 2021 Christa McAuliffe Transforming, Teaching, & Technology Conference (CMTC) Via Zoom and our virtual platform (most likely Remo)

December 10, 2021 Educate Maine Annual Symposium, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

January, 2022 MassCue Datapalooza

April 11-13, 2022 CoSN 2022 Nashville, TN

May 3, 2022 ACTEM Spring Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

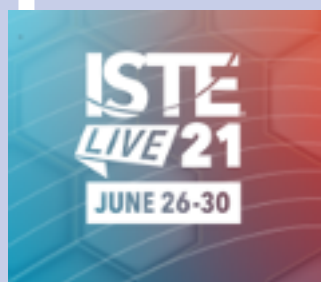
June 26-29, 2022 ISTE Live 22, New Orleans

Maine Educators
 Become an Apple Teacher



Google Teacher Certifications
 Become a Google Certified Educator

Tech Sherpas
 meet every Tuesday at 3:00 pm.



#EdChatME Mondays 8:30-9:30pm

MLTI Professional Development
 Apple Solutions: <http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml>

HP Solution: <http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml>



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