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EDUCATOR

CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE

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ISTE LIVE 23 PHILADELPHIA JUNE 25-28

For many years ACTEM has provided support for its members to attend educational technology professional development by reimbursing those who pay for their own PD. Usually, the reimbursement is capped at $400. However, if you are attending ISTE, you can be reimbursed for up to the full cost of early bird registration of $545. To take advantage of this member benefit, there are requirements. See this web page for more information.

ACTEM 2023 Spring Leadership Conference

ACTEM recently held it's 6th annual Spring Leadership Conference this past May 1st at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, ME. This year our event grew to 185 attendees, the largest attendance ever for our spring conference. The conference also featured 24 exhibitors that also included the three computer science companies involved in the DOE's #MaineTeachesCS initiative.

This year's conference theme of Cybersecurity in Education was an important timely topic for Maine's educational leaders and their staff. School districts are realizing that as technology continues to evolve, one thing remains clear: cyber-attacks aren't going anywhere, including within the K-12 community.

The Keynote was delivered by Trent Frazier of CISA [the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency]. Trent's keynote topic on Defending Cybersecurity's Top Targets provided information on threats and offered some resources CISA can provides to assist districts.

Some other regional CISA staff were also present for workshops and as resources.

Thomas Swenson Jr. -- CISA Protective Security Advisor -- thomas.swenson@cisa.dhs.gov

2023 ACTEM SPRING LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Cybersecurity in Education

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Mike Arsenault, Yarmouth School Department and ACTEM President

PHOTO BY JOHN BRANDT

I am thrilled to report on the success of our recent Spring Leadership Conference, which took place May 1st in Portland at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. This event was a tremendous opportunity for educational technology professionals to come together and discuss the latest developments and strategies for keeping our institutions secure.

This year's Spring Leadership Conference attracted a wide array of cybersecurity experts, with speakers from industry-leading companies and government agencies. We covered diverse topics, including threat intelligence, incident response, data protection, student data privacy, and coding in the classroom.

I was particularly impressed with the level of engagement and interaction between attendees, which resulted in lively and informative discussions during and after the presentations. The conference was an excellent opportunity for networking and building new connections. Many of the relationships formed at this event will continue to be valuable for years to come.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Jim Chasse. He was instrumental in bringing several speakers from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), including our keynote speaker, Trent Frazier. I also want to thank our dedicated Executive Director, Gary Lanoie, and volunteers, who worked countless hours to ensure the conference ran smoothly and everyone had a pro-

Spring Leadership Conference *(continued from cover)*

Joseph Flores -- CISA Cybersecurity Advisor -- joseph.flores@cisa.dhs.gov

Trent mentioned in his keynote to reach out to these resources for assistance with Cybersecurity planning and information.

From the conference survey, attendees were generally very pleased with the conference.

The Survey responses were mostly very positive:
• Very well organized and provided a good mix of topics sessions.
• Not sure exactly what was different but this conference seemed very similar but better than others in the past.
• Keynote was scary!
• Had a great time, can't wait until next year!

ACTEM is working on securing a date for the 2024 Spring Leadership Conference. Information will be released on ACTEM's website and future newsletters when plans are finalized.
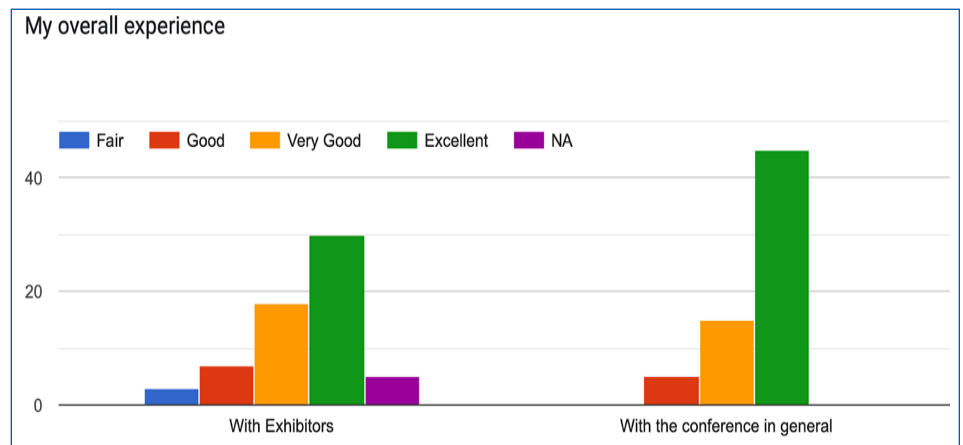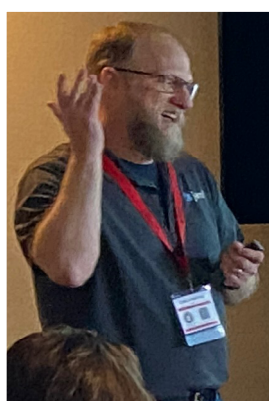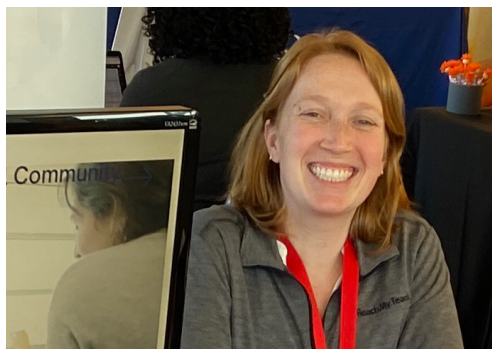
My overall experience

The Best EdTech Conferences for K-12 IT Staff

Education technology is a rapidly evolving field and keeping up with the latest trends and innovations can be a challenge. Fortunately, there are several excellent conferences that offer K-12 IT professionals the opportunity to network, learn from experts and stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the space. Here are our Top 5 EdTech conferences for K-12 technology professionals:

1 **ISTE** (International Society for Technology in Education) is by far the biggest of the EdTech shows on the North American calendar. Tech to School has been exhibiting at ISTE since 2013 and it's a great place to see almost everything the EdTech space have to offer. Outside of the keynote and sessions, EdTech Karaoke and the vendor sponsored parties are great places to network and connect with colleagues from across the U.S.
Next ISTE Conference: ISTE 2023. June 25th - 28th, 2023. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. https://conference.iste.org/2023/

2 **FETC** (Future of Education Technology Conference) is one of the biggest EdTech shows of the year. Usually hosted in Orlando during the beginning of the calendar year, the weather and local attractions probably have a lot to do with the large attendance. The show is packed with sessions and vendors offering insights and previews into what's coming next in the EdTech space for the year. Be on the lookout for a Tech to School shirt or two at the Howl at the Moon piano bar.
Next FETC Conference: FETC 2024. January 23rd - 26th, 2024. Orlando, Florida. https://www.fetc.org/future

3 **TCEA** (Texas Computer Education Association) is another big EdTech show hosted every year in Texas. While the venue and naming may say Texas, you'll find educators, vendors and IT staff from across the country attending the show. New product announcements and top notch keynote speakers usually make the list. We find TCEA a little more business focused than FETC (which is usually held just the week before) with the sessions geared more towards the administration side of EdTech versus the more educator focused FETC.
Next TCEA Conference: TCEA 2024. February 3rd - 7th, 2024. Austin, Texas. https://convention.tcea.org/about/

4 **CUE** (Computer Users in Education) is one of the oldest EdTech organizations and one of the biggest EdTech conferences you'll see on the West Coast. Smaller in scale than ISTE, FETC or TCEA, CUE makes up for in quality what it may lack in quantity. Top tier sessions and speakers along with a more intimate setting create great value for those who make the trip out to Palm Springs.
Next CUE Conference: Spring CUE 2024. March 21st - 23rd, 2024. Palm Springs, California. https://cue.org/events/30793

5 **CoSN** (Consortium for School Network) is more software focused EdTech organization and conference. Great for IT staff looking to stay on the cutting edge of networking and digital security, their software awards often highlight new and innovative applications. The smaller scale of the conference allows for more direct dialogue with developers and entrepreneurs in the software side of EdTech. This is a show where you can learn new technology and also help shape what's coming next.
Next CoSN Conference: CoSN 2024. April 7th-11th, 2024. Miami, Florida. https://www.cosn.org/event/cosn-2024-annual-conference/

ACTEM Thanks SMCC Students Sean Thompson and Jess Smith for their help with the Fall Conference Logo

The 2023 ACTEM conference logo was designed by SMCC graduate, Sean Thompson. Sean majored in Communications and New Media, concentrating in Graphic Design. ACTEM Board member, Rachel Guthrie, who teaches a class for graphic design majors called Senior Portfolio, in which students are tasked with building an online portfolio, was working with Sean at the time that the ACTEM conference committee mentioned their need for a logo. "I thought this would be a great project for a student, and when I asked if anyone wanted to do it, Thompson responded within the hour, and had designs to present within days. The conference committee chairs really loved his work, and asked for only minor changes, which is quite rare in the world of logo designs." Thompson graduated in May of this year, visit his portfolio at https://www.behance.net/seanmichaelartist.

After his design was accepted, Guthrie asked another student in class, Jess Smith, to animate the logo. An animation major in the same department, she too provided a very quick turnaround for this job. "Both students showed such professionalism, I couldn't have been more proud," Guthrie said. Smith also graduated in May. The animation can be seen here.

ACTEM conference co-chair, Amanda Nguyen said, "We are grateful to Sean and Jess for their ability to bring the conference planning committee's ideas to life. They professionally presented their ideas, incorporated our feedback, and delivered us a final product that we're proud to be able to showcase across the state and beyond.
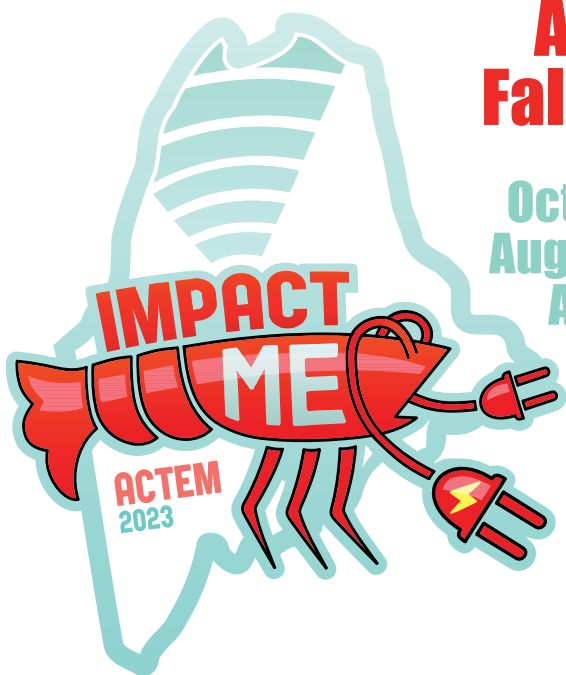
SAVE THE DATE

ACTEM 2023 Fall Conference

October 12-13, 2023 Augusta Civic Center Augusta, Maine

More information about registration, keynote speakers, and session descriptions will be added to the website throughout the summer: https://www.actem.org/ACTEM-Fall-Conference

IMPACT ME 2023
CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR ANNUAL ACTEM CONFERENCE

The call for proposals for ACTEM's 36th annual fall conference is OPEN! We welcome teachers, integrators, coaches, vendors, and tech folks to submit conference session presentation proposals through June 1, 2023.

This year's theme will be "Impact ME." We hope to have a wide variety of presentations that serve multiple audiences and content areas. Some of the most appreciated sessions from last year included: 23 for '23, Augmented Reality, Canva, Google Tools, Kami, The Maine App Challenge, Design Thinking, and Tech Integration. Participants also shared their wish list for ACTEM 2023: Computer Science Integration, Coding with Robots on the CSI Carts, Cybersecurity, Library Resources, Artificial Intelligence, and the opportunity for collaborative roundtables.

