

actem THE CONNECTED EDUCATOR

CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE

Educators Across Maine Connect & Reconnect as ACTEM Returns In-Person



PHOTO BY JOHN BRANDT

Above, 35th Annual ACTEM Conference chairs, Amanda Nguyen and Stephanie Cheney offer a couple of early conference smiles.

Below, the conference theme, "Connect, and Reconnect" was apparent through both days, as friends found each other and learned together.



PHOTO BY JASON BERASANI

ACTEM was pleased to welcome 435 people back, in person for the first time since 2019, to the Augusta Civic Center for two days of learning together and from each other. The theme this year was "Connect and Reconnect" – and we are happy to share that these connections were the highlight of the conference for many participants!

Educators from across the state, and vendors from both near and far, offered 100+ sessions for participants. These included everything from tabletop cybersecurity exercises for IT directors to learning how to integrate some of the latest tools and technologies into classrooms. Some of the highlights included

sessions on augmented reality, Canva, Google tools, Kami, the Maine App Challenge, and ones offered by featured speaker, Carl Hooker: "Ready, Set, Fail" and "Fail Fest".

The vast majority of people found sessions to be relevant or very relevant to them (96%) and agreed that they plan to apply what they learned when

they returned to back to their schools (93%) – and the provided great input on what they would like to see next year: Google Tools, Coding with the new robots from the Computer Science carts, Computer Science integration, Cybersecurity, Libraries and Librarians and bringing back the role-specific collaboration roundtables.

The excitement and energy from being face to face once again was palpable and stimulating. I learn so much from these conferences! Well worth my time.

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Mike Arsenault,
Yarmouth
School Dept.
and ACTEM
President



PHOTO BY JOHN BRANDT

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am still riding the excitement, inspiration, and joy from the ACTEM Fall Conference. This year's conference was our first face-to-face fall conference since 2019. It was wonderful to reconnect with ACTEM members I haven't seen for a long time. I must agree with the sentiment Sean Wasson, Portland Computer Science Teacher, and CSTA Maine President, shared with me that this was his most "joyous" ACTEM conference ever. This year's conference had many joyous moments for me thanks to the hard work that our conference co-chairs, Stephanie Cheney and Amanda Nguyen, put in with the support of our Executive Direc-

tor, Gary Lanoie, and the entire conference committee.

I was proud to see the John Lunt award, ACTEM's lifetime achievement award, given to three incredibly deserving individuals: Alice Barr, Dennis Crowe, and Cheryl Oakes. The mark these three individuals have left on ACTEM is genuinely amazing. I hope the three of them continue to be part of ACTEM throughout their retirement years. The wisdom of their experiences will keep us all going in the right direction.

The sessions at the conference were truly inspiring! The keynote speakers, Carla Jefferson and Joe Welch inspired our at-

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December 8, 2022
March 9, 2023
May 18, 2023

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

2022 ACTEM Achieve Award

CATHY MORSE
At the recent ACTEM's 2022 fall conference we presented the 2022 **ACHIEVE Award** to teacher Cathy Morse from Lubec Consolidated School. The ACTEM ACHIEVE Award honors professionals who effectively apply available technology now. They move forward utilizing current best practices and cutting-edge approaches. They see students as real people by activating student voice and choice in education. They teach through relationships, inspiring, encouraging and nurturing.

The ACHIEVE Award is ACTEM's version of ISTE's "Making IT Happen" Award, which "honors outstanding educators and leaders who demonstrate extraordinary commitment, leadership, courage and persistence in improving digital learning opportunities for students." The ACHIEVE award provides a \$2000 personal cash award for Cathy along with an additional \$1000 gift certificate for her school to spend on educational technology.

Jon Graham of the DOE introduced Cathy at the fall conference. "When I started at the Department of Education in 2019, I was not fully aware of the opportunities that I would have, working at the state level, to champion the work of educators across our state. I have been fortunate to connect with so many educators in ways great and small over the past three years. One of my true passions within this position is to find ways to shine a light on the great work of educators across this state. And one way in which I can do that is through award nominations."

Fast forward to August 2022 when my son and I were adventuring through Downeast Maine when we stopped at the Clay of Fundy art studio owned by



PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS



PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS

teacher and artist Connie Harter-Bagley. Connie attended a MLTI SLAM training at Nokomis the previous month and our conversation revolved around a remarkable teacher at that training. Connie thought that this person deserved some sort of Teacher of Year type recognition and I suggested looking at ACTEM's ACHIEVE award. Before I arrived back home in Waterville, Connie let me know that she had sent off the nomination.

I shared with the ACTEM ACHIEVE AWARDS Committee that Cathy had done some state-level work as part of the MARTL program from 2016 to 2018, before we even met. I did finally meet her in January of 2020, when she came to Augusta to serve on the MLTI Advisory Board as a representative of both classroom teachers and rural Maine schools.

One of Cathy's colleagues stated. "Ms. Morse isn't just a competent IT

professional classroom teacher. Her cheerful demeanor, her kind engagement with students, her caring compassion, and her focused commitment makes her a prime candidate for this award. I have worked with her for nine years and found her to be a better teacher who is more engaging because of her knowledge of IT but also a better colleague. I trust her to have my back with our students and their families, now that we are back in school, but during Covid zooming she was an infinite help."

Jim Moulton added, "Cathy Morse is a Maine educator, a downeast Maine educator. Always wanting to learn and share, Cathy took on the role of MARTL (Maine Apple Refresh Teacher Leader) following the 2016 Apple MLTI refresh. The focus of this role was to help others learn by sharing what worked, helping all teachers make the most of the new technology."

During the first of two summer MARTL events at Bowdoin College, participants were enjoying a lobster bake outside - long tables, lobsters, corn, clams... One of the Apple Distinguished Educators who had come to Maine to share innovative practices with the MARTLs had come face-to-face with a lobster for the first time that evening. The lobsters were hard shells, and she was struggling to open the crusher claw of her dinner.

Cathy confidently stepped forward, and offered to "...show her how to open that claw." Placing the claw flat on the paper covered wooden trestle table, she made a fist, raised it, and brought it sharply down onto the claw, expertly cracking it and leaving the meat untouched. That was pure Cathy. She saw someone who would benefit from learning, and she showed them how their challenge could be solved. And she did it in such a way that the learning was memorable.

Congratulation to Cathy Morse of Lubec Consolidated School as this year's ACTEM ACHIEVE Award winner!

John Lunt Friend of Technology Awards

The John Lunt Friend of Technology award was established by ACTEM in 2006 as a way to recognize individuals that have made a significant contribution to education and technology in Maine. The award is named after John Lunt - one of the founding members of ACTEM. John served as president of ACTEM for six years and also chaired our formerly name MAINEducation conference for over ten years. John Lunt and former Governor Angus King were the first recipients of the Friend of Technology award in 2006.

ACTEM recognized three distinguished Maine educators with the John Lunt Friend of Technology award at our fall 2022 conference.

ALICE BARR

"Alice Barr came to Yarmouth High School in 1999 and her work will leave an incredible legacy for years to come in the Yarmouth Schools and well beyond Yarmouth's borders. I was privileged to be her colleague for twenty years of supporting technology, learning and professional development." - Cathy Wolinsky

Alice became a Google Certified Innovator as part of the 2008 New York City cohort with friends Cheryl Oakes and Bob Sprankle. This was a major honor as Google only opened applications for this award occasionally and accepted just 50 educators from around the world for each cohort. The three friends hosted the SEEDlings Podcast for many years, bringing some of the top names in Educational Technology to a broad audience.

