

2020 Conference Workshops Available Online

Did you miss this fall's ACTEM 2020 Conference? Did you attend the conference but missed some sessions because they occurred in the same time block as others? ACTEM 2020 Virtual Conference workshop videos are now available and posted on our website as a benefit for our members.

ACTEM has downloaded 65 workshop videos from Hopin (our virtual conference system) and now has them posted on our website. Most of the videos, including one of the keynotes are available. A few workshops that specifically requested not to be recorded are unfortunately not available.

These videos are posted on a member-only portion of ACTEM's website. To access these videos:

- Members will login at the www.actem.org with the blue LOG IN link on the top right of our homepage.
- You will need to use the email address used in our membership system and a password to access these videos.
- Members can use the self-service Forgot password link to either set or reset your

(Continued on page 3)

THE CONNECTED EDUCATOR

CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY USING EDUCATORS IN MAINE



Virtual Fall Conference

What do you do when riding the wave of a pandemic where ACTEM had 32 great years of conferences? You keep going!

These are the top reasons why we made the choice to hold a virtual conference this year.

REASON #1 - ACTEM really wanted to give back to all the educators who pushed through tough times and pivoted to emergency instruction in the spring with grace and courage.

REASON #2 - ACTEM felt it important to continue with the success of 32 years of conferences and 32 years of networking!

REASON #3 - The ACTEM 2020 Vision Conference was a way to keep some kind of normalcy in an unfamiliar time. The evening conference meant that substitute teachers weren't needed.

REASON #4 - We went virtual to help Maine teachers stay home but access important professional development to continue building out their skills! We were pleased to offer ACTEM 2020 Vision FREE to ACTEM members. The only

cost was the \$20.00 ACTEM membership!

Once the ACTEM Conference and Executive Committees decided to go Virtual there was no looking back. After participating in several virtual conferences, the conference committee chose the platform, Hopin. We took the plunge and never looked back. All the presenters and vendors were happy to support us. Our many wonderful attendees took it all in stride despite teaching all day either in person, hybrid, or online. Attendance was better than we'd hoped as you can see below.



Attendees	Presenters	Workshop Sessions	Exhibitors
383	96	66	26

There are many benefits from hosting a virtual conference; most sessions were recorded and archived. Members will be able to watch the

(Continued on page 2)

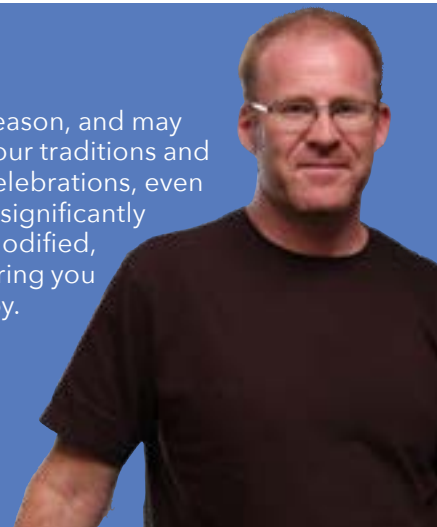
Presidents Message

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

Amid the cacophony of this school year, it was so rewarding to be able to connect through the ACTEM Fall Conference and share positive and optimistic experiences. I'm thankful that we decided to hold the conference, even if it was a very different format from what has been a long and successful tradition

of in-person events. It seems to me that holding on to the essence of our traditions and celebrations, even if significantly modified, can help cut a path through all this uncertainty. As many have said, a new normal awaits us even as the pandemic recedes, and I'm eager to see how many of the new ways of doing things we will willingly carry forward. So as this extraordinary year draws to a close, I want to wish you all a healthy and happy holiday

season, and may your traditions and celebrations, even if significantly modified, bring you joy.





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Dec. 10, 2020 - Virtual ZOOM Meeting

March 11, 2021 - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

May 13, 2021 - Cross Office Building
Room 103A-B: Augusta, ME

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

Virtual Fall Conference *(Continued from Cover)*

conference sessions and view the text chats that happened during the sessions.

ACTEM was pleased to collaborate with the Maine Association of School Libraries to offer librarians a conference to attend when theirs was canceled. As a bonus, there were several librarians who stepped up and presented information that normally was not available.

COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS WERE OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE

- I loved this conference. It was the first one I have ever attended and found it very beneficial. I have already used some of the tricks I learned.
- Didn't think such a conference would have sessions for non-computer teachers. I am glad that the computer teacher at my school corrected me in my thinking.
- This was my first ACTEM conference, and I loved it!
- This conference would not have been possible without all the thoughtful planning, incredible effort, and awesome attendance. A huge thanks to all! Surveys and Evaluations of ACTEM 2020 Vision. We read them all!
- **Over 89%** of respondents reported that I will be able to apply what I learned in my work environment.
- **91%** of respondents reported: The sessions that I attended were relevant for me.
- **30%** of respondents played the Virtual Visionary Game from Alludo and reported "I liked playing the Virtual Visionary game."
- **38%** responded they heard about our conference by reading the ACTEM newsletter and another 38% from a colleague.
- **95%** responded that the first virtual ACTEM conference was a good value.
- 70% responded that they would attend another ACTEM Hopin virtual conference during the year.
- **67%** reported they were very likely to watch recorded sessions that they were not able to attend live!
- **100%** reported Hopin was a super easy platform for our conference!!

COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS

- I liked this format much more than I thought I would but found it difficult to sit and attend the sessions in real-time after a long day at school. I'm planning to view more of the sessions on my own once the videos are available. I've checked out lots of presentations on the Wakelet and that is a GREAT feature for this type of conference. I think I will be able to get even more out of this conference because I'll be able to see more presentations than I would at a live event.
- Thank you for all your efforts in making the conference happen! I REALLY appreciated having it start after school hours so I could attend and not miss school time. I don't think the quality of the conference suffered at all from being remote; I missed seeing people, but I learned as much from the sessions as always.
- I liked the virtual conference - saved travel time.
- As always, a great conference!! I am looking forward to watching the recordings for sessions I couldn't attend. I wish there was some way to have the conference earlier in the day, but I understand the presenters are teaching! The game was fun, but there were so many parts to it that it felt overwhelming like there'd be no way to actually finish a section.
- I would love to see recordings of the sessions I was unable to attend.
- I would have liked to be able to chat with other attendees. I was too shy to do the video chat or random network option. The game was fun but I would have liked a little more time because some submissions had to be during the event (reflect on final keynote) and I was a little uncomfortable with all the screenshots (screenshot a person you connected with or will follow on twitter). Thank you for making this happen and the price was good! (And now I'm a member!)

ALLUDO VISION VOYAGE

By Amanda Nguyen

At this year's ACTEM conference, 86 educators gamified their conference experience by competing in the Alludo Vision Voyage. In the past, we saw that participants who played the game met more people, connected to more resources, and were more reflective about how they could implement what they had just learned. This year was no exception! Even in the virtual conference format, educators shared evidence and reflections from the sessions they attended or activities they completed, earning badges and prizes along the way. We saw that the game really brought out the competitive side in some educators, and that educators had a lot of fun playing! In fact, these educators logged 173 hours playing the game, and collectively earned 26,000 points! There were also 32 educators who completed the whole game and earned the honor of being called a Virtual Visionary! Congratulations to these winners!

Thank you to Julia Francis and the Alludo team for helping us design another successful game! A special thanks goes to Amanda Nguyen, Laurie Delaney and Jon Graham for their design of the game Alludo ACTEM 20/20 Vision Voyage and great activities.



A Heartfelt Thanks to the Conference Committies

By Cheryl Oaks and Stephanie Cheney.

I know the ACTEM members will join me in thanking the Conference Committee and Subcommittee members. Little did our committee members know what they signed up for with a virtual conference. True to form all members said yes to helping with the virtual conference.

Their job roles changed significantly and the help that we needed most were moderators throughout the conference. Each member said yes to that and accepted their assignments. So, if you see a presenter or a moderator throughout the year either on a Google Meet or a Zoom meeting, please be sure to thank them.

Conference Committee and Subcommittee members: Amy Tucker, Barbara Greenstone, Stephanie Cheney, Cheryl Oaks, Andy Wallace, Mike Arsenault, Jason Bersani, William Backman, Michael Richards, Jaime Ela, Julie St. Hilaire, Rachel Guthrie, Crystal Priest, Deb White, Dennis Kunces, Anne MacDonald, Sean Malone, Richy Vickers, Scott Nason, Susie Simmons, Dennis Crowe, Gary Lanoie, Vince Vanier, Jon Pratt

New 2020 Committee Members: Laurie Delaney, Eric Lawson, Amanda Nguyen, Jonathan Graham

SubCommittee Members: Gwyenth Maguire, Tammy McNulty, Karen Abbott, Suzanne Dix, Kurt Mason, Julie York

password in our membership system.

Once logged in - an extra menu option appears in the **MEMBERSHIP** pull down menu called **ACTEM 2020 RECORDED SESSIONS>Members Only** as shown on the right. This menu selection is only available when you log in as an ACTEM member.

ACTEM is making these recordings available as a resource for professional development, to learn about new ideas, and to see what you may have missed at this year's ACTEM 2020 Virtual Conference. Our hope is that members find this a valuable resource!

~ The ACTEM Executive Board

Looking forward to ACTEM 2021

Requests As part of the evaluation, many people offered a variety of presentation requests for 2021! The only way ACTEM is able to present the latest and greatest ideas for the classroom is because of all of you. If you can present on any of the following topics please consider submitting a presentation proposal next year for ACTEM 2021.

