A message from the
PRESIDENT
Michael Richards, Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D

I have come to learn that journeys start one step at a time and we have to be willing to move out of our comfort zone. That one step outside of our comfort zone can be scary but sometimes it has to be made with the hope that something wonderful might occur.

This year's conference was taking a step outside of the comfort zone that ACTEM has been used to for years by making #ACTEM14 a two-day conference, mixing in some 3-hours sessions among the 1-hour sessions, and having the Educator and Leader of the Year recognized on

> "Move out of your comfort zone. You can only grow if you are willing to feel awkward and uncomfortable when you try something new."
> ~ Brian Tracy

Michael Richards,
ACTEM President

Learning Through Technology Educators

Maine DOE Newsroom
Posted on October 16, 2014
by Education Commissioner Jim Rier

Last week, I had the opportunity to spend two full days at the annual conference of the Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine (ACTEM). To say I was impressed and inspired by what I experienced would be an understatement. Maine has long been looked to as a national leader when it comes to integrating technology in the classroom and the energy and expertise I saw in the hundreds of technology educators at the conference proved why.

I was especially impacted by the session I attended entitled "A Day in the iPad Empowered Elementary Classroom." To see how Maine educators are using technology to change the way they teach students is almost as exciting as seeing how students –
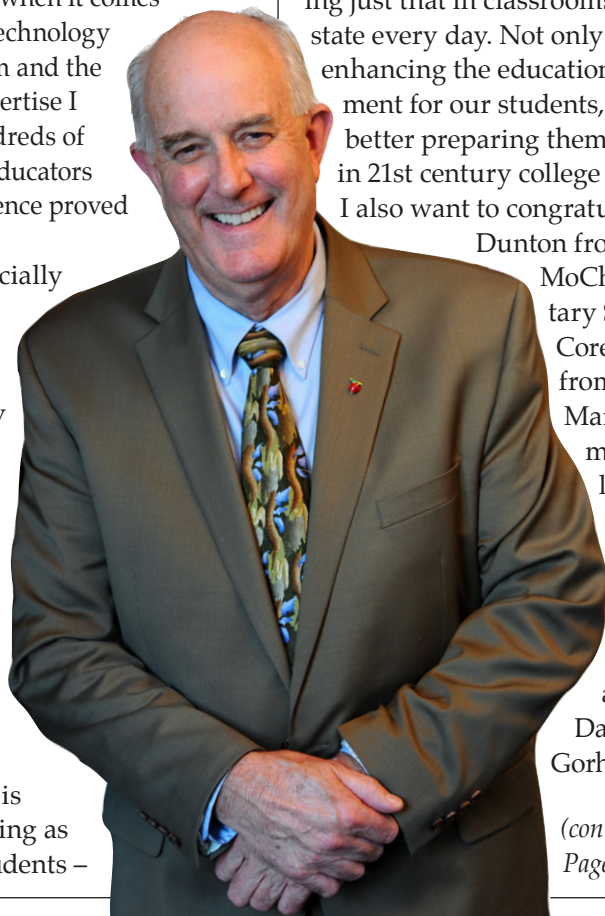
including those only in Kindergarten – are responding.

Maine kids are being engaged and empowered as leaders in their own learning through these new tools in ways that many adults like me can't even imagine. It is critical we keep up with their appetite and aptitude by finding innovative ways to leverage technology to continue to improve not just the experience of our students but their academic achievement.

I want to thank Maine's many technology educators who are doing just that in classrooms across the state every day. Not only are you enhancing the educational environment for our students, but you are better preparing them for success in 21st century college and careers. I also want to congratulate Jessica Dunton from SeDoMoCha Elementary School and Corey Norman from Southern Maine Community College who received ACTEM's Educator of the Year awards and Terri Dawson from Gorham Middle

Education Commisioner
(Continued from Page 1)

School and Deborah Barrows from A.R. Gould School who received ACTEM's Technology Leader of the Year awards. I look forward to personally working much more closely with our state's many talented technology educators and making sure they are at the table as we move ahead on critical initiatives that will create better outcomes for Maine students including the transition to a computerized State assessment that will first be administered next spring.

Just as Maine schools are committed to leveraging technology to meaningfully transform teaching and learning, so are we at the Maine DOE. Many of you may be surprised to learn that there is actually no "MLTI Team" at the Department. Rather, we have a Learning Through Technology (LTT) Team that not only oversees the deployment of 70,000 laptops and tablets in Maine schools for MLTI, but also brings online Advanced Placement courses to hundreds of Maine high school students, provides dozens of technology related professional development sessions and relevant resources to Maine educators including school librarians, advances distance learning opportunities and so much more.

Moving forward, we are working to better integrate that team's work into the Maine DOE's larger academic efforts so all Maine kids have access to anywhere, anytime learning. To help make those important connections across Maine

> "To say I was impressed and inspired by what I experienced would be an understatement."
>
> *Education Commissioner Jim Rier*

and across our Department is Sherry Wyman, who I have just named as the Acting Director of the LTT Team.

Sherry has been a School Library Media Specialist in Maine for more than 20 years. She was a former MLTI Teacher Leader and has also provided a number of Professional Development offerings for Maine educators through the Sebago Educational Alliance and ACTEM. Many of you have gotten to know Sherry well since she joined the Department last year as our School Library/Technology Integration Coordinator, which combined her library background with organizing MLTI's ongoing professional development offerings. In that work, her goal has been to strengthen school library programming by supporting, consulting, and connecting teacher librarians with 21st Century technologies, promoting leadership and quality instruction, and advocating the value and importance of the school librarian/library in every Maine school, and she'll continue to do that in her new role.