Many people think of Alice as a great technologist. What really made her great at integrating technology into the classroom was the fact that she is truly an amazing teacher who has taught and traveled on five different continents, including positions in Colombia, Mogadishu, and Bangladesh. Among her many honors, she received the ACTEM ACHIEVE Award in 2017 and was a finalist in 2011 for the state of Maine Teacher of the Year. She often reminded me of something that Jim Moulton used to say about technology. We often consider hardware and software when we plan for technology. We often forget the warmware, the people, when making decisions. Alice always thought about

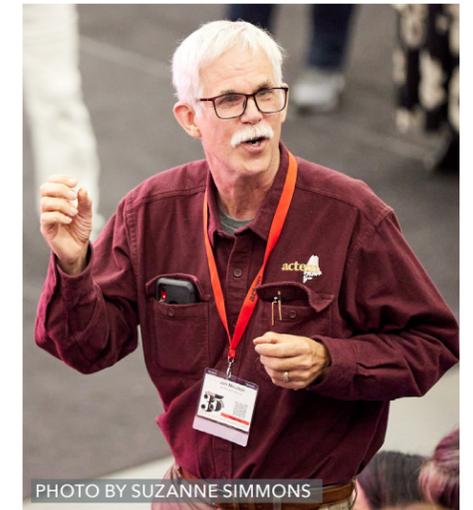


PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS

Jim Moulton, inquiry-based learner, speaks highly of Cathy Morse.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS

Alice Barr, one of the winners of the John Lunt Friend of Technology Award gets a heartfelt congratulations from ACTEM President, Mike Arsenault.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS

Alice, accepting compliments from her friend and colleague, Cathy Wolinski.



PHOTO BY SUSIE SIMMONS

(Top) Dennis Crowe, a winner of the John Lunt Friend of Technology Award gets a little praise and (below) a laugh from his good friend, and ACTEM Executive Director, Gary Lanoie.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS



PHOTO BY JOHN BRANDT

Dennis Crowe accepts heartfelt congratulations from fellow winners, Cheryl Oakes and Alice Barr

how a change would impact students and staff. The culture of the building was always at the forefront of her decision-making process.

You may not be aware of the reach Alice has around the state of Maine and indeed the world. Alice has served on the ACTEM conference committee and was a co-organizer for EdCampME for many years. She has over 5000 followers on Twitter and if you've ever walked through a regional or national conference with Alice you'd think you were with Justin Beiber.

Alice has meant so many things to all of us, and to many educators around the globe. Her reach has impacted student learning and the use of technology in ways none of us can quantify. Congratulations Alice on your retirement and now the John Lunt Award!

DENNIS CROWE

Dennis Crowe is an educator with 40+ years of experience in Maine schools. He started his career as a math teacher in the Arundel schools. In 1986 Dennis was hired as a Computer Education Teacher at Bonny Eagle Junior High School. In 1999 Dennis became the Director of Computer Technology for MSAD 6 and in February 2008 Dennis moved to his hometown (Gorham) and became the Director of Technology. He recently retired from that position this past June 2022.

Dennis has been involved with technology in Maine and New England for years. He has served as president of both the New England ISTE and ACTEM. Dennis always tells the story of leaving a NEISTE meeting to go to the men's room and he returned to be elected as the new President. Dennis never left an ACTEM meeting for any reason, especially during his presidency.

Dennis also has the unique distinction of attending over 20 NECC/ISTE national conferences. He generally worked his budget magic to also get staff in his district to attend these conferences as well. During his attendance at ISTE and other conferences, Dennis was always looking for quality keynote speaker to bring to Maine at our annual fall ACTEM Conferences.

In 2017 Dennis earned the national CETL (Certified Education Technology Leader) recognition from CoSN. Dennis was the first technology leader in Maine to achieve the CETL National Certification. Keith Krueger, the Chief Executive Officer of CoSN states; "Earning the Certified Education Technology Leader certification demonstrates a commitment to bringing 21st-century learning to our nation's schools."

During the Dennis Crowe ACTEM Presidency, he instituted practices and policies to better reach all the sub-groups of ACTEM members. He instituted a "Pizza Lunch" meeting for Technology staff, the Spring Leadership Conference with a focus on Technology Leaders in Maine and the "Bring your Administrator" to the ACTEM conference for FREE as part of district's institutional membership. Dennis understood the importance of administrative support of technology initiatives in districts across the state and he saw this as a way to bring more administrators to our fall conference.

Craig Dickinson, former ACTEM business manager states; "Many in ACTEM may not realize that among the numerous other talents, Dennis has officiated hundreds of high school and college soccer, basketball and softball games throughout the years."

Congratulations to Dennis Crowe on your outstanding career in Maine education and here is hoping you enjoy many rounds of golf in your retirement years.

CHERYL OAKES

Alice Barr states; "I first met Cheryl when we were part of the statewide professional development team known as SEED - Spreading Educator to Educator Development. As tech coaches, we worked with teachers on how to integrate technology into their practice using a model of HQLT and Adopt and Adapt. One of the great things was that as a regional team we met a few times a year. We shared ideas and tech tools. I found that Cheryl and I shared

common thoughts on technology integration, student voice and purpose."

Cheryl is the definition of a lifelong learner. She found a group of international learners called Webheads who were working with learning and technology integration but doing it online through wikis and blogs. She met a team Carla Arena and Samira Brito from Brazil (who we later actually got to go work with in Sao Paulo!) and Graham Stanley from Abu Dhabi. She then moved on to EdTechTalk where Jeff Lebow and Dave Cormier, International University Educators were providing online ways for teachers to exchange ideas. This was podcasting before podcasting was cool! Here was Cheryl at the forefront of cutting edge. Ever intrepid, Cheryl helped form an international group of podcasters called Women of the Web. At the same time Twitter became a thing. Cheryl and I were attending ISTE where we heard about how Twitter could to revolutionize how we could do professional development by connecting with other people on the internet and. Women of the Web was very successful and they even had a meet up at ISTE where many people attended (the call was put out on Twitter) to see what this new technology was all about.

Alice states; "What I love about Cheryl is she is so enthusiastic about learning new tools and figuring out their purpose in the classroom. Her enthusiasm is infectious so somebody like me went right along with trying to learn this new stuff. When SEED ended, Cheryl, Bob Sprankle and I believed so strongly in the mission of spreading and sharing great ways of technology integration, we decided that given Cheryl's and Bob's expertise in podcasting that we would do a biweekly podcast called Seedlings 2.0. Using Twitter, we would ask certain people that we had connected with if they would like to come on our podcast and talk to us and unbelievably, they did! We also ended each show with Geek of the Week which showcased one new tool from each of us. Cheryl's tool was often in the assistive technology realm and she always kept us focused on what was best for student's learning styles."

Alice continues: "Somewhere in the middle of all this Cheryl challenged me to apply to become a Google Certified innovator. After hearing about the program from Kern Kelley, we decided if we did it together it would be a great experience. We are proud graduates of the third class - Class of 2008 in New Your City. What I learned from Cheryl is that it's OK to take a risk because it can really change the trajectory of your life. For Cheryl it meant that Google came to her because of her work leveraging Google tools to support student learning and making sure that they were accessible. They asked her to do a story on You Tube with her student Morgan. That video has more than 3.6 million views and is such a compelling Student Success story."