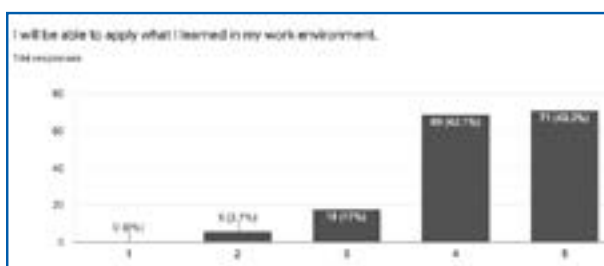
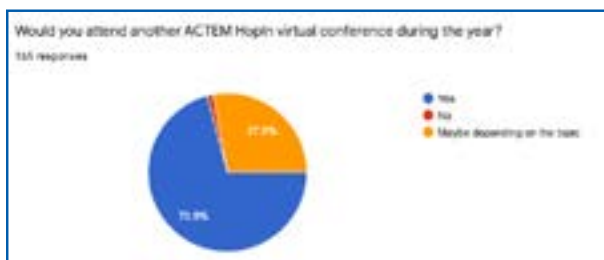
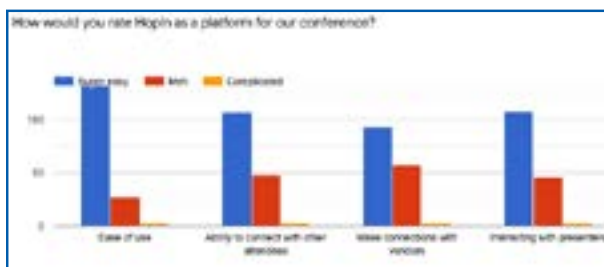
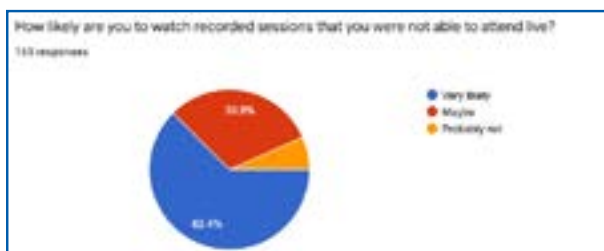
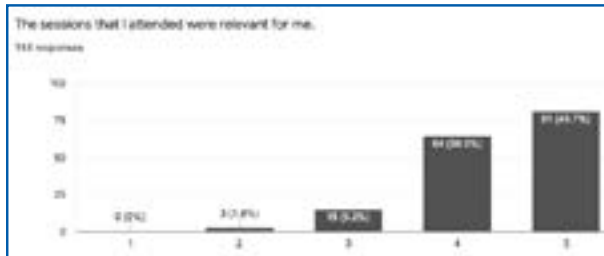
We will be looking for proposals in mid-March through the end of April 2021. Thanks for being part of ACTEM and making this a great organization.

SESSIONS REQUESTED FOR 2021

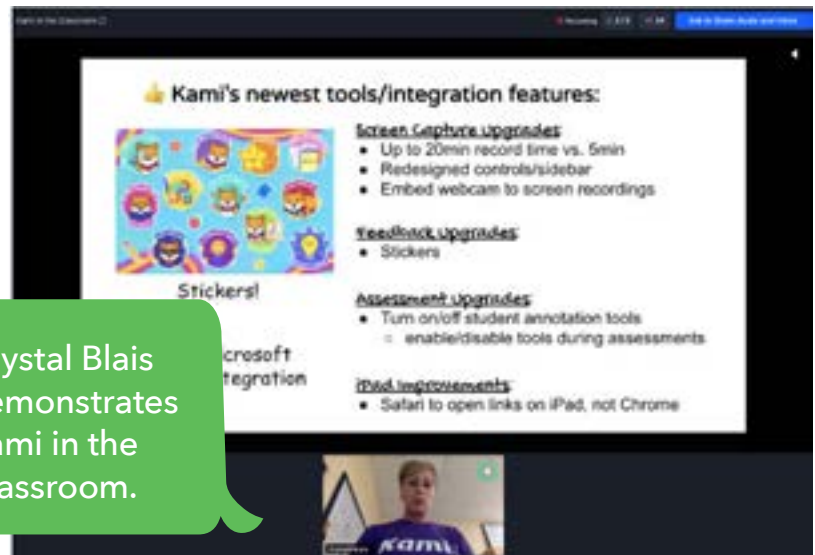
- Best of Best session (similar to David Trask's)
- Grade level and content-specific sessions
- Demos
- PBL in Computer Science
- How to transfer content to remote learning
- Using online databases
- Protection of student data
- How to do green screen
- Ideas for remote learning
- Online game resources
- Media literacy
- Science-online labs and science data resources
- Different ways to use Wakelet
- WeVideo tutorials
- Kindergarten and iPads



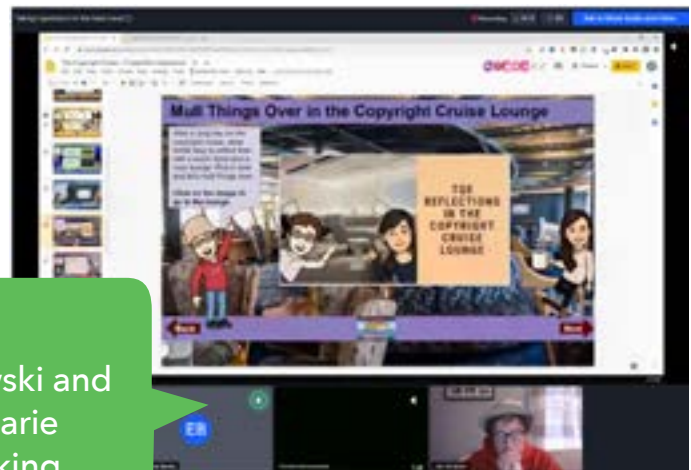
A few statistics about the 2020 ACTEM conference