As we work to better incorporate learning technology into the Department and define the expectations of the next permanent LTT Team Director we will soon begin the search for, we we want to hear from you. If you have any feedback on how the Department can better support learning technology and the educators who leverage it, please contact Sherry at sherry.wyman@maine.gov or connect with me directly at commish.doe@maine.gov.

ACTEM Mini Conference 2015

ACTEM offered it's first ever Mini-conference last year during February vacation week at South Portland High School. This initial conference brought out over 40 educators from around Maine on a snowy day in February for some intensive PD on Google, iPads, Common Core and more. The ACTEM board has decided to offer and hopefully expand the Mini-conference for 2015.

The idea of this mini-conference is to offer workshop sessions on a limited number of timely topics that were popular and well attend at the recent ACTEM 2014 conference. This year we are expanding sessions to include a strand for the technical staff at Maine schools.

ACTEM is offering this mini-conference on a vacations week as we have heard that many teachers and staff are unable to get time off when school is in session. The vacation timeframe also eliminates the need for subs that are sometime difficult to arrange for teachers.

The ACTEM 2015 Mini-conference will occur in two locations. Both locations will offer the same workshop topics.

The southern Mini-Conference will be at South Portland High School on Feb. 17, 2015 (snow date Feb. 18th).

The central/northern Mini-Conference will be held at Hampden Academy on Feb. 19, 2015 (snow date Feb. 20th).

Registration will open by the second week of December and will be posted on the ACTEM website, on the list serve and announced through an email blast to all members.

Two 3-hour workshop sessions (morning & afternoon) will be offered at the mini-conference so attendees will generally choose two topics to attend during the mini-conference. A full day Google Certification Workshop will also be held at both locations.

Confirmed workshop sessions include the following: Google Certification Workshop (Full day), The Google Classroom, Digging Deep into Google Sites, Digging Deep into Google Drive, The iPad Empowered Classroom, Cisco Meraki Networking and Mobile Device Management.

ACTEM 2015 CROSS CENTER INSURANCE In Bangor

Save the date for the ACTEM 2015 conference on October 15 &16th at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

The annual conference is moving north after many years at Augusta at the Civic Center. The plan is to rotate the conference between Augusta & Bangor yearly.

The Cross Insurance Center is a beautiful spacious, new facility that offers many possibilities to *"reboot and reimagine"* the 28th ACTEM conference. Put the date on your calendars now and look for the release of additional information in the near future.

December Trivia Question

Who was recognized with the John Lunt Award at ACTEM 2014?

Go to www.actem.org to submit your answer. All correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a $25 American Express Gift Card. The deadline to submit answers is January 15, 2015.

Winner for September Trivia Question
Rosie Del Tejo Williamson
From Winthrop Schools.

The question was "What are the two important developments in Technology for K-12 Education listed in the 2014 Horizon Report: K-12 Edition with a Time-to-Adoption: horizon of one year or less? The correct answer was "BYOD and Cloud Computing." Rosie won a $25 L.L Bean gift card.

TERRI DAWSON FINALIST TECHNOLOGY LEAD OF THE YEAR

If anyone needs Terri Dawson, she might be dancing.

Students and teachers at Gorham Middle School are frequently engaged in new and exciting technology. Don't have technology? No problem. Dawson will help you write a grant to bring new tech into the classroom. Can't use what you already have? No problem. Dawson will swing through for some one-on-one time with the technologically inept.
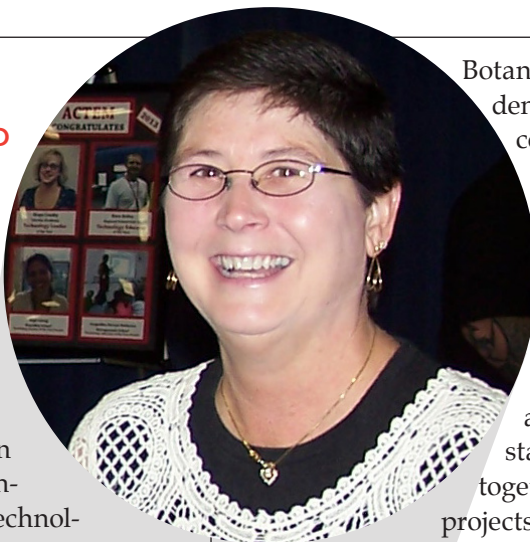
Dawson is not just a resource for teachers. She holds weekly meetings for the iTeam, a group of students dedicated to learning more about technology. The iTeam helps out teachers, programs new technology and cares for existing technology. Throughout the year, Dawson teaches students Digital Citizenship.

Beyond the walls of Gorham Middle School, Dawson assists other Districts. For the past few years, she has helped organize, schedule and run the Sebago Alliance TechCamp for both students and teachers.

Aware that technology changes fast, she works tirelessly to break new ground and to keep a couple of steps ahead of the kids! She is always willing to try new things, and if that doesn't work the first time, to keep going until she finds the right approach.

Dawson pairs multiple class rooms in and out of the district with each other for projects for writing and art, coordinating the curriculum with multiple teachers. Kids learned new technology and had fun.