Michael Richards, Tech Director of the Wells Ogunquit Schools states; "Here is something that many of you don't know about Cheryl, she wanted to be in the classroom. She emailed me over Memorial Day Weekend 2010 stating that she wanted to be back in the classroom and not just coaching or managing technology. She went back to her Special Education roots and became a Special Education teacher at Wells High School. Morgan's story is just one of the many ways Cheryl made an impact. She moved teachers to incorporate technology with a purpose. She showed students how technology tools can truly show the potential these students had in the classroom. Cheryl changed the climate and culture that is still ongoing right now despite the fact that Cheryl's newest goals are 100 days on the slopes".

Even in retirement Cheryl is still a champion of Education technology. Cheryl has inspired many people over the years and she is still at it today. She is a past ACTEM conference co-chair and is here helping to organize this year's conference. She's a believer that the best learning occurs when teachers have good professional development, and students have the right tools that are purposeful and relevant. Many colleagues have grown significantly in their thinking and actions by Cheryl's impact. And that is why she is one of this year's recipient of the John Lunt Friend of Technology Award.

Thanks to thank the hard-working subcommittee that takes care of these awards, Jaime Ela and Deb White, (pictured on the left) always seen in the background of these award ceremonies, and both of whom work tirelessly on these awards.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS

Cheryl Oakes displays her award from former ACTEM President, Mike Richards.



PHOTO BY SUZANNE SIMMONS

Cheryl accepts a cheer from her friend Alice, and (below) a squeeze from her friend Jenifer Van Deusen.



PHOTO BY JOHN BRANDT



PHOTO BY JASON BERASANI

by the Numbers

435 Total participants

Attendees: **249**

90 Presenters

College Students: **20**

39 Exhibitors

Exhibitor Reps: **76**

100+ Sessions

174 Attendees used SCHED

184 people took the Survey



(Continued from page 1)

This year, ACTEM attendees had the opportunity to hear from two wonderful keynote speakers - Carla Jefferson and Joe Welch. Both have a strong background in technology integration, though, the common thread in both their keynotes was far less technical: the power of connection. Carla's talk was called "Relax, Relate, and Reconnect" and Joe's was called "The Diamonds in Your Own Backyard". As a reminder, attendees can access these session materials, and materials from a variety of other sessions, in the Wakelet used for the conference.

In addition to the keynote speakers, attendees also heard from two special guests. Department of Education Commissioner Pender Makin, in person, and Governor Janet Mills, via video, shared their excitement for a new initiative: #MaineTeachesCS - Expanding Computer Science Access in Maine Classrooms. Computer Science Specialist, Emma-Marie Banks, provided more details. Later this fall, and into the spring, schools across Maine will be given access to carts with materials needed to integrate computer science

concepts across the curriculum, and the Department will provide on-going support to educators.

For the first time, we hosted ACTEM After Hours right at the Civic Center and brought in a featured speaker (Carl Hooker) to facilitate the fun! 79% of attendees joined us AND they had a blast as they joined teams competing in the App-Mazing Race, did some trivia, sang karaoke, and played cornhole. We plan to continue to offer this on-site next year because it got such positive feedback!

This ACTEM, we also honored several educators. You can read more about the ACHIEVE award winner, Cathy Morse, on page 2 and about the Friends of John Lundt Awardees, Cheryl Oakes, Alice Barr, and Dennis Crowe, on page 3. It was an honor to celebrate with them and to hear about their contributions to their classrooms, schools, districts, state of Maine, and even across the globe over the years! Additionally, we were honored to have pre-service teachers from the University of Maine at Farmington join us as presenters and volunteers again this year. We also celebrated their teacher, Theresa Overall, who for years has supported generations of young Maine educators and ACTEM. She re-

tires this year, but we hope she continues to join us in the future!

As we look to plan next year, we definitely heard the feedback that the best way to get the word out early is via direct emails, that many liked have two-days of door prizes, especially if they could only come for one day, (see photos below) and that we should make some key adjustments to the lunch setup, like having one side of the expo hall for a makerspace and robotics setup, and having more boxed lunches on days where there are lunch sessions. If you have any other feedback or ideas for next year, please don't hesitate to reach out to conference@actem.org.

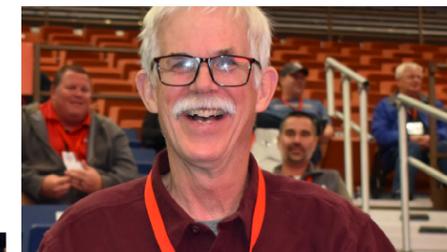
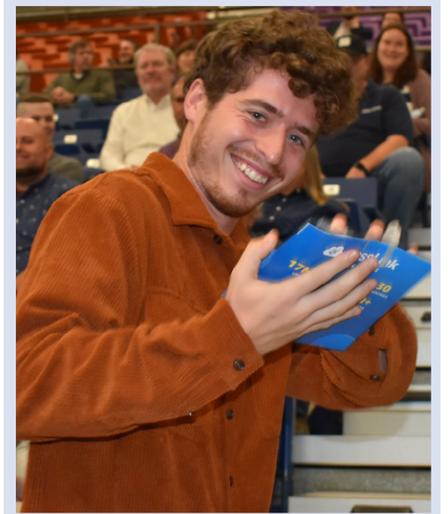
We want to also thank the conference committee, who planned and led a nearly flawless conference (we perhaps should have picked umbrellas as the SWAG given Friday's rainstorm!) In all seriousness though, this group of educators comes together every year, and does their part with both expertise and enthusiasm. We received many compliments from guests about just how calm, professional, and organized this group was - and we are so grateful for all the time they give to make this happen for others!

We also want to give a special shout-out to those who took the photos used in this newsletter: Susie Simmons, Jason Bersani, and John Brandt!

Notable notes!

- 96% of people said that sessions were relevant/very relevant to them.
- 93% plan to apply what they learned when they return to work
- 79% attended after hours with Carl Hooker
- 69.1% (majority of attendees) prefer to hear about ACTEM offerings via direct emails
- 64.7% used the Sched App

PHOTOS ON PAGES 6-7 COURTESY OF JOHN BRANDT.



Next year's session wish list

Google Tools

Coding with robots on CS carts

CS integration

Cyber

Libraries & Librarians

Collaboration

Roundtables

Do you have some suggestions for next year's sessions? Let us know! Email us at conference@actem.org.

PHOTOS BY JASON BERASANI

Connecting in sessions...

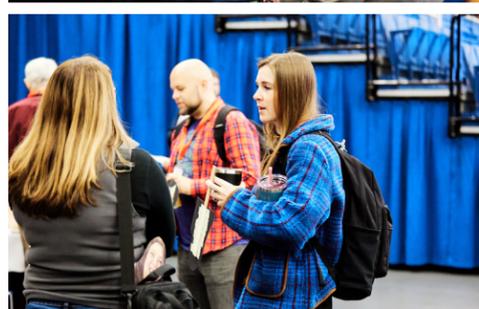


...reconnecting on the exhibit floor!



People connected, and reconnected...

“
What a pleasant experience now that we were back IN PERSON!”