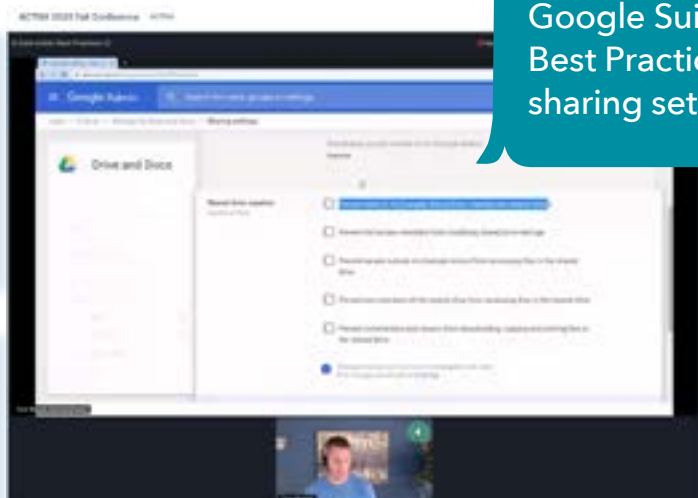
Crystal Blais demonstrates Kami in the Classroom.

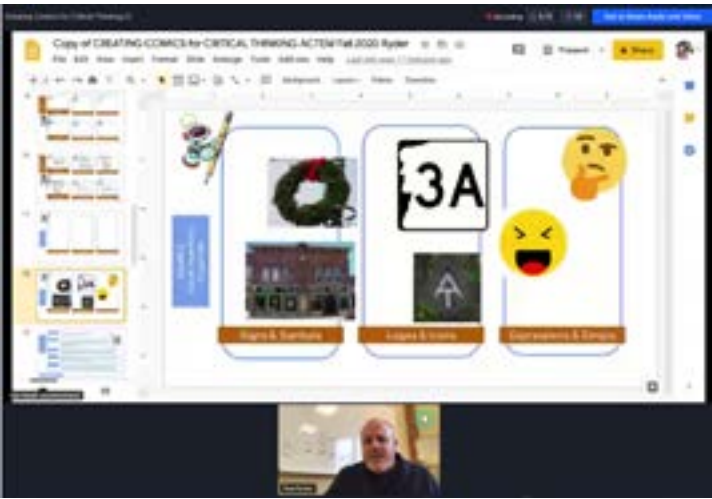


Kristel Anuszewski and Emma Marie Banks taking HyperDocs to the next level



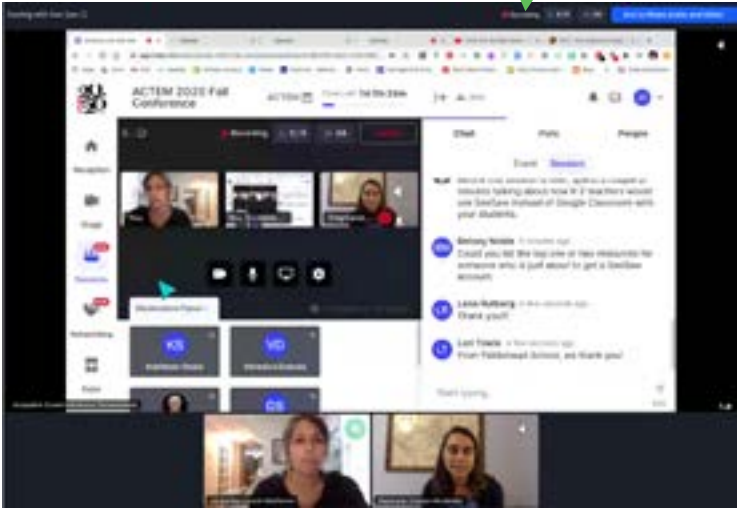
Tom Woods presents on Google Suite Best Practices for sharing settings.





Dan Ryder demonstrates comic creation to boost critical thinking skills

Collaboration was easy on the HOPIN platform!



Connection tools for remote learning from Pro AV



Cybersecurity is always a hot topic at our conferences



Classroom teacher Mr. Matera tells a little bit about himself and shares social media links. Michael Matera is scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the ACTEM 2021 Conference!

**DUE
JULY
1ST**

**YOUR ACTEM
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS**

ACTEM has a fixed membership year from July 1st-June 30th annually.

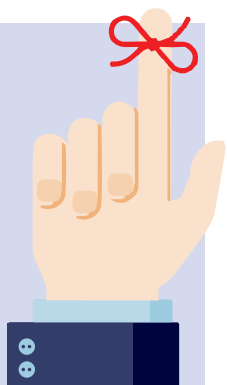
INDIVIDUAL ACTEM MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS \$20 ANNUALLY

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

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP \$50 ANNUALLY \$25 SMALL, SINGLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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

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



COVID-19 Is Pushing School Tech Departments to Their Limits – and Then Some

Nadia Tamez-Robledo

Before March, the chief technology officers who keep modern classrooms connected would have agreed that new tech programs can't be rolled out overnight. Yet that's exactly what they have been doing for the past eight

months as pandemic shut downs forced school districts to go virtual. IT staffers scrambled to purchase thousands of new devices and provide Wi-Fi for students. One Texas school district fielded 35,000 calls to its technology help desk on the first day of remote classes. Another in Oregon launched an Amazon-style locker system for students to exchange broken devices. "It seems like since March we've not stopped. Even in my dreams I'm solving problems," says Pete Just, chief technology officer for Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township, whose Indiana district serves about 16,500 students. "Thankfully I have an amazing staff who are very seasoned ... I had a number of meetings and said, 'Here's the problem, how do we even begin to solve it?'"