Dawson is not limited to wires and screens. This fall she will be piloting a project with the Coastal Botanical Gardens, and is a co-awardee of the Lunder *New Naturalist Grant*. This grant encourages schools across the state to work together on projects that combine local ecology in science classes with social studies topics. About that dancing…throughout the year, Dawson organizes multiple "Tech Dances" where students not only dance, but participate in electronic "adventures" with each other, engaging students and increasing school morale. She talks with students about new games and apps and websites. Dawson is approachable for students and teachers and her enthusiasm contagious. Technology is fun. And so is Terri Dawson.

COREY NORMAN, FINALIST, EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Not all students learn well from a book," says Corey Norman finalist for Educator of the Year. If anyone has the expertise to leap from a page to another medium, it's Norman. And the leap is onto "The Big Screen".

Serving double duty at Southern Maine Community College as the Division Chair of Business and Information Technology and Department Chair of Communications and New Media, Norman uses film and visual media to teach across the intelligences.

As a professional filmmaker, Norman integrates a variety of different technologies into the classroom. Everyday lectures are punctuated with slideshows and video based content. But Norman takes things one step further. Looking at current trends, like cell phone useage, Norman and his students find apps that can be utilized within the classroom to help them stay engaged with the source material. At the same time, the students are learning to use valuable tools that they can continue to use outside the classroom.

But Norman's main focus is creating media using modern technology. Students are taught to research subject matter, pre-compose, peer edit, then execute through the use of a technological medium.

Students in the Advanced Production class must also launch a successful crowdfunding campaign for their films through sites like Kickstarter or Indiegogo. To be effective at completing their funding, students must also use social media platforms like FaceBook, Twitter and Instagram to create a larger awareness of their campaign.

After the research, the fund raising and the production comes Maine May-hem. Held every May for the past four years, Maine May-hem is SMCC's very own film festival showcasing senior projects. Norman began the festival to give the students the opportunity to bring their work to the larger community. SMCC takes over the Nickelodeon Cinemas in Portland, and sells out two screenings each year. Due to the popularity, the event was expanded this past May with the addition of a second venue at the Magic Lantern in Bridgton.

"The best part," says Norman, "is all the proceeds go to an

Spot Light on our Best

By Sarah Harriman

area charity." Past charities include Camp Sunshine and the American Red Cross.

Norman has not left behind his professional roots as a filmmaker. He was associate producer of several episodes of the History Channel series "Deep Sea Detective," and assistant editor of the Emmy Award winning NOVA special "Bioterror." He has released feature films through Bonfire, a Maine based production company.

"As an educator who teaches a technological trade, I find it's extremely important to stay up to date on the newest technologies and trends. That's why I continue to work as a professional filmmaker outside the classroom," Norman says. "With the speed in which technology changes, I never want to be left in a position where I cannot answer my students' questions."

DEBORAH BARROWS, TECH LEADER OF THE YEAR

To many people, these are throw-away children. They attend the A.R. Gould school because they are residents at the Long Creek Youth Development Center; in other words, they are juvenile offenders. However, even with a focus on rehabilitation and preparing residents for a productive future, modern technology was not always available to teachers and students.

Enter Deborah Barrows.

Barrows had a vision for A.R. Gould and the students who attended: computer and technology access. Starting at zero, Barrows managed to procure Smartboards for the classroom. She wrangled money for 1-1 computer access for students.

Not satisfied with that acheivement, Barrows held staff development meetings to teach instructors how to integrate all this new-fangled technology into their classrooms. And to be sure she drove the point home, Barrows registered and coordinated for the entire staff to attend the 2013 ACTEM conference.

Appropriate internet resources are a challenge for a traditional school; when the school population is at risk, the challenge doubles. Barrows, though, not only brought the internet safely to A.R. Gould, but she is constantly scanning websites, and sending links to classroom teachers for their use.

Barrows, again never satisfied, continues to train and learn through conferences and other resources. She brings back new information, and trains staff on what she has learned.

Jim Boisvert, Principal, said, "Deb is very much student centered." This approach for this small population of kids who many have already given up on has led to great success. "Deb evens the playing field for our students." For students who already start with deficits, Barrows' work can make all the difference.

JESSICA DUNTON, EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

With a name like SeDoMaCha Elementary School, expect things to be different. Nestled in rural Piscataquis County, rather far from the beaten path, third graders explore the Bronx Zoo and the Houston Space Center, all without leaving the classroom. And standing at this virtual door to the wide world beyond is Jessica Dunton, ACTEM's Educator of the Year.

"Jessica is a pioneer in the world of distance learning," states David Bridges, the Technology Coordinator for RSU 68. Once she learned of the school's Tandberg video conferencing system, she utilized the system to it's fullest, with virtual visits to far away places, and interactive activities such as presenting Reader's Theatre to audiences states away. Dunton actively collaborates with other school systems, increasing SeDoMaCha's telepresence in the education community at large. Her involvement has been so influential that she is called on locally and nationally for presentations in promoting telepresence integration.

Closer to home, Dunton has sought new and innovative ways to

ACTEM 2014 is now in the history books and it proved to be a successful endeavor to "Reboot and Reimagine" our annual conference. We had 428 responses to the ACTEM 2014 Conference Survey, here is what attendees said about the conference: **SHARING**: The conference facilitated knowledge sharing among participants: 96.9% Agreed or Strongly Agreed. **NETWORKING**: I found new contacts and opportunities for future collaboration: 85% Agreed or Strongly Agreed. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**: The conference was a valuable professional development experience for me: 95% Agreed or Strongly Agreed. **USEFUL INFORMATION:** I learned material that will be helpful to me in better performing my job responsibilities: 94.8 Agreed or Strongly Agreed. **TOPICS** -- The session topics were important and timely: 94.6 Agreed or Strongly Agreed.