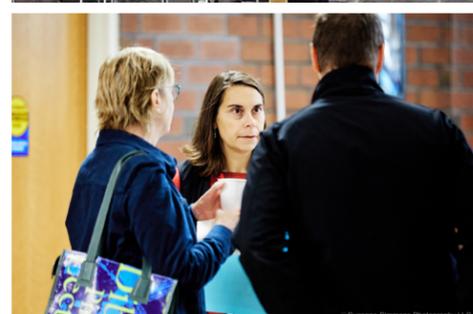
listened ...and learned.



This was my first time ever presenting, it was on my professional bucket list, and it was an awesome experience!

”

“
I really
enjoyed
sharing
my
knowledge
with my
ACTEM
community
”



What a
great way
to connect
with
like
minded
colleagues
and share
ideas and
resources!

”



Student Leadership Ambassadors of Maine (SLAM)

The last few months have been busy for the Student Leadership Ambassadors of Maine. Since the last newsletter, the **SLAM** students have: Shown how to remotely code magnetic robots to create custom designs. (Ep. 26) Take a selfie with a monkey. (Ep. 30) Model a room in virtual reality. (Ep. 31) Experience a Live SLAM Showcase at Central Middle School! (Ep. 029) and so much more! If you believe your students would enjoy learning and sharing with others from across the state, please join us on Thursdays at 11:00 or watch the recordings for creative activities and projects using MLTI tools and student leaders. For more information, visit: www.MLTI.me

On October 21st, the first SLAM Showcase event was held at Central Middle School in Corinth. SLAM team members and MLTI Ambassadors led a variety of tech-focused sessions for students. This opportunity grew out of a SLAM training held at Nokomis this past summer and coordination between MLTI and teachers Michael Roman and Hope Buswell. SLAM Showcase events for the 22-23 school year are scheduled for the following schools: Hartford-Sumner Elementary, Benton Elementary, Van Buren District School, Lubec Consolidated and Pittston-Randolph Consolidated.



*"The MLTI team had representation at each of these events presenting on topics ranging from **Design Thinking** and **Digital Ownership** to **Podcasting** and **Supporting Video Production**. These in-person sessions have also been beneficial in building learning cohorts such as "**Getting Started with Blended Learning**" from Rob Dominick and Kate Meyer, which precedes an **upcoming book study** on Caitlin Tucker's **Balance with Blended Learning**."*



year, it allows them to share work that they have been developing for a while to new audiences. The full team was present at the ACTEM Conference in October presenting a variety of topics. Maine Association of Middle Level Educators (MAMLE), Maine School Management Association (MSMA), Maine Principals Association (MPA) and Maine Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) all held in-person conferences in central Maine with respectable turnouts despite illnesses and substitute teacher shortages. The MLTI team had representation at each of these events presenting on topics ranging from **Design Thinking** and **Digital Ownership** to **Podcasting** and **Supporting Video Production**. These in-person sessions have also been beneficial in building learning cohorts such as "**Getting Started with Blended Learning**" from Rob Dominick and Kate Meyer, which precedes an **upcoming book study** on Caitlin Tucker's **Balance with Blended Learning**. The Ambassador team will be presenting at December conferences hosted by the Maine Education Association (MEA) and EducateMaine and have begun submitting proposals for conferences in the spring.



Maine School Management Conference Highlights the Work of IT Directors

Director of Technology and ACTEM Vice President Jim Morrill teamed up with the DOE's Jim Chasse to present at the annual Maine School Management Association (MSMA) Fall Conference. This year's conference theme was Embracing the Future Together.

School Committee members were among those in attendance to learn about the various components that make up a school district's technology infrastructure and how those components are connected. The duo discussed the federal E-rate program, school cyber insurance, the LTT MLTI program, legal technology requirements, internet service providers, Maine broadband initiatives, and IT decisions made at the local level.

The audience took a quick tour of the progress made in schools dating back to the e-Mac, IBM's 286/386, Tandy's TRS80, Apple's IIe and MacPlus, Modems, and wire-pulling NetDays. Jim and Jim presented today's 1:1 tech-device expectation, the pandemic tech boom, and its implications on students, staff, and IT departments. Mr. Morrill emphasized the importance of organizations that support directors in their work and the value of membership. **METDA**, **ACTEM**, **CISA**, and **SETDA** were among those mentioned.

Those in attendance enjoyed a few laughs around technology and the use of acronyms. Some sources say that there are up to 3000 acronyms within the IT world! Collin Walsh, Director of Finance and Operations in RSU57/Waterboro won a prize for identifying several acronyms.

MLTI Team at Education Conferences in Maine

The return to in-person conferences has allowed the DOE's Digital Learning Specialists and the eight MLTI Ambassadors to present to a variety of educators. For the Ambassadors in their second

#MaineTeachesCS: Universal Access to Computer Science Education for All

As Maine continues to lead in computer science integration across all grades and subject areas, we are working to take important steps to create universal access to computer science education for all Maine students and computer science equipment for all Maine educators. #MaineTeachesCS is an initiative to provide universal access to computer science education and computer science equipment for all Maine students and educators. This began with the provision of mobile computer science labs in all our public schools and continues with the launch of the second phase of this initiative: supporting the mobile labs through a long-term computer science integration professional learning cohort of Computer Science Integration (CSI) educators.

This ongoing training initiative leverages a "train the trainer" model where one educator per school will engage in a community of practice-style professional learning cohort. Alongside opportunities for short-term standard training needs of educators to address the immediate: "how to get set up and begin using the equipment in each lab", we'll be providing a truly custom opportunity for schools to build internal capacity and leverage these mobile computer science labs and support computer science integration wholistically, schoolwide.

Maine DOE has partnered with the mobile lab vendors and teacher leaders from across the state to provide support and training for integrating computer science via the mobile labs into all grade levels and content areas. CSI educators will do a deep dive into computer science integration, become experts in their school's mobile lab equipment, and be provided with resources, materials, and scaffolding to engage other educators within their school in customized ongoing professional learning opportunities that will encourage and support the infusion of computer science into their existing lessons and curriculum. These CSI educators will provide cs integration coaching and professional learning, help brainstorm ways to integrate the labs into various contexts, facilitate awareness campaigns within their schools, and more.



What Are the Ambassadors Cooking Up?

The MLTI Ambassadors have planned an asynchronous professional learning series with daily offerings that will run from November 28th to December 23rd. Each day of the week focuses on one of the following topics - Student Engagement, Blended Learning, Project Based Learning, Supporting All Learners and Computer Science & Computational Thinking Pedagogies. These sessions will be hosted on the **MLTI YouTube channel**, and available on-demand for educators with useful resources and contact hours.





LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY TEAM ANNOUNCES Expanding Access to Computer Science in Maine Classrooms AT THE ACTEM FALL CONFERENCE!

On Thursday October 13th at the 35th annual Fall ACTEM (Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine) Conference, the Maine Department of Education's Learning Through Technology Team - along with Commissioner Pender Makin and Governor Janet T. Mills - announced a statewide plan for expanding access to computer science in Maine classrooms. This initiative is funded through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund and is a part of the Governor's plan to expand access and support Computer Science in Maine.