INNOVATING ON THE FLY

Among the earliest challenges CTOs faced was how to get thousands of laptops and tablets for students and staff while every school district in the country was trying to do the same thing.

"It has been 12-hour days or more," said Lorrie Owens, chief technology officer for the San Mateo County Office of Education in Redwood City, Calif. "When we went into shelter-in-place on March 17, we were clearing out Chromebook carts [not only] for students but also for our own employees. We're clearing everything we've got in terms of spares and putting emergency orders to get devices in for our employees."

Steven Langford, chief information officer of Beaverton School District in Beaverton, Ore., had 24 hours to transition 5,000 staff members into remote work when the district closed in March. Then his team had until the end of spring break to execute a remote learning strategy for the district's more than 41,000 students.

Langford said the district had discussed a one-to-one Chromebook plan for years and an evening technology help desk for students. In a matter of weeks after the shutdown, both ideas were launched.

"As soon as we distributed our devices to our elementary students, possible or not we had to create a student help desk," he said. "Previously we would take months to study and pilot it and do some testing. When you're faced with, 'It must be done and we've got a couple days,' people's vision of what is possible shifts."

FILLING THE GAPS

In October, Alice Owens, executive director of the Texas K12 CTO Council, hosted a virtual meeting with about 220 school technology leaders in the



Lone Star State. Two recurring themes were the need for more widespread internet access and tech support for families.

"It really became apparent that probably 25 to 30 percent of the students in their communities didn't have reliable internet access, if at all," she said. "Overnight they became tech support for the entire community. Now that all these devices were out in the community, they got thousands of calls from parents needing help."

That mirrors Lorrie Owens' experience in California. She said a philanthropic group stepped up to loan 217 Wi-Fi hotspots to children in San Mateo County, but there are thousands more still in need.

"We found that a number of families said, 'Yes, we have access to the internet.' Their interpretation of that answer is someone has a phone that has internet access," she said. "When we moved to distance learning and these students needed to connect through Google Classroom or Zoom, we found that what they had identified as internet access was totally inadequate to what these students needed to continue their learning."

Beyond getting students connected to the internet, CTOs had to figure out how to make hardware repairs for learners whose issues could no longer be solved with a five-minute trip to the library for a new laptop.

For technical issues that can't be solved through a support chat, Just's district has a contractor on the road 20-30 hours per week picking up broken devices and dropping off loaners. Langford's team created a locker system where students can exchange a broken device for a functioning one. "We are now having to support classes with 5-year-olds in them, with a device at home, and they might or might not have parents supporting them," Langford said. "How do we support students who, while we've handed them a device, they might not know their alphabet yet?"

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Just said now that his district has made remote learning possible on a larger scale, the next challenge will be making it better. While he worries about the students who have become disengaged by remote learning, he said parents who have seen the benefits will keep it in-demand. In Wayne Township, 70 percent of students this fall are either fully remote or going to class online three days per week.

"I do think it has permanently changed education as we know it," he said. "People that think we're going to go back to the plain old, plain old. I'm not sure we can or even should."

Lorrie Owens said the pandemic has revealed the urgent need to get students connected to the internet at home. Hotspots are just a bandaid, she said, and San Mateo County is looking for ways to provide broadband internet county-wide.

"I think there is a huge spotlight now on the inequity in education between the haves and the have nots as it relates to technology resources," she said. "We need to get to a point where we're looking at internet access not a nicety, but it needs to be like a utility, like access to light and water."

Langford likewise said internet connectivity is a major hurdle. His district is working with the Oregon Department of Education on solutions that work for urban areas as well as suburban and rural areas.

"That has consumed our fall. We are on a mission in Beaverton just like my colleagues all over the county to get our students connected," he said. "The device is useless without the connection to your teacher and your class and your content."

From the EdSurge Article COVID-19 Is Pushing School Tech Departments to Their Limits – and Then Some By Nadia Tamez-Robledo published on Nov 10, 2020.



IS LEARNING ON ZOOM THE SAME AS IN PERSON? NOT TO YOUR BRAIN

By Stephen Noonoo

At this point the Zoom call has almost come to define learning and working in the age of COVID-19. But a few months ago, people began realizing that all these video calls were making them tired—exhausted even—more so than a day of in-person class or all-day meetings. The phenomena even has a name: Zoom fatigue. And it's backed by some pretty interesting brain science.

According to scientists, the cause of Zoom fatigue "is that technology can disrupt our normal intricate human communication methods that have been finely tuned over centuries to help humans survive," writes Brenda Wiederhold in a thought-provoking editorial in the journal *Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking*. As it turns out, live Zoom calls aren't as live as we think they are.