Some comments from the survey about what you liked most...
• The variety of session options.
• The fact that I learned new ideas that I can bring back to my classroom right away.
• I am always able to take things to apply to our building learning. LOVE **real teachers teaching teachers** with examples.
• 1/2 day sessions were a great addition. It gave time to work and complete projects.
• The eclectic mix of teachers, technology staff, and presenters were a wonderful collaboration of people. That brought about great discussions and interesting points to bring back and apply in the classroom.
• Knowledgeable presenters, quality facility, well organized, exposure to SO MUCH new information and technology.

What You Said

amazonsmile

As a nonprofit organization, ACTEM is qualified to have donations from *Amazon Smile*. You shop the same way as usual at Amazon, with one change: you choose a nonprofit to donate to and setup your Amazon account to do that automatically. *Amazon Smile* does not cost you a penny but .5% of your purchase (most items qualify) is donated to ACTEM. You pay the same price, Amazon makes the donation on your behalf.

So, please go to **smile.amazon.com** and sign up to have ACTEM as your charitable organization and then shop on! It's that easy! Thank you for supporting us and allowing us to keep supporting all of you.

DOE News

The Learning Through Technology (LTT) Team has been working diligently to support the implementation of the spring MEA/SBAC Online Assessments and recently joined the Assessment team in presenting at the Maine Principal's Association conference in Portland. Current MLTI devices have passed User Acceptance Testing and we will continue to work with Smarter Balanced to provide support to schools that have devices that fall outside of MLTI IV.

Please do not hesitate to email the Project if you have questions about technology.

Members of the LTT Team recently attended SETDA's Leadership Summit and Educational Technology Forum in Arlington, VA with other State Leads. Members of the team also attended MICDL's Scandinavian Research Institute in Brunswick as well as the Leveraging Learning Conference in Auburn. The ongoing work and dedication in Maine schools to transform teaching and learning is remarkable. The Department appreciates the commitment Maine Educators and ACTEM members have in preparing our students for the 21st Century and engaging Maine students who are at the center of a networked world.

Wear a Sense of Humor

Want some really cool technology apparel? You can find these at: www.cafepress.com/ACTEM A portion of every purchase goes toward ACTEM *(which is a non profit organization)*. This money helps to fund professional development opportunities for members across the state.

Doretta Prior Honored with *John Lunt Friend of Technology Award*

Vince pointed out to me the other day, that he's never known me to be speechless, and I rarely am, but at ACTEM 2014, that is how I found myself. So belated as it is, I'd like to say now what I "wished" I had said then.

First and foremost, thank you for bestowing upon me such a wonderful honor. I am humbled by your acknowledgement and by the wonderful things that Crystal said about me at the conference. Did anyone get that in writing? I have friends and relatives that will never believe she was talking about me.

Thirteen years ago I found myself blessed to fall into a job that seemed to have all the elements of a job custom made for me. It taxed the knowledge I'd been building for the previous 20 years in the tech industry, it gave me the ability to add to that knowledge and satisfied my need to "manage" things. And, oh yes, spreadsheets, lots and lots of spreadsheets, the staple of my life, both on the job and at home.

As I came up to speed with the tech knowledge, I found it fascinating that I was in a position that while I rarely left the office during the job, I could travel all over the state and touch so many people. I took ownership of that. When I'd be out driving around the state, I bored my husband with the details. "Hey, that's such-n-such school or library." Then I'd tell him who the tech person was there, the type and speed of their circuit and if they had any troubles

that I had to help solve, as of late. One day, after suffering through years of this, he replied dryly "of course you do." That's when I started backing off the verbal recitations and did it mentally from there on.

I could never have done what I did for all of you without the "guys upstairs." I'm talking about the *NetworkMaine* professionals that supported me. They are the best in the business and they made me look good. When I got to the end of what I could do, I'd gather all of my facts and walk up the stairs for a face to face with one of these overworked professionals. They always made time for me. I've worked places in the past where the people with the knowledge would not share how they found the answers for fear of losing job security. That is not how it works at *NetworkMaine.* They were more than willing to teach me what they could. I suppose they figured it would cut down on the face to face chats in the future, and it did.

While the "guys upstairs" made me look good to all of you, I took it upon myself to make you look good in the eyes of your organizations. Over the years I made sure the NOC support staff knew it was their job as well. It is my fondest hope that when you decide to retire, your organizations will honor you the way that you honored me and if I could have had even a small hand in helping you along the way to achieve that, I will have done my job.
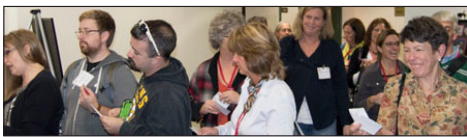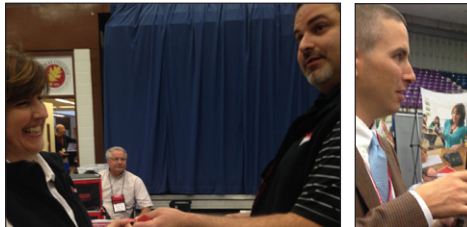
Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all of your warm wishes and accolades. 'Till we meet again,

Doretta Prior, NetworkMaine Retiree

deliver content to her students. She developed her own workflow for recording live teaching sessions and posting them to her very own YouTube channel. She has taught students to write collaboratively with Google Drive, and use online resources such as Khan Academy for math, and Spelling City for language support.