This year's conference will be held on Thursday, October 12th and Friday, October 13th. Similar to last year, we are planning to have an After Hours event on Thursday hosted by Carl Hooker at the Civic Center. With this, we encourage educators and tech directors to submit proposals for both Thursday and Friday, as we will be looking to offer a variety of sessions on both days this year!

Please submit your proposal here (or copy and paste this link into your browser: https://forms.gle/sXwEdunYX9KeDFsw6)

Please reach out to conference co-chairs Amanda Nguyen and Alice Barr at: conference@actem.org with any questions.

This year's winners are:

- **First place:** Matthew Fagerlund of Scarborough High School created GiRA-PHER, an app that helps middle and high school students learn how to graph mathematical equations.

- **Second place:** Abigail Hews of Scarborough High School developed Resume Roulette, an app that produces custom resumes and tracks user information.

- **Third place:** Sebastien Martinez of Yarmouth High School created ColoPrep, which enables users to successfully prepare for a colonoscopy procedure.

TYLER TECHNOLOGIES ANNOUNCES 2023 MAINE APP CHALLENGE WINNERS
APRIL 29, 2023 · STUDENTS DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS FROM LAST YEAR

Tyler Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: TYL) announced today that three innovative high school students from Maine were recently selected as winners of the 2023 Tyler Technologies Maine App Challenge, a contest that challenges students to show off their skills and creativity by building a mobile application.

The winners received scholarships totaling $10,000, which were presented at Tyler's awards ceremony on April 29 at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland.

"Every year, we're so impressed by the creativity of these high school students in their app creation," said Chris Webster, president of Tyler's ERP & Civic Division. "We hope that the Maine App Challenge continues to inspire these students to explore STEM-related careers in the future, especially careers in Maine as we want these talented students to know there are hundreds of great companies in Maine who need their skills."

"This program has grown and is continuing to grow with great momentum. This year, we exceeded our submission expectations with more than double the number of submissions we had last year. We couldn't be more pleased to see Maine's bright young minds so engaged in the world of STEM," said Matt Jones, manager of software engineering at Tyler.

Similar to last year, Tyler collaborated with the Foster Center for Innovation at the University of Maine to host a series of free workshops for students to help with brainstorming, prototyping, and testing their applications.

"Partnering on the Maine App Challenge over the past two years has proven to be a great way to engage students in innovation, and the University of Maine is excited to be working with Tyler Technologies on campus tours, workshops, and courses that will get students excited about STEM disciplines and pathways to higher education and future careers," said Renee Kelly, associate vice president of strategic partnerships, innovation and engagement for the University of Maine.

The three Maine App Challenge winners were rewarded with scholarships totaling $10,000 in 529 college savings plans. The top 20 submission participants received an Oculus VR headset, and the top 10 submission participants will be granted a guaranteed internship interview following each student's college sophomore year.

Tyler also awarded a $500 check to the Maine high school with the most teams or individuals submitting an eligible entry. This year, Biddeford Regional Center of Technology and Casco Bay High School tied with the same number of entries and will both receive $500.

The Maine App Challenge, which was developed in 2015 in partnership with Educate Maine's Project>Login, introduces students to STEM-related disciplines and supports the notion that these students can excel in this field while remaining in Maine. Since its inception, the Maine App Challenge has gifted more than $80,000 in 529 college savings plans to students in Maine.

For more information about the Maine App Challenge, please contact MACT@tylertech.com.

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Adobe resources for teachers.

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Adobe Distance Learning Resources
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Adobe Creative Educator Program
Join this program, designed for educators in every subject and grade level, to connect with peers, learn new ideas, and earn badges.

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Adobe Creative Cloud Express Teaching Resources
Check out amazing Creative Cloud Express content created by teachers and students. Easily integrate these projects and lesson plans into your curriculum.

https://edex.adobe.com/express
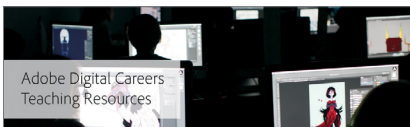
Adobe Digital Career Teaching Resources
Find dozens of modular activities and project-based curricula for teaching with Adobe Creative Cloud.

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Adobe Certification Programs
Take advantage of Adobe certification programs and help your students build skills and set themselves apart.

https://certiport.pearsonvue.com/Certifications/Adobe/ACP/Overview

Save the Date

**ACTEM Fall 2023 Conference
Oct. 12-13, 2023 – Augusta
Civic Center
Theme: Impact ME**

ACTEM's annual fall conference is Maine's largest educational technology event for teachers, technology staff, librarians, administrators, and all educators. Our two-day conference typically brings together over 500+ attendees and features 100+ workshop sessions and 35+ exhibitors.

Tech to School considers ACTEM's Conference as one of the shows that are definitely worth checking out in a recent blog post on The Best Ed-Tech Conferences for K-12 IT Staff!

Conference details along with the information on our Keynote Speakers will be released on ACTEM's website at: https://www.actem.org/ACTEM-Fall-Conference

FREE Computer Science Curriculum and Teacher Professional Learning

Kim Quinn Hutchinson, Executive Director CS Pilot/HAF Grant

There is some exciting news to share with you and your learning community. CCR and the Harold Alfond Foundation are making the Computer Science Teacher Professional Learning and Student Curriculum FREE to all teachers, students and districts in Maine.

We have completed a 4-year pilot of this Computer Science Curriculum in Waterville and the Professional Learning courses across the state of Maine over the past 3 summers.

The grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation covered the development of Computer Science curriculum for both Teacher Professional Learning and student courses for grades 7-12.

The Teacher Professional Learning courses for both CS1 & CS2 allow teachers from any content area (and without previous CS experience) the ability to successfully teach CS 1 & CS 2 courses to students in your schools.

The CS 1 & CS 2 student courses are accessible for students of all abilities. We have piloted them in Waterville with students of a variety of academic levels at both grade 8 & 9.