This announcement was targeted to those at the ACTEM Conference because many of the nearly four hundred and fifty people in attendance are the involved with computer science in Maine's schools. The two-day conference includes over a hundred sessions that focus on technology integration in the classroom, use of digital tools and other topics that cater to PreK-12 educators as well as school technology staff. This event traces its roots back to the Maine Department of Education's "Maine Computes" conferences in the mid-1980s up through the MAINEducation Technology Conferences and is one of the state's largest, ongoing educational conferences. While illnesses, substitute teacher shortages and even a severe storm might have limited attendance, those present fully embraced this year's theme of "Connect and Reconnect."

In addition to the computer science announcement the Learning Through Technology Team was present at the ACTEM Fall Conference in the exhibitor hall and presenting sessions throughout both days of the conference. The Learning Through Technology Team and the MLTI Ambassadors presented a number of sessions for educators such as "Learn about the MLTI SLAM Program from the students", "Digital Tools and Math", "Left to Their Own Devices", "Getting Started with Blended Learning", and a session to "Meet the MLTI Ambassadors" featuring the MLTI Ambassador team led by MLTI Digital Learning Specialists.

LAUNCHING PHASE TWO OF #MAINETEACHESCS: Universal Access to Computer Science Education for All

Maine DOE is excited to announce the launch of phase two of the #MaineTeachesCS initiative! As Maine continues to lead in computer science integration across all grades and subject areas, we are working to take important steps to create universal access to computer science education for all Maine students and computer science equipment for all Maine educators.

The launch of #MaineTeachesCS began with the provision of these awesome mobile computer science labs in our public schools and continues with the launch

of the second phase of this initiative: supporting the mobile labs through a long-term computer science integration professional learning cohort of Computer Science Integration (CSI) educators.

The initiative includes a "train the trainer" model where one educator per school will be provided a \$2,500 stipend and have other additional expenses covered, including substitute teacher costs, to engage in a community of practice-style professional learning cohort.

CSI educators will do a deep dive into computer science integration, become experts in their school's mobile lab equipment, and be provided with resources, materials, and scaffolding to engage other educators within their school in customized ongoing professional learning opportunities that will encourage and support the infusion of computer science into their existing lessons and curriculum.

These CSI educators will provide cs integration coaching and professional learning, help brainstorm ways to integrate the labs into various contexts, facilitate awareness campaigns within their schools, and more.

Computer science education experience is not necessary to become a CSI educator. The ideal CSI educator is:

- interested in computer science and teacher leadership opportunities;
- likes to take on new tasks;
- can commit to a full calendar year initiative;
- and wants to share what they learn to help other educators in their school become computer science integrators.

CSI educators will specialize in integration of CS into all content areas, so not just STEM, but ELA, music, art, and more!

CSI educators must be nominated by their building principal. The nomination form was sent to building principals on Monday, November 14th. If CSI sounds like a great fit for you or someone you know, please reach out to your building principal and have a conversation about a potential nomination for your school's CSI.

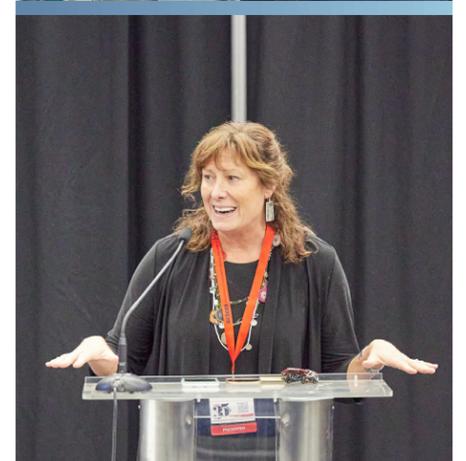
For more information about the CSI program, [click here](#).

For more information about time commitments and other expectations, [click here](#).

Have questions? Want to learn more? Contact the Maine DOE's Computer Science Specialist, Emma-Marie Banks: emma-marie.banks@maine.gov

Meet the MLTI Ambassadors

"Meet the MLTI Ambassadors" provided educators with the opportunity to meet the ambassadors and hear firsthand about MLTI's continued focus on professional learning. The MLTI Ambassadors shared professional learning focus topics such as Digital Citizenship, Technology Integrations, and Digital Instructional Design. The MLTI Ambassadors also shared information on asynchronous learning opportunities, book studies, PLC's, and Podcasts coming up in the 2022-2023 school year! For more information on MLTI Professional Learning contact the MLTI Digital Learning Specialist, Jonathan Graham, Jonathan.Graham@Maine.Gov



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

ACTEM 2022-23 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.

- December 8, 2022
- March 9, 2023
- May 18, 2023

ACTEM 2023 Spring Leadership Conference
May 1st, 2023 Holiday Inn By the Bay

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 Reimbursement program. In accordance with ACTEM's mission to enhance and influence education in Maine through the use of technology, individual ACTEM members, who have held membership for at least 180 days, are invited to apply for assistance in the form of reimbursement on qualifying technology professional development opportunities.

WHAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES QUALIFY?

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

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE TO ME?

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

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Complete an online application at this link BEFORE your PD activity begins: <http://www.actem.org/Online-PD-Application-Form>
- Your application must be received and approved prior to the start date of the professional-development activity.
- You will need to pay for your 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.

OVERDRIVE MOVING TO SORA



OverDrive has retired 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 district

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



What is the Free College Scholarship? The Free College Scholarship gives recent high school graduates a leg up on their next adventure as they enter the workforce. High school graduates from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 all qualify for a Free College Scholarship that pays 100% of tuition and mandatory fees at any one of our seven colleges across the state.

Who is eligible for a Free College Scholarship? If you graduated from high school (or earned the equivalent of a high school diploma) in 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023 – you’re eligible. It’s that simple. There are no income or age limits. All you have to do is enroll full time in a degree or certificate program and accept any state or federal aid you qualify for. That’s it – you’re in!

What does the Free College Scholarship cover? This scholarship pays for up to two years of tuition and mandatory fees, after federal and state grant aid has been applied. Those students who qualify for maximum grant aid may use any additional grant funds to cover the cost of books, supplies, and other related educational expenses.

Sounds good to me! How do I sign up? Apply to one of Maine’s seven community colleges – or just fill out this form. You’ll get an advisor who will work with you to fill out an application, complete your financial aid application (the FAFSA), and pick out a program. We can do it over the phone, on Zoom, or in person. Whatever you need, we’ll help you get there.

ASCD and ISTE Unite to Design the Future of Learning

Creating the future of education by supporting the whole educator. It’s official—ISTE and ASCD will unite and become divisions of a new education nonprofit organization. As one collective group, the two organizations will expand their influence to serve all educators throughout their careers and set a course to design the future of



education by modernizing instructional practices that close access and equity gaps. The merger became official on Nov. 14, 2022 following a vote by ASCD members and initial approval by the ASCD and ISTE boards in August.

This merger unites two trusted voices in education leadership and innovation into a single powerful movement that can support educators in creating the future of learning.

- ISTE inspires educators worldwide to use technology to innovate teaching and learning, accelerate good practice and solve tough problems in education.
- ASCD empowers educators to achieve excellence in learning, teaching, and leading so that every child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.



In the coming months, we’ll be sharing how this merger will bring together best practices in the use of technology and evidence-based pedagogy to provide educators with a more holistic set of tools, resources and professional development to advance learning for students.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE ISTE COMMUNITY?

- Access to a larger network of educators and a broader community for collaboration.
- An expanded collection of publications and professional learning.
- Upgraded infrastructure and systems for a more data-driven, personalized membership experience.