Aware that parents are often running to catch up with new technology, Dunton has hosted after-school parent sessions to teach parents the value of this new technology, and how to access the technology at home. One parent expressed awe for her daughter's digital literacy: The printer at home was broken, and Mom thought this would be a problem for the daughter's finishing her homework. The daughter quickly explained that it was "no big deal" because the work had already been shared to Dunton through Google Drive. Additionally, Dunton maintains a website with up-to-date activities and assignments that parents can easily access for information.

Not wishing to leave out fellow staff member from her Technological Revolution, Dunton constantly provides support to colleagues. She voluntarily holds professional development sessions for her colleagues throughout the year. She is well known for her "open door" policy for staff and students, and colleagues find her approachable, no matter how mundane the request. David Bridges credits Dunton for the increased effectiveness of digital learning tools in SeDoMoCha Elementary.

"Jessica recognizes the value of digital learning tools … and actively promotes and supports their use throughout our district and beyond," Bridges states.

Small school, big ideas, opening the virtual door to the wide world outside of rural Maine. Step right in! Miss Dunton has got the door.

Free Content to Support Tech Learning in K-12!

Safari Books is working in partnership with O'Reilly Media to provide students across America with free online access to every current book and video course from O'Reilly. This $100 million commitment offers high-quality content perfect for sparking and supporting an interest in technology, learning to code, and a range of STEM careers. Nationwide access will be offered to students and teachers in three phases:

- June 2014: The first 500 high school students who registered at Safari for Schools received beta access for the summer.
- September 2014: Every high school student in the US can sign up for online access.
- January 2015: Every K-12 student (and every K-12 teacher) in the US can sign up for online access.

https://www.safaribooksonline.com/connected/

Two New Products now Available through ACTEM

Nearpod and Network Security Group are now available at discounted prices through ACTEM. **Nearpod** is a classroom collaboration tool that allow instructors to create their own custom, interactive presentations and push them onto student's mobile devices. As students interact with the presentation, instructors receive real-time assessment on their iPad. Post-session reports can also be accessed online, anytime. Check it out online at http://www.nearpod.com

ACTEM is pleased to offer Maine schools the MLTI contracted pricing for Nearpod.

Network Security Group, which is ESET Anti-Virus' largest reseller, has a strategic alliance with ACTEM for Maine schools K-12 security needs for anti-virus, malware protection.

Schools in New England have switched over to ESET due to it's small footprint, minimal impact on system resources, and proactive approach to detecting virus and malware threats.

Network Security Group in coordination with ACTEM can provide an Evaluation license, Product information, and WebEx demonstration for Maine Schools to help evaluate ESET as an anti-virus solution.

The Hour of Code

The week of December 8th is Computer Science Education Week. Many schools in Maine (175 events at the time of this article http://hourofcode.com/us/events/all/us/me) are taking on this challenge. For one hour during the week of the 8th, K-12 classes will be committing to programming in some way. There are both "plugged in" programming opportunities as well as "unplugged" programming opportunities to fit each classroom's needs.

In Central Maine, RSU #74 will have all K-12 students participate during that week. K-8 will all have an hour of programming as a separate activity added to their schedule. 9-12 will have their hour of code built into their math classes. Students in all schools, Garret Schenck Elementary School in Anson, Carrabec Community School and Carrabec High School both in North Anson, and Solon Elementary School in Solon will be participating. That is over 600 students total in K-12!

In Southern Maine, two of the K-5 schools in South Portland will have their students use laptops and iPads to complete their hour of code. South Portland is also hosting a "Day of Code." This day will be a free event on a Saturday, allowing students to dig deeper into Scratch, different apps on code.org and Hopscotch. A couple of software engineers from Kepware Technologies in Portland have agreed to volunteer their time on a Saturday after Small and Brown Schools' Library Integrator Corinne Altham reached out to the company via Facebook. They have invited 4/5th graders from across the city. Frances Palmer-Sheehy will be giving a presentation to 4th and 5th graders at Kaler and Dyer schools to get them excited about the Saturday programming opportunity. Stephanie Baltos will be using Kodable and Light Bot with 2nd graders at Skillin School.

Memorial Middle School in South Portland will have every student complete their Hour of Code using Hopscotch. They will have classroom teachers doing this activity with some of the classes and Sarah Glatz the technology integration teacher will be offering support to the remaining classes. There will also be an after school programming session targeted specifically toward girl coders.

At Mahoney Middle School In South Portland, a guest software engineer, Paul Lefebvre, will visit and lead the students through some of the activities. Technology integrator Steve Koelker will work with grades 6 and 8 that week to get their hour of code in also.

At the 9-12 level, students in Julie York's programming class will be supporting other classes as they program for their hour. District technician Ben Pinault will also be presenting a large group lesson for anyone interested in grabbing their ipad and joining in.

What is the Future Ready Schools Initiative?

The Future Ready Schools Initiative is a bold new effort to maximize digital learning opportunities and help school districts move quickly toward preparing students for success in college, a career, and citizenship. The initiative provides districts with resources and support to ensure that local technology and digital learning plans align with instructional best practices, are implemented by highly trained teachers, and lead to personalized learning experiences for all students, particularly those from traditionally under-served communities.

At the center of the initiative is a series of regional summits where district teams will develop action plans and metrics to measure their progress in using digital tools to improve teaching and student learning outcomes. The summits will focus on a comprehensive set of issues that drive student learning, will highlight the experiences of districts in each region, and will offer district leaders tangible ways to build capacity among their teams and throughout their districts.