The CS 2 course has been piloted at the High School level both as a full year and as 2 separate semester courses that can be experienced in either order.

Following the completion of CS 2 students can choose a path of Game Development using Unreal Engine for 2 semesters or Mobile App development using Android Studio for 2 semesters.

If your district currently uses Code.org resources this is the perfect addition to continue your student and teacher growth and development. We are so excited to share these FREE resources with the state of Maine!

We will be starting the next cohorts of Teacher Professional Learning for CS 1 & CS 2 in May/June. Please complete the 5-question survey here if interested in the FREE Professional Learning starting in the next few weeks. 4D Computer Science (by CCR) Teacher Training Information Request
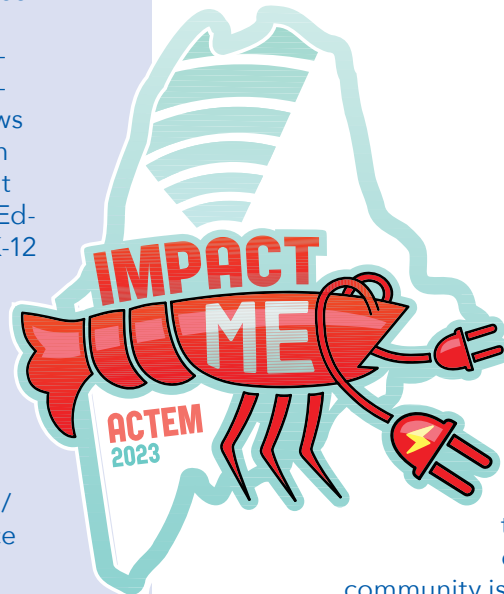
President's Message
(continued from cover)

ductive and enjoyable experience.

Overall, I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished at our conference. The level of expertise and passion demonstrated by our attendees confirms that the Maine educational technology community is committed to staying at the forefront of cybersecurity and ensuring that our students, faculty, and staff are protected from digital threats.

I am currently exploring working with our friends from CISA to offer further opportunities for Maine schools to learn how to safeguard their schools better and keep this vital work on the front burner.

CoSN 2023 State of EdTech Leadership

CoSN recently released their 10th Annual National Survey - CoSN 2023 State of EdTech Leadership. Cybersecurity ranks as the No. 1 priority for K-12 technology leaders for the fifth year in a row, according to a new report from the nonprofit Consortium for School Networking.

UNDER THE KEY FINDING IN THIS REPORT CONCERNING CYBERSECURITY IT STATES...

"As it has since 2018, cybersecurity continues to rank as the number-one concern for EdTech Leaders. Cybersecurity is also the topic with the greatest interest for expanded professional learning. Only one-third of districts have a full-time equivalent employee (FTE) dedicated to network security. Two-thirds of EdTech Leaders feel their district has insufficient resources to deal with cybersecurity issues, which likely includes the 12% of districts that do not allocate any funds for cybersecurity defense. Yet, EdTech Leaders tend to underestimate the threats to their network: 50% or more rated five threat types as relatively low. While the adoption of practices to improve cybersecurity in K-12 is on the rise, so too are the number of bad actors specifically targeting K-12 schools."

CoSN
LEADING EDUCATION INNOVATION

2023 EdTech Leadership Survey Report
Tenth Annual Edition

www.cosn.org

THE REPORT SUMMARY STATES...

"Over the past decade, EdTech Leaders' efforts to modernize their districts' digital ecosystems are reflected in faster connection speeds, ubiquity of mobile learning, and increased adoption of technology purchasing best practices. However, the increase in cybersecurity threats, the development of internet of things (IoT), and the speed in which new technologies emerge have created a K-12 environment that is drastically different than 10 years ago. Districts, especially small and rural ones, struggle to keep pace with the changing demands.

As expressed by one respondent: "Technology moves at a high-speed rate where small districts are not able to keep up and as a result, fall short in ensuring measures are in place to move the district forward while maintaining the safety and security of all users."

Many small school districts do not have a full-time IT person, let alone an FTE for cybersecurity. Even districts that budget for those positions cannot offer salaries competitive with the private sector. Lack of funding not only affects districts' ability to offer salaries sufficient to attract and retain talent, but also underpins most other EdTech challenges: cybersecurity, achieving digital equity, maintaining a modernized infrastructure, and providing professional learning opportunities. Technology has become integral to today's educational landscape and should be funded accordingly."

The full CoSN report on the State of EdTech Leadership can be found at THIS LINK.

Bethany Billinger
MLTI Project Manager.

T he Learning Through Technology Team is excited to announce that Bethany Billinger has taken over as MLTI Project Manager. She comes to the team from MSAD75, where she worked as an administrative assistant for the past nine years. Bethany also taught in MSAD 75 for seventeen years, most of which teaching math and science at Mt. Ararat Middle School.

The MLTI Team is also saying goodbye to the three senior Ambassadors – Rob Dominick, Kate Meyer and Jonathan R. Werner – as their two years with the team winds down. The three of them have been invaluable members of the team and though they may be ending this chapter, they will remain connected to the team and will bring experience and perspective back to their respective schools. The MLTI Team is currently working through the contract process with five new Ambassadors, please watch the DOE Newsroom for the official announcement.

20th MLTI Student Conference Encourages Everyone to #DiveRightIn

For the first time in the history of this conference, two different events were held. Based on the success of last year's virtual conference, the first under the MLTI 2.0 banner, the decision was made to hold a virtual event for the fourth year. This event brought in over 3,500 students and educators for a student-focused day of learning. Students from MLTI schools ranging from Fort Kent to South Berwick and Rangeley to Lubec came together in a virtual environment that provides great opportunities and unique challenges. Students participated in a "Tech Feud" game show modeled after Family Feud, where they tried to guess the most popular results from a student survey. They were able to join two sessions during the day on topics such as Animation,

Gorham Middle School 2023 MLTI Day

AR/VR, Audio Editing, CAD/3D Design, Choose Your Adventure Game Design, Digital Collages, Digital Escape Rooms, Green Screens, Image Editing, Robotics and Video Game Design. The lunch hour included a variety of

video content from past student presenters, National History Day in Maine documentaries, past MLTI SLAM Shows and how to run an internet speed test. The day concluded with a live version of the MLTI SLAM Show, a weekly student-run show, with student interviews, announcements of game show winners and information about the UMaine scholarships.