Richard Culatta, ISTE CEO and recognized global education leader, will lead the newly formed organization. Prior to joining ISTE in 2017, he served as the chief innovation officer for the state of Rhode Island and was the director of the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology. Richard and family live in Virginia.

“Bringing together ISTE’s leadership in innovation and technology with ASCD’s expertise in inclusive pedagogy creates an organization uniquely positioned to reimagine learning.” – *Richard Culatta*

Spring Leadership Conference

MAY 1, 2023 - HOLIDAY INN BY THE BAY, PORTLAND

ACTEM’s Spring Leadership Conference is on May 1, 2023 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. This year’s theme will be Cybersecurity and feature a keynote speaker and workshops from Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) reps. Information and registration information will be released early in 2023 at www.actem.org.



President's Message (Continued from Cover)

tendees as they filled their experience with new learnings. I’m in awe each year as I see the wide array of sessions being offered by educators from all corners of the state. Technology integration is as strong as it ever was in the State of Maine!

The all-new “After Hours” event was a huge hit! The combination of attendees and vendor partners was so much fun! Carl Hooker kept everyone engaged throughout the evening with his App-mazing Race game, Corn Hole, and two rounds of trivia. Jason Bersani DJ’d for us between sessions and Jen Adams helped folks with the karaoke equipment, including myself singing the Garth Brooks hit, “Friends in Low Places.” I do not think I will have any calls from American Idol or The Voice in my future after that performance. Andy Wallace and I enjoy creating a fun evening for conference participants to enjoy their two days in Augusta.

Hopefully, our members who could not attend this year’s conference will be back in 2023. We are already working on keynote speakers and bringing Carl Hooker back. I can’t wait to see what our conference committee comes up with for the upcoming year! The fall conference will continue to be the best educational technology event of the year in Northern New England. Michael Arsenault, Yarmouth School Department

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



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$20 ANNUALLY

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

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP \$50 ANNUALLY

(\$25 small, single school districts)

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

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

CSTA News

Maine CSTA is a regional chapter of the national Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA). The mission of our chapter is to further the mission of the CSTA and to provide a professional learning community for teachers of computer science in all grades K-graduate school in Maine.

ALLISON BRALEY

Allison Braley of RSU 25 has won the 2022 CSTA Teaching Excellence New England Award. Allison will be presented with this award at the CSTA New England Conference this fall.

JULIE YORK

Julie York of South Portland Schools has been named a National CSTA Equity Fellow Teacher Cohort. Julie was one of 11 people in the country selected for this prestigious opportunity.

This year-long program will provide leadership development opportunities to fellows and support them in developing ongoing, peer-to-peer professional learning experiences focused on addressing issues of equity in the computer science classrooms for CSTA members. You'll have opportunities to engage with their work at the CSTA Equity in Action Summit, the CSTA 2023 Annual Conference, and CSTA's The Voice.

Congrats to both Allison and Julie!

Casco Bay High School Teacher Matthew Bernstein Named 2023 MAINE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

In a surprise ceremony held at Casco Bay High School in Portland, the Maine Department of Education and Educate Maine named ninth grade Humanities and Social Studies teacher Matthew Bernstein as Maine's 2023 Teacher of the Year while students and colleagues at the school congratulated and honored his tremendous impact on his students and dedication to teaching.

"We are thrilled to announce Matthew Bernstein as Maine's 2023 Teacher of the Year. Today we celebrate Mr. Bernstein's love of teaching, his dedication to his students, and his leadership role in education," said Maine Education Commissioner Pender Makin. "Mr. Bernstein's students and colleagues at Casco Bay High School have described him as energizing, empowering, inclusive, a mentor, supportive, patient, and loving. Congratulations!"

Bernstein's Teacher of the Year journey began in May, when he was named the 2022 Cumberland County Teacher of the Year. Along with 15 other County Teachers of the Year, Bernstein was selected from a pool of hundreds of teachers who were nominated earlier this year. In August, he was named one of four state finalists before being selected as the 2023 Teacher of the Year.

Bernstein's pedagogy is centered around student voices and student activism. He believes that the purpose of education is to help students find their way of contributing to a more equitable world. He is passionate about creating opportunities for students to experience joy and belonging at school on a daily basis and, to that end, he believes in cultivating meaningful relationships with students, often through his work as a 9th grade crew advisor, that are grounded in deep listening and holistic support. Bernstein



Amanda Nguyen and Michael Arsenault present Matthew Bernstein Maine's 2023 Teacher of the Year with an iPad Air.

has served as a team leader, crew team leader, and is currently a professional learning community coach where he facilitates ongoing professional learning with his colleagues.

As the 2023 Maine Teacher of the Year, Bernstein will spend his year of service advocating for students and teachers and speaking to the importance of education in preparing Maine students for the future. He will also represent Maine in the National Teacher of the Year program.

"Educate Maine is proud to administer the Maine Teacher of the Year program. Matt Bernstein is an intentional and dedicated practitioner who will serve as an ambassador for educators and students across our state. We look forward to working with him as we continue our efforts to recognize excellence within our educational workforce and elevate the teaching profession in Maine," Jason Judd, Educate Maine Executive Director.

Each year ACTEM recognizes the Teacher of the Year at the annual awards Gala. Since ACTEM is an educational technology association, we presented Matthew Bernstein, Maine's 2023 Teacher of the Year, with a brand new iPad Air. We hope Matthew find this a useful tool to help with the exceptional teaching and learning that we know already happens in his classroom.

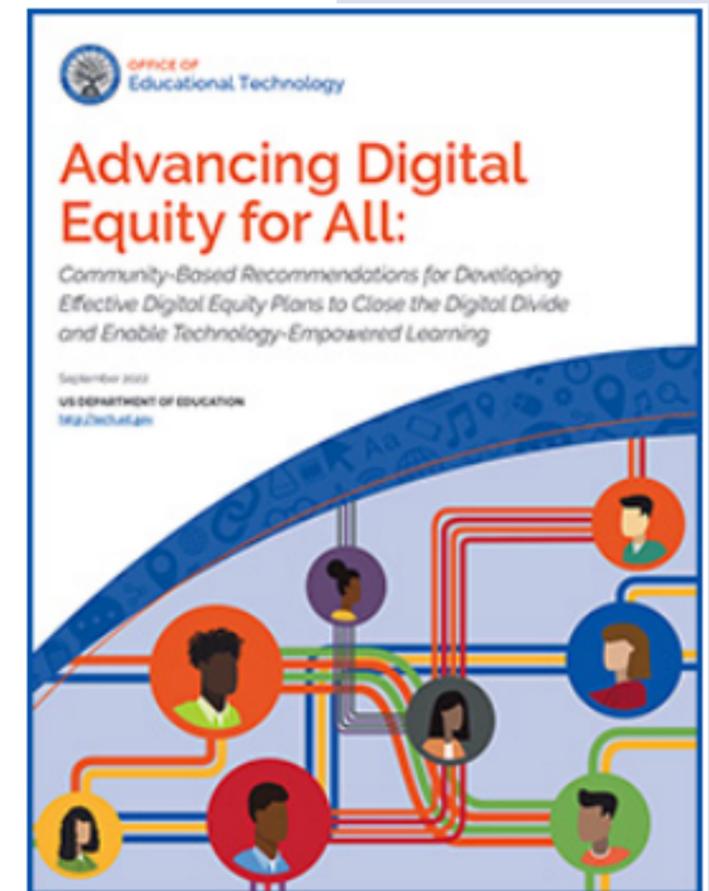
Developing a Blueprint to Support Digital Equity for All

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This past spring, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology (OET) committed to advancing digital equity through the [Digital Equity Education Roundtables \(DEER\)](#) Initiative. Through DEER, OET hosted a series of national conversations (listening sessions) with leaders from community-based organizations, as well as families and learners furthest from digital opportunities, to learn more about the barriers faced by learner communities and promising solutions for increasing access to technology for learning. During these listening sessions, participants expressed the need to address the three components of digital equity – availability, affordability, and adoption – in order to serve all learners in an equitable manner.

