



## ACTEM 2021 Conference Report

ACTEM's Annual conference is an event that many Maine educators look forward to each fall. This year's version was held virtually this past October via the Hopin online event platform. Our original plan was that we would be back in-person at the Augusta Civic Center, but the Covid Delta variant changed our thinking and we decided that the best option for everyone in these uncertain times is to offer a virtual conference again this year.

Stephanie Cheney and Cheryl Oakes led the conference planning committee and fortunately for ACTEM these two ladies had experience with a virtual conference from just last year. As usual they put together an impressive variety of workshop sessions and keynote speakers for Maine educators.

The ACTEM board wanted to encourage as many educators as possible to attend this year's virtual fall conference. So... ACTEM offered the 2021 conference to members for FREE and asked non-member to join at the \$20 individual membership fee. This provided a quality professional development experience for Maine educators at a very low cost. ACTEM also adjusted the schedule to a 3:00–7:00 PM timeframe. This allowed people to attend after the normal workday without needing any subs. 100% of attendees responded in the survey that our conference was a good value.

The conference featured two dynamic keynote speakers, Michael Matera & Shreya Dave.

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.

Shreya graduated from MIT with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and currently serves as CEO of Via Separations. She is passionate about creating things, educating people, and improving energy efficiency. Her keynote included the important lessons that educators throughout her life have taught her.

Hopin, our virtual conference platform, provides a great deal of post-conference information. ACTEM had turnout of 204 people at the conference with an 81% turnout percentage which is above Hopin's average. Our attendees spent an average of 405 minutes at the conference. We had 141 attendees visit the stage for the keynotes. Over 160 people attended various workshop session and over 116 people visited the Expo Hall.



Over 50 people completed the post conference survey.

- 90% of respondents reported favorably that workshop sessions were relevant and contained information that can be used in their classrooms and schools.
- 74% of respondents would attend another virtual Hopin Conference this school year

- 76% responded they would watch the video recorded sessions. Cheryl Oakes, ACTEM 2021 conference co-chairs stated; “I’ve been watching many of the recorded sessions and so far they are all exceptional!
- Overall, very positive feedback on the conference!

A new piece added to the conference this year to encourage people to visit the Expo Hall was Vendor Bingo created by Susie Simmons, an ACTEM board and conference committee member. Vendor Bingo seemed to be very popular and was how our door prizes were determined this year (see article on ACTEM 2021 Door Winners).

If you missed the conference, most all workshops and the keynote are available online for ACTEM members. Just go to [www.actem.org](http://www.actem.org) and login with your email to see the recorded sessions. 79% of survey respondents stated they were likely to watch the recorded sessions that they were not able to attend live.

Some general comments from participants included:

- Thank you again for making ACTEM happen even during these challenging times. There is no other conference in Maine that I get as many take-always to apply in my classroom and teaching!
- Thank you for offering such a great and affordable conference! Although I really enjoy in-person sessions, there are definitely advantages to doing this conference virtually! I really enjoy being able to go back and watch sessions that I couldn't attend.
- Thank you!!! I loved the variety of session options- delighted to see some for Tech Coaches, too!
- Missed being in person.
- Thank you! Virtual is better than nothing but here's hoping we can be in person next year!

**Save the date:**

ACTEM 2022 – Oct. 13-14, 2022 at the Augusta Civic Center – Augusta, ME



**Congratulations to the ACTEM 2021 Conference  
Vendor Bingo Door Prize Winners**

**Vendor Bingo:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School - District</b>	<b>Door Prize</b>
Adam Meunier	MSAD 59 - Madison	LL Bean Chamois Shirt w/ACTEM Logo
Amanda Nguyen	Thomas College - Waterville	\$25 Amazon Gift Card
Ashley LaCroix	Kate Furbish Elementary - Brunswick	Crucial 500 GB portable SSD Drive
Betsey Noble	Marcia Buker Elementary School – RSU 2	Fire TV Stick 4K
Chris Beckwith	RSU 22 - Hampden	Nexigo 1080P Full HD Webcam
Jen Adams	Scarborough High School	Echo Show
JoEllen Clive	Wentworth School - Scarborough AOS 91 - Mount Desert Island Regional School System	\$50 Visa Gift Card
Josh Young		LL Bean Chamois Shirt w/ACTEM Logo
Martha Thibodeau	Mt. Blue Regional School District - Farmington	\$25 Apple & iTunes Gift Card
Rosie Del Tejo Williamson	Chelsea Elementary School - Chelsea	\$25 Amazon Gift Card
Susie Simmons	Bonny Eagle Middle School - Buxton	Wonder Workshop CUE Robot

**Door Prize drawn from attendees who completed the conference survey:**

Danielle Pelletier	CK Burns School - Saco	\$50 LL Bean Gift Certificate
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**Door Prize Provided by Pro AV Systems:**

Eric Lawson	York School Department	Apple TV 4K
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