The in-person event returned to UMaine for the first time since 2019 with over 40 schools from across 12 Maine counties attending. The day opened in Collins Center for the Arts with music from the Orono High School Jazz Band. The "Tech Feud" game ran again, this time before a live studio audience and students participating through Mentimeter. Students then broke out for two sessions and with forty sessions being offered, there were plenty of opportunities. While the same sessions from the virtual conference were offered, there were an additional twenty offerings including topics like app design, AI & machine learning, data mining, Scratch game design, unplugged coding and learning to fly cast with video analysis software. Tours of the Advanced Structures and Composites Center were also available to some student groups. To stagger students going through the two lunch halls and the Bear's Den, students participated in a scavenger hunt, which allowed them to explore the UMaine campus. The day ended back in the Collins Center with an eSports Uber session coordinated by Husson University's eSports team. Participating students and teachers from different schools competed in the game Rocket League with the audience cheering on participants from Northern Maine or Southern Maine. The final piece of the day was a live SLAM show with students interviewing other students, including this year's t-shirt designer Hope Handley, about their impressions of the day. The event concluded with the naming of scholarship winners. The MLTI is already planning next year's Student Conference events!
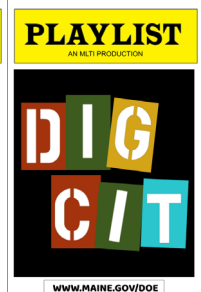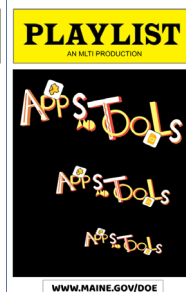
CSI Summer Institute

The Maine DOE will host a three-day Summer Institute for educators who participated in the Computer Science Integrators (CSI) cohort. Running from July 11-13 at Sunday River in Newry, this institute will provide an opportunity for CSI educators to come together in person after months of interacting through the #MaineTeachesCS Mighty Network. More than three-quarters of the people who participated in CSI will be attending, sharing and producing exciting content that leads into the CS Showcase the following month. In addition to this CSI work, the final day will focus on Kern Kelley's SLAM program. This component of MLTI aims to help educators recognize ways to engage students through leadership opportunities. CSI Summer Institute registration is closed.

"Spring Revivals" Asynchronous Professional Learning Series

The MLTI Ambassadors are wrapping up their asynchronous professional learning offerings for the school year. The "Spring Revivals" Series focuses on the following topics: DigCit (Digital Citizenship), Podcasting, Share Your Story (Digital Storytelling) and Apps & Tools. These offerings in addition to the "What's Cooking" Series and last year's "Spring Training" Series provide more than 50 contact hours to educators.

PLAYLIST AN MLTI PRODUCTION — PODCASTING — WWW.MAINE.GOV/DOE

PLAYLIST AN MLTI PRODUCTION — SHARE YOUR STORY — WWW.MAINE.GOV/DOE

PLAYLIST AN MLTI PRODUCTION — APPS & TOOLS — WWW.MAINE.GOV/DOE

PLAYLIST AN MLTI PRODUCTION — DIG CIT — WWW.MAINE.GOV/DOE

Maine DOE

Maine DOE Newsroom

Second Annual CSEducation Showcase

After the success of last summer's CS Education Showcase held at the Roux Institute in Portland, an event has been planned for August 17th to be held at the Collins Center for the Arts on the UMaine campus in Orono. Like last summer's event, the Maine DOE is seeking a wide variety of presenters and presentation content. This event will heavily draw from the CSI Educators who have integrated computer science into their schools this past school year with the CS Mobile Labs. The event also hopes to provide an avenue to share other models. Last summer featured robotics teams (the Blue Crew and R2-Blue2 from Farmington), maker-spaces, classroom station models, MinecraftEDU, CTE programming, projects from different state-wide and national competitions, community service projects and grant-funded technology. The Department of Education hopes to level up this event by providing more space and a bigger stage for educators and students to share that #Maine-TeachesCS is not just a hashtag.

MLTI SLAM Showcase Ends on High Note!

The final SLAM Showcase event of the 22-23 school year was hosted by Maine's easternmost school – Lubec Consolidated School. SLAM Coordinator Kern Kelley, students from Nokomis and MLTI Ambassador Nicole Karod ventured out to Washington county for a full day of educational technology learning. The day ended with a live SLAM Show that included an interview with ACTEM ACHIEVE Award winner Cathy Morse who helped bring SLAM to Lubec and It has been a challenging year that included in February that forced staff and students to relocate to several locations while repairs were made. After students engaged with VR/AR, Coding, Graphic Design and 3D Design, the day ended with a live SLAM Show. ACTEM ACHIEVE Award winner Cathy Morse, who helped bring SLAM to Lubec, voiced how impressed she was with her students' efforts. Her colleague Wendy Black's reaction to the school receiving a drone is truly one of the highlights of the SLAM Showcase events. The staff and students were so excited about their new technology that they headed right outside to test it out. This fifth SLAM Showcase event was something special and the planning of events for the 23-24 school year has already begun.

#TeachWithTech Grant

In late March, MLTI's #TeachWithTech Grant was launched and since then a steady stream of applications have been submitted. Schools and educators seeking opportunities to introduce technology such as laser cutters, 3D printers, drones, robotics kits and podcasting equipment. Proposals have been coming in from all over the state that fulfill the grant's goal of being "innovative, impactful, and intriguing." This rolling grant's window closes on Friday June 2nd.

Shields Up Maine!

The Shields Up Maine! pilot program wrapped up with a presentation at the annual ACTEM Spring Conference on May 1st in Portland. There was a good turnout, and the group highlighted the learning from the program.