Wiederhold is a licensed clinical psychologist who uses advanced technology, such as virtual reality, to treat patients who experience trauma or stress and also runs the nonprofit Interactive Media Institute. She joins us on an EdSurge podcast to discuss how we can combat Zoom fatigue, and she offers a glimpse into her work in virtual reality, weighing in on whether it may one day replace communication as we know it.

Listen to this episode on Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Spotify, Stitcher, Google Play Music, or wherever you listen to podcasts, or use the player on this page: <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-09-15-is-learning-on-zoom-the-same-as-in-person-not-to-your-brain>

Stephen Noonoo (@stephenoonoo) is K-12 editor at EdSurge where he frequently works with contributing writers.





CMTC20 HAS A NEW «TAGLINE» SHIFTS HAPPEN!

CMTc20 is offering 5-days of content via virtual sessions the week of January 11th. Here is a snapshot of the daily schedule:

- 1/11** ~ Monday keynote panel & virtual networking fun
- 1/12** ~ Tuesday concurrent sessions & virtual networking fun
- 1/13** ~ Wednesday concurrent sessions, BYOD workshops, & virtual networking fun
- 1/14** ~ Thursday concurrent sessions, virtual networking fun, and late afternoon keynote
- 1/15** ~ Friday BYOD workshops

Online registration is now open at this link: <http://www.rsvpbook.com/CMTC20ShiftsHappen>

There is just ONE SET FEE for conference registration for ALL 5 days of conference activities: General Registration \$99
NHSTE Premium Member Registration \$79

Conference presenters will be receiving your promo codes within the next week.

Information about our Keynote speakers (current and returning), SpotLights, and all the concurrent sessions is now posted on the conference website: www.nhcmctc.org

We look forward to seeing you in REMO and Zoom for Virtual CMTC20 Shifts Happen!,

Cyndi Dunlap
CMTC Co-Chair

ACTEM BYLAWS REVISIONS

At the September 24, 2020 business meeting the revised ACTEM bylaws were presented to the membership. The ACTEM's Bylaws were last revised in 2012 and needed many revisions to reflect current practices and to correct outdated language. For example, the current bylaws reference the MAINEducation conference in the document. ACTEM changed the name to the ACTEM conference starting in 2014.

The ACTEM board worked on revising the bylaws last Spring. We also contracted with a lawyer that specializes in non-profits to go over the revisions in order to make sure the bylaws comply with Maine statutes. The lawyer's recommendations have been included in the revised bylaws. The current bylaws state that we need to present any revisions to the general membership at one of our business meeting and then a vote can occur at the next meeting to approve the revisions.

You may examine the bylaws with all markups and revisions at the following web link: <http://www.actem.org/resources/Documents/ACTEM%20Bylaws%20Revised%20-%202020.pdf>

An agenda item to approve the revised bylaws will occur at the December 10th ACTEM business meeting. The ACTEM Board recommends a vote to approve the revised bylaws.

Save the Date

May 4, 2021

**ACTEM Spring
Leadership
Conference**

ISTE 2020 Live November 29 - December 5, 2020

Every year for four decades, the ISTE conference has brought together a passionate community of teachers, education leaders, tech providers and researchers from around the world. By building on our tradition of "learning first, technology second" and sharing innovative practice to enhance learning, the ISTE Conference has become the premiere event for changemakers and innovators in education.

We have heard from so many of you that this may be the most important year ever to hold the ISTE conference. Fortunately, for the last several months we've had a team planning for the potential scenario that a face-to-face conference might not be possible. We're excited to announce that ISTE20 will be held entirely virtually from Nov. 29 through Dec. 5, 2020.

What we have planned will be anything but your typical online conference. We're developing a custom platform just to build in the types of interactivity we feel are so important for our ISTE community. You can expect an immersive experience with seven (shorter) days of amazing learning opportunities led by outstanding educators on relevant topics like creating equity and community in blended and online environments, teaching creative project-based learning, and offering meaningful feedback and assessment in remote settings. You can expect opportunities to easily connect with educators, presenters and exhibitors in chats, meetups and virtual hallway conversations, as well as hands-on tool demos and peer-to-peer collaborations.

You can expect a variety of formats, a flexible schedule, and hundreds of learning opportunities, with ongoing access to session videos and content for six months after the event. Attendees will experience interactive sessions, powerful stories of inspiration, thought leadership, and just-in-time strategies to address the challenges of the moment.