Digital equity is achieved when everyone has the necessary access to technology and literacy for using it to fully participate in society and the economy. Despite significant growth in technology access and use, much work remains to ensure all learners, families, and communities have access to reliable, high-speed broadband and technology tools for learning.

Based on findings from the DEER listening sessions, OET developed *Advancing Digital Equity for All* report. This guidance resource provides recommendations for equitable broadband adoption to support leaders in crafting effective digital equity plans under the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#). The resource also highlights existing barriers across the three components of availability, affordability, and adoption, and provides examples of promising strategies to overcome these barriers.



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP)

High-speed internet is a necessity – especially for students. If you have students whose families are struggling to afford their monthly internet service, the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) may be able to help lower internet costs for families. To help schools and districts as they assist with ACP sign-ups, OET developed FAQs and resources to facilitate communication with families about their eligibility.

Here are some of those resources:

- [ACP Letter and FAQs](#)
- [FCC's outreach toolkit](#)
- [White House School ACP Outreach Toolkit](#)

ClassLink ID Management!

OneSync's Secure Provisioning and Account Maintenance

ClassLink ID Management!
OneSync's Secure Provisioning and Account Maintenance
WEBINAR

ClassLink's OneSync is a user provisioning tool that can import, edit, manage, and export user accounts. You can import users from a source, manage the users and their properties with OneSync, and export the modified user accounts to a destination in Active Directory, Google, and O365/Azure. Sources are pre-existing directories or files that contain user data.

Thursday, December 8, 2022
9:00 AM-9:45 AM ET
Register here: <https://www.classlink.com/webinars/onesync-12-22>



actem ISTE 2023 BUS

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is a nonprofit organization that works with the global education community to accelerate the use of technology to solve tough problems in education and inspire innovation. Our worldwide network believes in the potential technology holds to transform teaching and learning. ISTE Live is one of the world's most comprehensive edtech events, attended by a global contingent of education leaders, teachers, coaches, librarians/media specialists and more.

ISTE Live 2023 will be in Philadelphia, PA on June 25-28th. ACTEM has sponsored a bus to ISTE for members in the past when it is within driving distance from Maine.

- NECC 2009-Washington DC
- ISTE 2015-Philadelphia
- ISTE 2019-Philadelphia



ACTEM-ISTE BUS 2023 ACTEM will be sponsoring a bus to take Maine's educators to this conference once again! The ACTEM/ISTE bus will leave from the Portland area on Saturday June 24th at 8AM and will return in the early morning hours of June 29th. You can avoid driving yourself or having to deal with airports and potential flight cancellations or delays. Leave the driving to us!

A ticket to ride the ISTE bus will cost \$50 for ACTEM Members and includes a t-shirt along with snacks, and drinks, with Wi-Fi and power on the bus. We also guarantee fun and shenanigans during the bus trip. We are bringing Dennis Crowe back from retirement as our returning "Bus Moose," to manage the bus and activities for the round trip to Philly. ACTEM is initially limiting the number of staff from any one school district to five for the ISTE Bus to give people from as many districts as possible the opportunity to attend.

With ACTEM offering a fun and affordable transportation option, ACTEM members have a great chance to attend one of the best professional development opportunities in technology education.

To register for the ISTE-ACTEM 2023 bus go to: www.actem.org

ISTELIVE 2023 REGISTRATION COSTS Individual ACTEM members have a benefit that allows you apply for reimbursement funds from ACTEM for certain professional development activities. The ISTE Live 2023 conference is one of those qualifying activities. To find out more about this member benefit [CLICK HERE](#).

The maximum amount of reimbursement in this program is set at \$400 per member per year. The ACTEM Board voted to increase the reimbursement for ISTE Live 2023 to the Super Early-Bird Rate established by ISTE. Registration details will be released by ISTE soon, usually in the December/January timeframe. ACTEM will only reimburse at the Super Early-Bird rate for your ISTE Live 2023 registration as part of the PD reimbursement program.

ACTEM members have a unique opportunity to attend the ISTE Live 2023 conference, one of the best professional development opportunities in technology education. And ACTEM can help members attend this national conference with low transportation costs and registration reimbursement. We hope ACTEM members will take advantage of this opportunity and we fill the bus in 2023!

HIGHLIGHTING A RESOURCE...

Next Vista for Learning - NextVista.org

Next Vista for Learning highlights creative approaches to teaching and learning through videos by and for teachers and students everywhere. Rushton Hurley is the founder and executive director of Next Vista for Learning and was also a previous keynote speaker back at the ACTEM 2017 conference.

Next Vista for Learning's website houses this free library of videos and all content is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution. Teachers and students are encouraged to submit videos of all kinds. All videos in the regular collections of NextVista.org are for a student audience, highlighting the creativity of students and teachers around the world.

The three principal video collections are:

- **Light Bulbs** - NextVista.org believes learning is stronger when it starts with an engaging introduction of each topic.
- **Global Views** - Reading about another country or even watching a documentary can give kids a good sense of a community in another part of the world. However, when in a video the one introducing the school or community is another teenager, the message has added interest for the student.
- **Seeing Service** - The videos in this collection will highlight good deeds large and small. One video might show how an organization used micro-loans to pull people in remote villages out of the poverty and another might show how one man takes time each week to read to children at a local library. The hope is that students who wonder about their own value will see what the people in these videos do and realize that those are things they are capable of doing, too.



NEXT VISTA INSPIRING VIDEO SERIES

This series of videos also includes posts written by Rushton Hurley and is designed to provide students and teachers with fascinating discussion prompts. Here are a couple of the videos in this series

[How a High School Coach Changed Dwayne Johnson's Life](#) by OWN on YouTube (4:02)

As a high school student, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson started getting into trouble. He was arrested for everything from fighting and stealing to forging checks, but Dwayne says he began to change his ways when he was 16 years old thanks to the help of a coach.

[BikeAround by Google](#) on YouTube (9:43)

This story is about using a particular technology to help those with a certain kind of memory loss. Watch how an inventor paired Google Street View with a stationary bike to help dementia patients remember.

Many more inspiring videos can be found in this collection. Check them out at [Next Vista Inspiring Video](#).



Newsela is MORE THAN NEWS. MORE types of content, MORE multimedia curations and MORE intuitive ways for teachers to find what they need to increase student background knowledge and learning engagement aligned to ELA, Social Studies, Science and SEL.