The sessions focus on cyber security posture per the CSF NIST standards. The group implemented the National Cyber Security Review (MS-ISAC CIS) and professional development from guest presenters that included MS-ISAC, CISA, ME OIT, MSLN NWM, IRP, and Legal. The group will also study various Incident Response Plans that could be implemented at the local level.

MLTI is considering a second round of the cohort for the 2023-24 school year.

Cyber Performance Grants

The Maine Department of Education's Maine Learning through Technology Initiative (MLTI) will release Cyber Performance Grants to help districts bolster network security and safety as defined by CISA's 2023 recommendations to K12 schools.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) report, Protecting Our Future– Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats is a required component of the federal Cybersecurity Act of 2022. The report findings and recommendations to schools can be found within the report and toolkit for schools. Important Dates:

Informational sessions:
• Wednesday, May 24th at 12:30 pm
• Friday, May 26th at 12:30 pm
• Tuesday, May 30th at 9:00 am
• Tuesday, May 30th at 12:30 pm
Applications are due Friday, June 23rd

Teaching with Tech Podcast

Since its inception in January of 2023 the MLTI 2.0 podcast, Teaching with Tech, has released 11 episodes covering a variety of topics including gamification, STEAM learning, and digital citizenship. Most often, the episodes consist of a discussion amongst the Ambassadors surrounding the topic at hand while also featuring interviews with educators in the field to elevate their own perspectives. The podcast will wrap up its inaugural season in May with two episodes on the topic of AI in the classroom. In the fall, it will pick back up with plans to include topics like blended learning, podcasting in the classroom, and more about digital citizenship.

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Bring the paper and digital resources you're already using to life with 40+ annotation tools. Text Recognition turns scanned PDFs into fully interactive documents.

Integration
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Accessibility
Kami aligns with WCAG 2.1 requirements and is packed with accessibility features, including Read Aloud, Voice Typing, Captions, and Dark Mode.
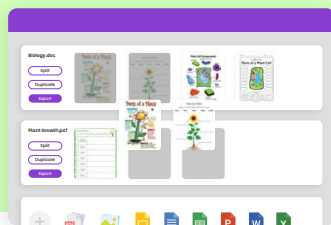
Trusted by 40M K-12 teachers & students

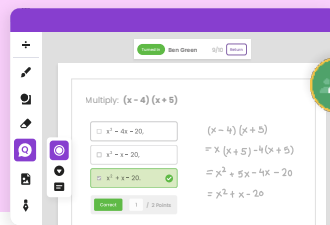Google Drive · Google Classroom · Schoology · canvas · Microsoft Teams · OneDrive
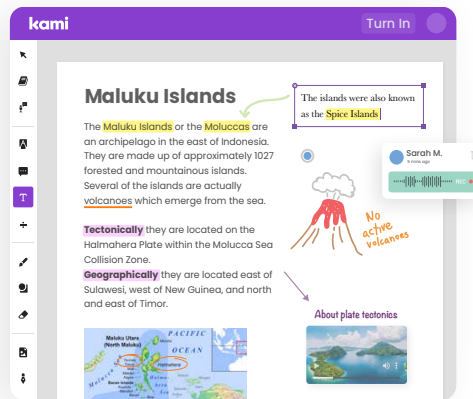
Try Kami for free
kamiapp.com

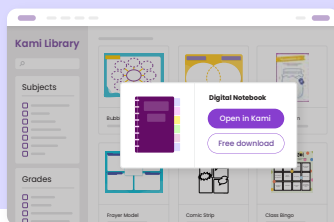**Free school/district trials**
kamiapp.com/trial

Remix your resources with Split & Merge
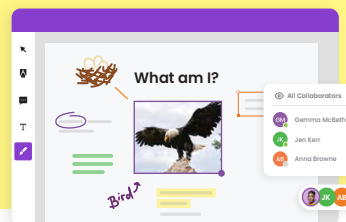
Check progress with formative assessments

Get inspired by our Kami Library templates

Collaborate with your students in real time

Did you say free training?

Booking a meeting with Oliver takes less than a minute, and it's FREE of charge! Learn the basics, add to your skills, or become a Kami expert.

Book here

SOPHOS WEBINAR:
The Secrets of Effective Cyber Risk Management
Assess, Mitigate, Insure
Thursday, June 15, 2023 – 2:00 PM EST

Managing and mitigating cyber risk is essential if organizations are to succeed in today's threat environment. By adopting a holistic approach to cyber risk management, businesses can minimize the impact of threats and achieve better commercial, operational, and security outcomes.

Join experts from across the security industry to explore how to put in place a holistic cyber risk management strategy. **This 60-minute webinar** will delve into the three core elements of an effective approach:

1. Assess. The first step to managing cyber risk is to understand your exposure and weaknesses. Discover how to get the insights that you need to implement targeted, effective risk-reduction programs.
Presenter: Ray Komar, Vice President of Technology & Cloud Alliances, Tenable

2. Mitigate. Strong cyber defenses are an essential element of any risk mitigation strategy. Learn how to optimize your defenses to minimize risk, while also increasing return on your existing security investments.
Presenter: Eric Kokonas, Senior Director, Sophos

3. Insure. Cybersecurity insurance transfers risk from you to your insurance provider. Explore the impact of risk management and mitigation efforts on policy offers and how to optimize your insurance position.
Presenter: Nick Little, Head of Insurance, Measured Cyber Insurance

Whatever your current situation, this webinar will help you better understand how to manage and mitigate cyber risk and achieve better business outcomes.

REGISTER **HERE** (https://event.sophos.com/event/4b0572a4-d838-43cb-95d3-de142a3b5768/regProcessStep1:5f04c700-ac63-474a-83b2-826024fbc61a)

Introducing NEWSELA LITE

Limited content. Enhanced features.

Newsela Lite is a new freemium experience for teachers providing access to 4 news articles that have been hand-selected by Newsela staff and enhanced by the standards, formative assessments, and grading features of Newsela's premium subject products.

It's the perfect introduction to all that Newsela has to offer.