We agree that this is the most important year to ever hold the ISTE conference, and we're going to push the limits on what online collaboration can be. We hope you'll join with us for our most transformational ISTE event ever! Click the following to register for ISTE 2020 Live: https://conference.iste.org/2020/index.php#rates_section



Annual Report 2019-20

Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine

Address: P.O. Box 187, Gorham, ME 04038

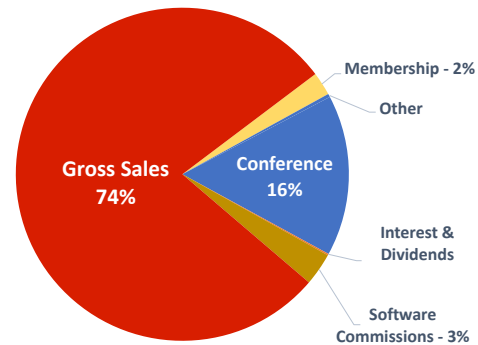
Phone: 207.222.4353 • **Fax:** 207.222.2057

Email: info@actem.org • **Web:** www.actem.org

Income Sources by Category

Income Category	Amount
Membership	\$19,475
Other Income	\$2,736
Conference	\$133,744
Interest & Dividends	\$1,261
Software Commissions	\$27,076
Gross Sales	\$671,612
Total Income	\$855,904

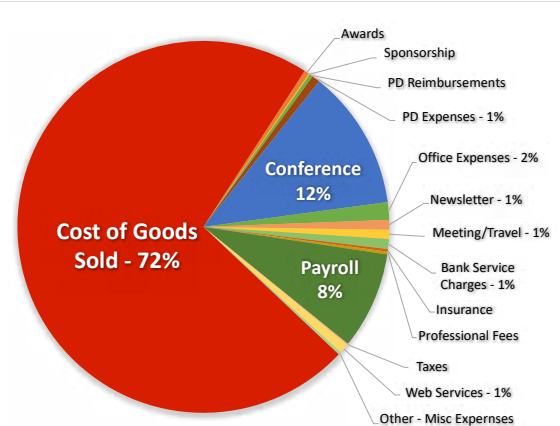
FY 2019-20 Income Pie Chart



Expense Sources by Category

Expense Category	Amount
Awards	\$3,710
Sponsorships	\$824
PD Reimbursements	\$2,539
PD Expenses	\$5,951
Conference	\$103,611
Office Expenses	\$13,075
Newsletter	\$7,202
Meeting/Travel	\$6,768
Bank/Service Charges	\$7,388
Insurance	\$1,858
Professional Fees	\$2,074
Payroll	\$72,013
Taxes	\$965
Web Services	\$7,132
Other	\$2,060
Total Expenses	\$237,171

FY 2019-20 Expenses Pie Chart



ACTEM Sales Summary for FY2019-20

Total Sales	Total Cost of Goods Sold	Total Profit From Sales
-----	-----	-----
\$671,612	\$614,145	\$57,467

Maine Community Foundation Funds

ACTEM's funds in the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) performed with a modest increase for FY 2019-20. This investment account will ensure the sustainability of ACTEM in the future.

Fund Balance - June 2019	\$ 225,252.93
Realized/Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$ 4,038.34
MCF Admin Fee	\$ - 3,458.11
MCF Interest	\$ 1,237.51
Fund Balance - June 2020	\$ 227,070.67

Maine Community Foundation works with nonprofit organizations like ACTEM and provides professional investment management services.

Balance Sheet Account Assets - June 30, 2020

Key Bank Checking	\$ 26,911.55
Key Bank Savings	\$ 30,265.71
PayPal	\$ 369.52
Maine Community Foundation	\$ 227,070.67
Total Account Assets	\$ 284,617.45

FY 2019-20 Financial Summary

Total Income	\$ 855,904
Cost of Goods Sold [Expense]	\$ - 614,145
Total Expenses	\$ - 237,171
Total Realized/Unrealized Gains (MCF)	\$ 4,038
FY 2019-20 Profit	\$ 8,626

ACTEM's mission is to enhance and influence education in Maine through the use of technology.



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 at <https://www.bigdealbook.com> and sign up for their K-12 Technology newsletter.

GIRLS WHO CODE

At [Girls Who Code](#), we are an international non-profit leading the movement to close the gender gap in technology. We provide all free and flexible computer science programming and resources to help communities all across the country. Our free Girls Who Code Clubs program:

- Is 100% free
- Can be hosted virtually or in-person at any time during the year
- Offers free and flexible curriculum, training, book passages, and resources to help you inspire 3-5th and 6-12th graders to change the world through code
- Does NOT require any prior coding experience for you to lead a Club!
- Promotes a girls supportive environment, yet youth of all genders are welcome to join

For more info about our free in-person or virtual Clubs program, please see below:

- Our Clubs Flyer, or watch a pre-recorded or live webinar [here](#) on how to start an individual Club.
- To access our free curriculum and resources from our Girls Who Code, sign up to start a GWC Club using our [quick Clubs Application Form](#).

FREE TOOLS FOR EDUCATION LEADERS

In April of 2020, ISTE Convened the COVID-19 Education Coalition, in direct response to the COVID-19 global pandemic and its impact on education.

The Coalition grew to include nearly eighty organizations, including ISTE Affiliates VSTE, AzTEA, NHSTE, IDEA, NYSCATE, & WEMTA.

Within the six (6) months of this collaborative

experience, a total of fourteen (14) K-12 and higher education products were created around equity, connectivity, personalized learning, higher education, policy & advocacy, and social & emotional learning.

Please be sure to take a peek on our site, <http://bit.ly/EducationCoalition>.



EDTECH TEAM FREE RESOURCES

EdTech Team has a complete round up of FREE recorded and live workshops full of actionable tips and tools you can use right now!