Content and Instructional Platform Update:

- New curriculum and instructional content in celebration of Native American Heritage Month
- Midterm Election Coverage in addition to other timely content
- We've released Assignment Archiving, allowing teachers to access their full history of assignments, regardless of whether or not the assigned class has been archived. This will allow teachers to continue to leverage created assignments from previous school years,

[Helpful Educator Resource Links:](#)

- *20+ genres of text and multimedia content
- *SS Guide: 4 Ways to Weave Relevance into Social Studies
- *ELA Guide: 4 Foundations for Strengthening Literacy in ELA

Auditorium AV Equipment Essentials

Assemblies, lectures, debates, concerts, plays, musicals... the AV equipment used for successful auditorium performances must be adaptable and versatile. The shape of the space, wall coverings, and ceiling pitch, among other factors, influence sound and create areas of varying

acoustic intensity far more diverse than the average conference room.

Not only is unique equipment required for such events, the necessity to record and live-stream events, or host remote-presenters for a pandemic-era audience also means this equipment is pulling double-duty. Having the right equipment installed strategically and managed properly is essential to a successful hybrid event.

In this post we'll share the essential equipment you should consider for your auditorium space to give your entire audience an amazing experience from the first to last row.

Auditorium AV Equipment Essentials

On the Blog

Pro AV Systems



October 03, 2022 – December 30, 2022



WIRELESS MICROPHONES & ANTENNAS Wireless microphones offer flexibility and dynamic performances, allowing your entertainers to speak from wherever they like. However, those wireless audio signals can easily get lost without enough antennas, placed wisely throughout the space, to receive them.

INPUT PLATES Just like antennas, having enough input plates installed strategically throughout your venue is important, especially for plays and musicals. Having freedom to place microphones and instruments around your auditorium creates exciting and immersive experiences for your guests.

CONTROL PANELS Because auditoriums host such a variety of event types, control panels are essential to mixing audio input types like microphones and instruments, so that the sounds are not duplicated or overpower each other. Pro AV not only offers robust control panels for skilled operators, but also offers automated mixing and easy instruction for users with limited knowledge.

MULTI-BOX LINE ARRAYS Multi-box line arrays keep the acoustic energy where you want it by focusing sound at different vertical angles. Lower boxes project softer audio your front row seats, while the upper boxes reach the back row using higher pressure sound, so all your guests have the same great audio experience.

SUBWOOFERS Subwoofers deliver lower frequencies and are especially essential to preserve the fidelity of music productions. Subwoofers allow your audience to "feel" the performance, and generally create more authentic sounds and vibrant experiences.

Choosing the proper AV equipment is crucial for successful auditorium performances. Contact us today to discuss your auditorium audio visual needs!

Ladibug Document Camera Special

Finish 2022 off strong with the Ladibug Document Camera Special! Now through December 30th, you can buy 5 and get the 6th one for \$1 on three different models. All models including the promotional \$1 document camera are eligible for the 5-year advance replacement warranty. Contact Pro AV Systems for more information about this amazing deal!

Adrienne Blasioli, CTS Director of Bid Desk and Communications

• OFFICE: 978.692.5111

• Email: adrienne@proavsi.com

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Sophos MDR is a fully managed 24/7 service delivered by experts who detect and respond to cyberattacks targeting your computers, servers, networks, cloud workloads, email accounts, and more.

Sophos MDR can better secure your school during the holiday season: IT security staff shortages, budget cuts, and a challenging recruiting climate make it difficult to fight the targeted attacks schools face. With Sophos MDR, your school is backed by an elite team of 24x7 threat hunters and response experts who take targeted actions on your behalf to neutralize even the most sophisticated threats.

RANSOMWARE AND BREACH PREVENTION SERVICES

The need for always-on security operations has become an imperative. However, the complexity of modern operating environments and the velocity of cyberthreats make it increasingly difficult for most organizations to successfully manage detection and response on their own. With Sophos MDR, our expert team stops advanced human-led attacks. We take action to neutralize threats before they can disrupt your business operations or compromise your sensitive data. Sophos MDR is customizable with different service tiers, and can be delivered via our proprietary technology or using your existing cybersecurity technology investments.

CYBERSECURITY DELIVERED AS A SERVICE

Enabled by extended detection and response (XDR) capabilities that provide complete security coverage wherever your data reside, Sophos MDR can:

- Detect more cyberthreats than security tools can identify on their own Our tools automatically block 99.98% of threats, which enables our analysts to focus on hunting the most sophisticated attackers that can only be detected and stopped by a highly trained human.
- Take action on your behalf to stop threats from disrupting your business Our analysts detect, investigate, and respond to threats in minutes – whether you need full-scale incident response or help making accurate decisions.
- Identify the root cause of threats to prevent future incidents We proactively take actions and provide recommendations that reduce risk to your organization. Fewer incidents mean less disruption for your IT and security teams, your employees, and your customers.

COMPATIBLE WITH THE CYBERSECURITY TOOLS YOU ALREADY HAVE

Sophos can provide the technology you need from our award-winning portfolio, or our analysts can leverage your existing cybersecurity technologies to detect and respond to threats.

Sophos MDR is compatible with security telemetry from vendors such as Microsoft, CrowdStrike, Palo Alto Networks, Fortinet, Check Point, Rapid7, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google, Okta, Darktrace, and many others. Telemetry is automatically consolidated, correlated, and prioritized with insights from the Sophos Adaptive Cybersecurity Ecosystem (ACE) and Sophos X-Ops threat intelligence unit.

ACTEM is a reseller of Sophos. Please contact ACTEM for additional information or quotes.



TYLER TECHNOLOGIES
MAINEAPP
CHALLENGE

2023 app submissions now open!

It's time to start building your own mobile app to submit in the 2023 Maine App Challenge! We recommend browsing our [top 3 resources](#) to start building your app to increase your chances at winning scholarships and an Oculus VR Headset.

No coding experience? We help make the process easy for you. As a leading software provider, we will provide you with many resources along the way of building your app. Check out top resources, 2022 winners, and upcoming workshops below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

[Email us](#) with any inquiries.



actem Purchasing Consortium for Maine Schools

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-state 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.)

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@explorellearning.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

2022

November 28-December 1 Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference
Manchester, NH

December 9 Educate Maine - 2022 Education Symposium, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

2023

January 23-26 National Future of Education Technology Conference, New Orleans, LA

January 30-February 2 2023 TCEA Convention & Exposition, San Antonio, TX

March 10 METAA Annual CTO Clinic, DoubleTree by Hilton, Milford, MA

March 20-23, 2023 CoSN 2023 Conference Austin, TX

May 1, 2023 ACTEM 2023 Spring Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

May 18-19 Dynamic Landscapes 2023 Champlain College, Burlington, VT

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



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

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



MLTI Tech

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

Tuesdays at 3:00 pm.

#EdChatME

Mondays 8:30-9:30pm



FREE COLLEGE FOR ME

December Free Advising available.
<https://startsmart.smccme.edu/free-college-plp-apr-2022/>

January 18 Registration deadline for SMCC

Thursday, December 8, 2022

9:00 AM-9:45 AMET Webinar
ClassLink ID Management!

OneSync's Secure Provisioning and Account Maintenance.

Register here: <https://www.classlink.com/webinars/onesync-12-22>



Google Teacher Certifications

Become a Google Certified Educator
<https://edutrainingcenter.withgoogle.com/certification>



Maine: Become an Apple Teacher

- <http://www.apple.com/education/teachers>

Professional Development

- **Apple Solutions:** <http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml>
- **HP Solution:** <http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml>



ACTEM OverDrive/Sora PD

Library Free with your ACTEM membership!