With Newsela Lite, it is free for any teacher to:

- ☑ Access 4 pre-selected news articles at a time, offered at 5 reading levels

- ☑ See alignment to state ELA standards

- ☑ Assign, review, and respond to student quizzes, write prompts, and annotations
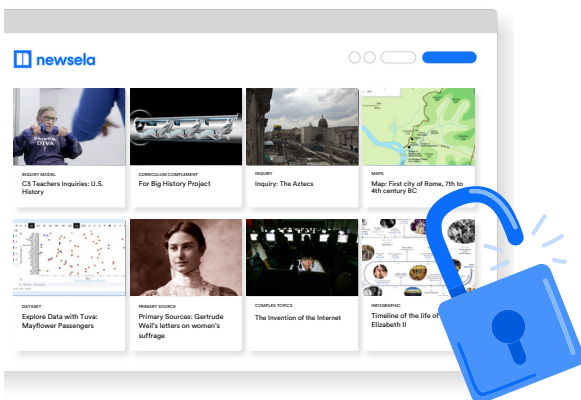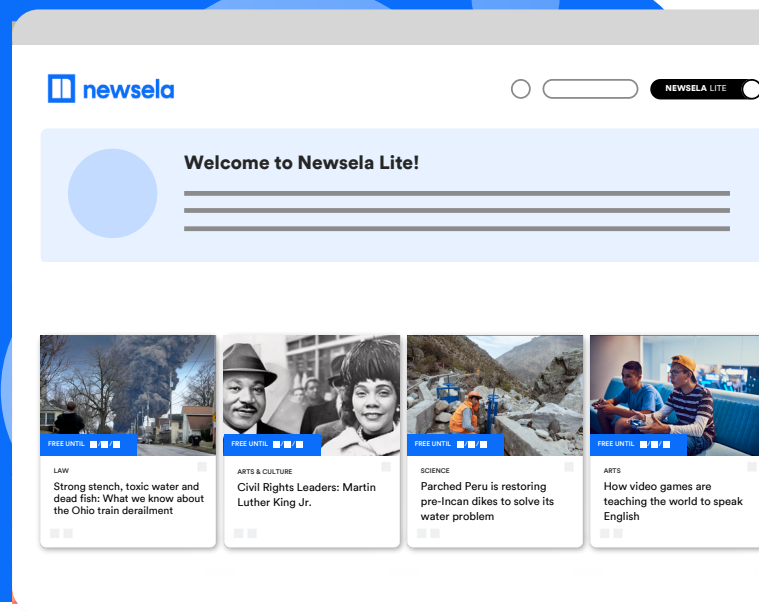
To unlock access to Newsela's full library of instructional resources, including more than 15,000 texts and videos and new content published daily across 20+ genres, talk to us about our premium subject products: Newsela ELA, Newsela Social Studies, and Newsela Science.

To learn more, please contact us.

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 2022-23
Dates to remember

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
March 14, 2024
May 9, 2024

Fall 2023 Conference: Impact ME!
October 12-13, 2023 at the Augusta Civic Center.

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

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

OVERDRIVE MOVING TO SORA

OverDrive 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

Vita Learn 4-State Purchasing Consortia

The consortia's goal is to get better pricing for districts of all sizes in our respective states by combining our license numbers and reducing purchasing cost for all.

PLEASE NOTE: ACTEM schools and districts should issue purchase orders to ACTEM for all consortia purchases. Invoices for ACTEM schools and districts will be issued by ACTEM and payable to ACTEM.

actem *Maine*
Association of Computer
Technology Educators of
PO BOX 187
GORHAM, ME 04038

HERE ARE THE OFFERINGS FOR ACTEM DISTRICTS THROUGH THE VITA-LEARN CONSORTIA:

SEESAW FOR SCHOOLS *The Seesaw platform encourages creativity and feedback that makes students excited to learn.*

Seesaw has altered how its platform, content, and services are bundled for the 2023-24 school year. The Seesaw Library (formerly known as Seesaw Lessons) is now part of the standard Seesaw For Schools solution.

The standard price for K12 schools for Seesaw has increased to $11.95/student. **The Vita-Learns Consortia price for 2023-24 is $5.75/student.**

Many ACTEM schools and districts purchased 3-year Seesaw licensing back in 2021. The 2023-24 school year is the final year of your Seesaw licensing. The good news is that the Seesaw Library has been turned on for all of the consortia at no extra cost.

ACTEM schools and districts need to submit your Seesaw order on this Vita-Learn website: https://vita-learn.org/seesaw/seesaw-order-form/

This Vita-Learn website will aggregate and collect all information necessary to set up your Seesaw licensing properly. All Seesaw orders will share the consortia licensing term of August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024.

KAMI *Annotate, collaborate and assess with Kami – the all-in-one learning platform.*

The standard price for K12 schools for Kami is $6 per user. Kami has asked us not to publish the Consortia pricing but schools and districts may request a quote by emailing director@actem.org Kami has established a 200 User minimum purchase for schools & districts.

All Kami orders will share the consortia licensing term: November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024.

Districts with current Kami licensing may have an additional pro-rated cost to adjust the licensing to the Consortia beginning term date of November 1st.

All Kami orders will be consolidated by the consortia on the Vita-Learn website at https://vita-learn.org/kami/

Edpuzzle *Edpuzzle enables you to create engaging learning experiences for your students and streamline video use across your school or district.*

The consortia is offering discounted pricing for Edpuzzle on district-wide licensing only. All Maine schools can receive a 5% discount off regular pricing for district licensing.

Many districts have been surprised that the district licensing pricing offered through the consortia. The pricing is extremely attractive and many are finding it less costly than licensing just one school.

You can request a district price quote for Edpuzzle here: https://vita-learn.org/edpuzzle-form/

WEVIDEO *WeVideo's movie maker can quickly turn your ideas, memories, presentations into awe-inspiring video content.*

The negotiated rates save consortium members up to 55% off the retail price. **The 2023-2024 Consortium Price is $4.50 per seat** All plans require a 30-seat minimum. The 2023-2024 consortium term will run from September 1, 2023 until

August 31, 2024. Depending on the date of purchase, new participants can get early access of up to four months. Schools and districts may request a quote by emailing director@actem.org Vita-Learn website will aggregate and collect all information necessary to set up your Seesaw licensing properly.