The Alliance for Excellent Education and the U.S. Department of Education are leading this initiative with the support of the Leading Education by Advancing Digital (LEAD) Commission and a vast coalition of organizations.

Why now?
This initiative comes at a critical time as districts embrace college and career readiness as the goal for all students and recognize the potential of digital tools to help teachers personalize learning for each student. While less than 30 percent of U.S. schools have the bandwidth they need to teach using today's technology, federal and state efforts are expanding this capacity to ensure that at least 99 percent of the nation's students have access to high-speed internet in their schools within the next five years. Such connectivity, along with strategic planning by districts to maximize its availability, has the potential to transform the educational experiences of all students, regardless of their background.

District leaders must respond to these changes with thoughtful planning to align necessary technologies with instructional goals to support teaching and learning. Check it out at http://futurereadyschools.org
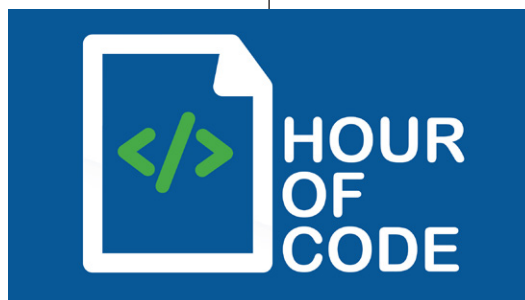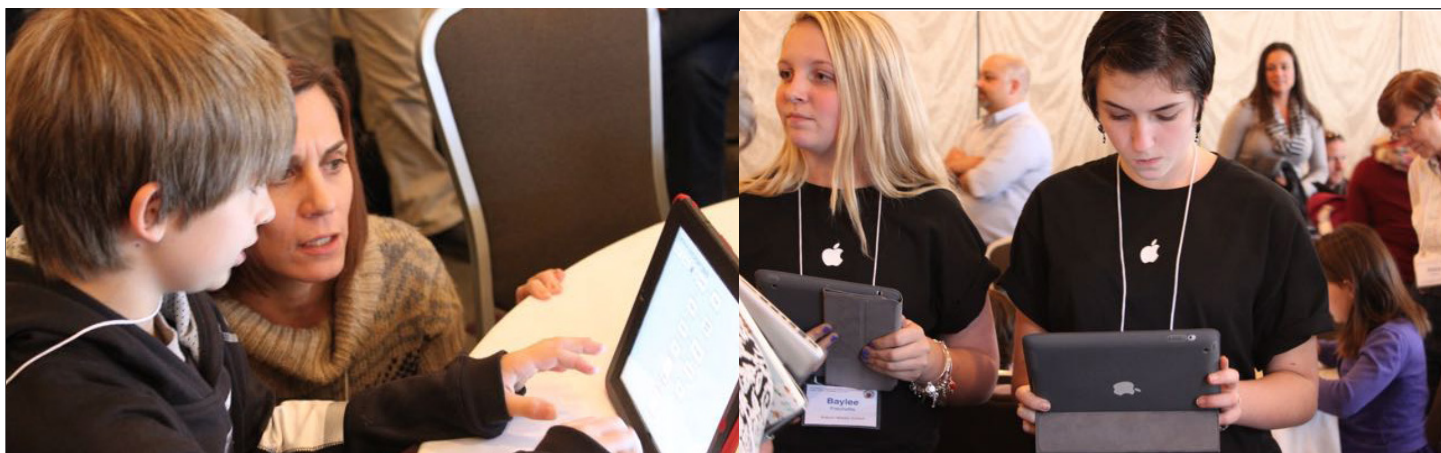
Auburn's Leveraging Learning Institute Huge Success with International Audience

by Mike Muir, Auburn Schools, Multiple Pathways Director

When Auburn's 16 kindergarten teachers, including Amy Heimerl and Joanna Wallingford, first gave their students iPads four years ago, they probably knew that they were trailblazers. But they certainly didn't realize how the work they and their fellow teachers did would contribute to preparing primary grade teachers from all over the world to teach with iPads. Auburn has taken what their teachers have learned about iPads as a tool for learning, organized it into an annual conference, and has helped train and prepare educators from across Maine and the country.

The Leveraging Learning Institute: iPads in the Primary Grades (http://institute2014.auburnschl.edu) was held in Auburn from November 12-14. This year, the audience included educators from around the world, in particular 8 educators from Sweden.

"We have hosted Swedish educators for school visits in the past," says Mike Muir, Auburn Schools' Multiple Pathways Director, "and we have been told that they feel their professional education is not complete until they come to Maine to see how we do 1:1 learning with technology." But this is the first year that a contingent have attended Auburn's conference. Muir says they were thrilled for the opportunity to network with these teachers and learn from their international perspective.

This is the fourth year Auburn Schools has hosted the Leveraging Learning Institute. From November 12 to 14, approximately 140 educators came to the Hilton Garden Inn Riverwatch in Auburn. This year's theme: Reach for the Top - iPad as a Tool for Creation. In addition to Scandinavia, participants came from Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New York, and Maine. Several Maine districts sent relatively large teams of 7 to 30 participants.

Some of these are districts Auburn regularly collaborates with on customized, proficiency-based learning. Superintendent Katy Grondin says, "As a district, we're working to find ways to customize learning for all our students and help them succeed educationally. Our iPads are a major way we're doing this in the primary grades. We are excited to support other districts that are looking to customize learning and leverage the iPad as a wonderful and effective addition to the collection of educational resources we're providing our teachers. By offering a conference like Leveraging Learning, we have an opportunity to network, strengthen relationships with other districts, and build new relationships with schools we hope to learn from and work with."