Orders may be placed anytime between May 1st through Dec. 31st, 2023. Orders may be submitted before May 1st, 2023 butnew subscriptions may not be active earlier than May 2023.

Renewal orders will be processed anytime which means that your expiration date will simply be extended to August 31, 2024. Vita-Learns is consolidating orders for the 3-State Consortia.

The WeVideo Order fom is located at the bottom of this webpage: https://vita-learn.org/wevideo/

SCREENCASTIFY *Built for schools Screencastify is designed from the ground up to be the safest, simplest video creation tool for teachers and students.*

Consortia School pricing is $57 per Teacher and $2 per student. Schools have a minimum purchase of $500. **Consortia District pricing is $50 per Teacher and $1 per student. Districts have a minimum purchase of $2,500.** Vita-Learns is consolidating orders for the 3-State Consortia. Go to the following website to submit an order: https://vita-learn.org/screencastify/order/

PLEASE NOTE: Some forms are hidden by a username/password on the Vita-Learn website. You will need to create an Institutional Membership to see pricing and forms. Membership for ACTEM district is at no cost. Complete the Vita-Learn Institutional Membership Form and use the coupon code: inst-actem-23 at checkout.

ReachMyTeach

As Mainers ourselves,

Reach My Teach is committed to strengthening Maine school communities with secure, accessible, and translated communication.
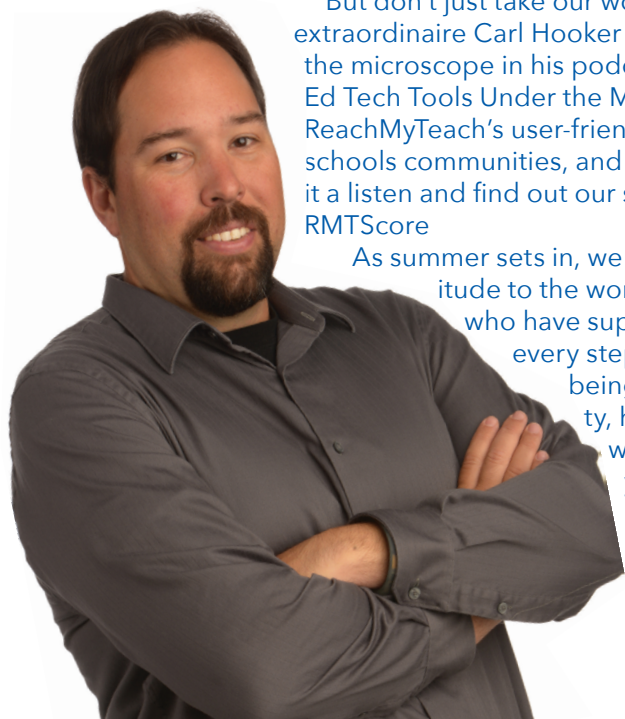
Thank you ACTEM for supporting our Maine-based business! Let us return the favor by supporting your school with ReachMyTeach's easy communication tools, designed to save you money and increase parent engagement. Enjoy texting for teachers, district alerts for superintendents, secure integration for technology directors, and seamless multilingual communication all for up to 30% off as an ACTEM member!

As a trusted vendor of TEC-Coop and the SDP Consortium, we prioritize data privacy and ease of use. Made by educators for educators, ReachMyTeach is user-friendly, making it easy to increase parent engagement in your district!

But don't just take our word for it! Technology extraordinaire Carl Hooker put ReachMyTeach under the microscope in his podcast The Search: Putting Ed Tech Tools Under the Microscope. He praised ReachMyTeach's user-friendly interface, impact on schools communities, and seamless integration; give it a listen and find out our score: https://tinyurl.com/RMTScore

As summer sets in, we want to express our gratitude to the wonderful ACTEM members who have supported and encouraged us every step of the way! Thank you for being such a fantastic community, hope you get lots of rest and we can't wait to connect with you all again soon!

(If you look closely you can see Dennis behind us)

~The ReachMyTeach Team

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
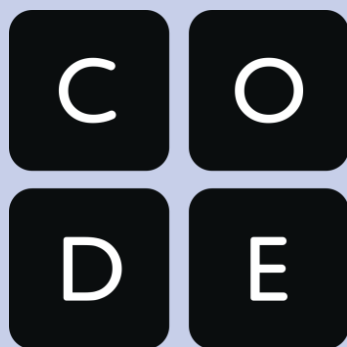## *Professional Development*

June 25-28, ISTE 2023 Conference, Philadelphia, PA

July 11-13, 2023 CSI Summer Institute, Sunday River, Newry, ME

July 24-28, 2023 Code.org 2023 Summer Institute, University of New England, Biddeford, ME

July 31-August 1, 2023 MEA Summer Conference. Holiday Inn By The Bay, Portland, ME

August 7-10, 2023 Maine Educator Summit, Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME

August 17, 2023 CS Education Showcase, UMaine - Orono

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

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

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

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

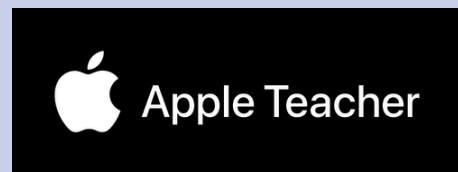**December 8, 2023** 2023 Annual Education Symposium – Educate Maine, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

Tech Sherpas http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml
Tuesdays at 3:00 pm.

#EdChatME
Mondays 8:30-9:30pm

Google Teacher Certifications
Become a Google Certified Educator
https://edutrainingcenter.withgoogle.com/certification

Maine: Become an Apple Teacher
http://www.apple.com/education/teachers

MLTI Professional Development

- **Apple Solutions:** http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml

- **HP Solution:** http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml

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