The conference looks to help other districts learn best practices in leadership, professional development, instruction and assessment, technical support, and the use of data and research.

Another hallmark of the Institute is the army of Auburn Middle School students who attend and tweet the sessions. These student reporters support each other as editors, as well as spread the message from each session using the hashtag "adv2014. "The adult attendees seem surprised each year at the quality of the student-driven twitter feed, but we're used to it!" says AMS Tech Integrator, Carl Bucciantini, who coaches the group. The students not only share details from sessions, but also help bring a student perspective and voice to the session content with tweets such as:

Mrs. Dufour's classroom has so many learning tools that I never had when I was their age that would've helped a lot!

Research supports that students can interact with technology at early

ages, they understand, we just need to understand them.

Since the technology keeps changing, we have to too. Ending our last session soon. Sad it is ending, but I have learned a lot and can't wait to share my knowledge on iPad technology! I wish I had digital learning when I was younger, it would have helped to go at my own pace and to customize.

And led to other Twitter users responding to their feed with tweets like, "Auburn Middle School students are blowing the doors off Leveraging Learning with their tweets! So awesome! Thank you!" In 2013, the AMS Tweeters were recognized as an Exemplary Program by the Maine Association for Middle Level Education.

Auburn School Department made world news in the Summer of 2011 when they announced they were providing all incoming kindergarten students with Apple iPads. Research conducted in the fall of 2011 revealed that kindergarten students who used iPads made greater gains in literacy when compared to a control group of students who did not use iPads.

Sue Dorris, building administrator at East Auburn Community School, explains, "We are seeing high levels of student motivation, engagement and learning in iPad classrooms. The apps, which teach and reinforce fundamental concepts and skills, are engaging, interactive and provide children with immediate feedback. What's more, teachers can customize instruction to match the needs of each child, so students are able to learn successfully at their own level and pace."

After the successful first year of implementation, Auburn has expanded the program one grade level per year. Now, each student in grades K through 3 has an iPad to use for learning. Auburn's primary grades iPad initiative has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Program.

Top Ten Tips for New Tech Integrators

By Lydia Leimbach
From " Teacher Tech" blog

New to the job? You are in good company. Many schools have hired integrators and given them keys, a parking space, and a little guidance as to how to do the job. This page will serve as a starting point to doing your job well. Feel free to add your ideas and questions in the comments at the bottom of the page.

1. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

You have a unique opportunity to be able to spend time with teachers in a relaxed setting. Make appointments to go into their classrooms and watch them teach. Learn about their strengths and passions- both in and out of the classroom. Learn their teaching styles and talk to them about their comfort levels in trying something new. This information will be essential in helping them use technology. You may need to begin by reaching out to their personal interests. Do they have a child in college? Teach them to use iChat to stay in contact with them. Are they photographers? Help them use iPhoto. Introduce them to iTunes and the many podcasts that are available for their listening pleasure. Sometimes the best way in is through the open door.

2. MEET WITH STUDENTS

Go where the students are. Hang out at a cafeteria table and have lunch with the kids. Ask them how THEY see the laptops being used in the classroom. Then listen without thinking "yeah, but…" They have great ideas.

3. GET RID OF ASSUMPTIONS- & DON'T LISTEN TO GOSSIP.

You will hear via the grapevine that so and so doesn't use technology… or won't work with others…and the list goes on. Don't listen. Learn to look at staff members through a different lens- the one that has students at the center. Teachers that are resistant to using technology are often very protective of their students' time. They don't have any time to waste, and often have less time to try to figure out what will work beyond what they already do. Which leads us to…

4. BE PREPARED

Nothing will turn a teacher away from a technology faster than wasting a class period on something that you think is great…but you haven't properly vetted. Create a "sandbox" situation where you can actually work through a project from start to finish – and if you are handing out directions to use, be sure that you try these as well to make sure you haven't forgotten something. Do this IN YOUR BUILDING so you don't have to worry about blocked sites and network issues. Your access from home may differ from what you can do in school. Include students in your efforts whenever possible.

5. FOLLOW THE KISS STRATEGY

KISS stands for "Keep it Simple, Silly." Not all integration needs to be rocket science. In fact, some of the best integration can work in the background. Subscribing to RSS feeds, having notifications delivered via text message, and using stickies to take notes doesn't feel "fancy" but can be very effective in improving teaching and learning.

6. FOCUS ON THE LEARNING

It's easy to get excited about the newest, greatest tool. Keep in mind that a tool is only as good as the work it helps us produce. A colorful hammer might be more engaging to use…but it's still a hammer. Use existing models like SAMR, a model developed by Dr. Reuben Puentedera. This simple to follow model can be a great guide in

moving use of technology forward in your community. The goal with this model is to move from the bottom upwards…reaching first for the modification level with an eventual goal of transformation. (I'd highly recommend watching Dr. Puentadera's entire presentation: Transformation, Technology and Education)

7. EVALUATE SUCCESS

Knowing what successful integration will look like is very important. What is the goal of using the technology? Is it to gain engagement? Improve differentiation? Aid literacy? How will you measure the effect the technology has on learning? Knowing what a tool is supposed to do, and being able to evaluate the effectiveness of the tool is imperative. It should also be a starting point for developing the integration project. I generally begin the discussion of integrating technology with the question "What do you want your students to know as a result of this project?"

8. LOOK AT OBSTACLES AS OPPORTUNITIES

Do teachers have trouble with kids using cell phones during class? Is Facebook a distraction? Turn your enemies into your friends. If this is what kids want to use, find ways to let them- for classroom use. There are social networking sites that can be used in school and controlled by the teacher. Research ways others have used these popular tools and see if they will work for you. Work closely with your IT team to see how you can make your ideas work given your network parameters.

9. JOIN A PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

There are many, many blogs and communities out there that will help you do your job. These professional communities are made up of educators like you willing to engage in conversations. You can post questions and add suggestions. They have a WEALTH of good information. Here are three of my favorites:
• Classroom20.com
• Tech 4 Maine
• Edutim – Tim Hart's Blog

10. FORGIVE YOURSELF

Not everything you do will be a success. How you handle your failures will set an important tone with teachers. Understanding that mistakes are part of learning, and using those mistakes to create better work is what we expect from our students- why would we expect less from ourselves? When teachers see you as human, they relate better to you. Laugh and learn!

ISTE 2015

Dates: June 28-July1 2015
Cost of Bus Ride: $50

ACTEM...on the Road Again!

On June 28 2015, ACTEM is hitting the road. ISTE, the world's premier education technology conference, is in Philadelphia in the summer of 2015, and ACTEM is sponsoring a bus to take Maine's premier geeks down to Philadelphia!

The ISTE conference is June 28-July1st, the bus will leave from the Portland area on Saturday June 27th at 9AM and will return July 1st. Tickets to ride the bus are $50 and include a t-shirt, snacks, nonalcoholic drinks, Wi-Fi, and power. We also guarantee fun and shenanigans.

With ISTE being above the Mason-Dixon line and a fun/affordable bus for transportation, it's a great chance to attend one of the best professional development opportunities in technology education in the world. Registration is now open and nine people have already reserved their seats. Don't get left behind – reserve your seat today at http://actem.wildapricot.org/event-1749649

Moose Tech 2015

The 3rd Annual Moosehead Region Technology Conference - MooseTech will be held on March 13, 2015 at the Sedomocha School in Dover-Foxcroft, ME. Participating School Systems include: School Union 60, SAD 4, AOS 94, Foxcroft Academy, RSU 68 and SAD 41

This regional technology day is an opportunity to join 500 educators for a day of learning about ways to use technology for learning. Last year we had over 100 different sessions for Pre-K -12 educators.

For more information please go to http://www.moosetech.org

Message from the President
(Continued from cover)

the vendor floor. As scary as it is to try something different we can't keep repeating the same methods every time as we become stuck in a routine and never realize what is possible. I applaud the conference committee for putting their neck out there and try something different. We need to take the same approach with our jobs whether it is teaching students, maintaining devices and networks, building administration, or professional development. As a step outside of our comfort zone might produce something wonderful.

Two of the exciting elements from #ACTEM14 was having the Commissioner of Education present, as well as a meeting with him, and having the rest of the New England ISTE affiliates come see what makes Maine so special. The Commissioner and the other affiliates spoke of their positive experiences and went out of their way to express their gratitude about the topics of conversation, the depth of knowledge, and meaningful conversations that occurred based on the conference and their networking. ACTEM is only responsible for putting together the venue and the opportunity, members make the difference. So thank you to all those who were part of the conference.

ACTEM will continue to break away from the same methods as has been done in the past. The Mini Conference in starting to take shape with two dates: South Portland HS and Hampden Academy and the conference committee will be gearing up for #ACTEM15 at the Cross Center in Bangor. Please consider coming to the Mini Conference and/or presenting or attending #ACTEM15.

Another step on your journey is to think about the end of the school year and venture out to Philadelphia for ISTE15. You will be immersed into 3 full days of professional development and more if you decide the ride the bus. Talk to people from across the country and globe and find out what special surprises Dennis Crowe has been thinking of for Philadelphia.

Come join ACTEM outside of the comfort zone!

actem *Maine*

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Upcoming Events

2014 CHRISTA MCAULIFFE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
December 2-4, 2014
Radisson Hotel, Manchester,
NH http://nhcmtc.org

ACTEM MINI-CONFERENCE SOUTH
February 17, 2015
South Portland High
School

ACTEM MINI-CONFERENCE NORTH
February 19, 2015, Hampden Academy

LEADING FUTURE LEARNING
College of the Holy Cross - March 5-6

EdCamp ME

Waynflete School, March 7

MOOSE TECH 2015, March 13

TECH FORUM Boston - May 1

SUMMER TECH BELFAST 2015
June 22-26

ISTE 2015 PHILADELPHIA JUNE 28-JULY 1

ISTE PHILADELPHIA
June 28-July 1
https://www.isteconference.org/2015/

MLTI Professional Development
Apple Solutions
http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml
HP Solutions
http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml

TECH SHERPAS Tuesday 3pm
http://www.techsherpas.org/

#EDCHATME Thursdays 8-9pm
http://www.greatschoolspartnership.org/
edchatme/

Southern Maine Integrators, now
TechConnectME
Join our Google+ Community and Share

NEISTE WEBINARS Register for all
NEISTE webinars at the following link:
http://www.neiste.org/professional-
development/register

Jonathan Werner **THE 21ST CENTURY LIBRARY**
Thursday, December 11th at 7 PM EST

Netsupport **Using Classroom Management to Get the Most Out of Your Technology**

Thursday, February 5th at 7 PM EST
CDI Computer Solutions
A NEISTE Corporate Partner