Looking for a complete deep dive on all of the new Google Meet features and how to use them? <https://edtechteam.lpages.co/whats-new-in-google-meet-2/>



How about free student engagement tools you can use remotely or in a blended classroom? <https://edtechteam.lpages.co/remote-success-kit-workshop-2/>

SMCC OPEN HOUSE & INFO SESSIONS

Southern Maine Community College is offering virtual Open Houses, High School Visits, Info Sessions and more this December.

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSES SMCC is offering virtual open houses this December, organized by academic department. In a virtual open house you'll:

- Connect with our admissions team and learn about the application process
- Talk with faculty from your program(s) of interest.
- We will also send information separately from other college offices such as student life, housing, financial aid, billing, and career and transfer services.

ARTS & SCIENCES , 12/7/2020 @ 4 P.M. Biotechnology, Early Childhood, Education (K-12), Behavioral Health & Human Services, Marine Science, Liberal Studies with a focus in Art, Psychology, History, Political Science, Science or Math.

BUSINESS & INFO TECH, 12/8/2020 @ 4 P.M. Business Administration, Business Administration Online, Sports Management, Hospitality Management, Culinary Arts, Communications and New Media, Cyber Security, Computer Science and Information Technology.

VIRTUAL INFO SESSIONS We are offering virtual "face-to-face" Zoom sessions at various times throughout the Fall and Winter with an SMCC admissions counselor. Join with others to learn more about our admissions process, campus life, and academic programs and to get your questions answered. Register for an info session today!



ClassLink offers so much... ATTEND A 30-MINUTE HOT TOPIC "LUNCH SESSION"!

ClassLink is offering 4 hot topics on Remote Learning in December and January to choose from. [See them all](#) or click the REGISTER links below to register for a specific event.

One Portal Access, Application Management & Analytics to Assess Student Engagement. **Register:** Virtual DATE/TIME - Dec 9, 2020, 12:00-12:30pm

Analytics, digital distribution and one portal access - managing access and using data to make decisions in a remote learning world. **Register:** Virtual DATE/TIME - Dec 15, 2020, 12:00-12:30pm

Automated Access & Account Provisioning in the Age of Remote Learning Combined with Single Sign-On - say YES! **Register:** Virtual DATE/TIME - Jan 7, 2021, 12:00-12:30pm

Single Sign-On (SSO) and the POWER of ROSTERING in K12! **Register:** Virtual DATE/TIME - Jan 12, 2021-12:00-12:30pm



ACTEM Members Receive a Discount on Their ClassLink Subscription

Learn how ClassLink helps everyone in the school system, from students to leaders, and all those in between.



Access

ClassLink empowers 10 million students and staff with instant access to a library of 6,000+ single sign-on apps from the classroom or at home



Analytics

ClassLink Analytics provides essential usage data, so instructors can measure engagement and leaders can make informed purchasing and training decisions



Identity Management

ClassLink Roster Server and OneSync use automation and open standards to make rostering and provisioning easier, more secure, and less time-consuming

"ClassLink allowed us to take a mess of export jobs and SFTP transfers in our SIS and move them to one place where they are easy to find and transparent in how they function. The single sign-on it provides has been an indispensable help in this time of remote learning. ClassLink's OneSync has also greatly enhanced our ability to create and organize our Google Users automatically, bringing a lot more data over from our SIS than our previous SIF solution was able to do."

Peter Robinson, Technology Director - Auburn Public Schools (ME)

(888) 963-7550

www.classlink.com

info@classlink.com

Maine DOE Newsroom

Get to Know the Maine DOE Team

Meet Jonathan Graham

Maine DOE Team member Jonathan Graham was highlighted this fall as part of the Get to Know the Maine DOE Team Campaign. Learn a little more about Jonathan in the question and answer below.

WHAT ARE YOUR ROLES WITH DOE?

I am the Elementary Digital Learning Specialist on the MLTI Team within the Office of Innovation. I work with educators around the best ways to implement technology into their schools and classrooms. I also work to provide guidance around digital learning through different DOE initiatives and through organizations like ACTEM and MASL. Building a connection with MASL and School Librarians over the past year has been a rewarding addition to my job.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I really enjoy visiting schools, where I can learn from staff and students. Seeing and celebrating their successes is invigorating. Most recently working on MLTI 2.0 has been a highlight since MLTI completely changed my career trajectory during my student teaching.

HOW OR WHY DID YOU DECIDE ON THIS CAREER?

My mother was middle school teacher and gave me the advice of becoming an ed tech as a college student to gain perspective on career in education. I have been fortunate to work in a wide variety of roles within several school systems. I fell in love with technology integration during my student teaching and never looked back. A position at the Maine DOE allows me to continue growing as an educator while giving back to my profession.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF WORK FOR FUN?

I am married (to a teacher) and have two middle schoolers and we enjoy day trips that involve cultural and outdoor activities and usually some tasty food. I also love to cook and particularly enjoy learning about new cuisines and dishes. I also enjoy podcasts – it's a great way to learn while doing housework or driving.

EDUCATORS HONORED AT UNIQUE TEACHER OF THE YEAR TAILGATE GALA

The Maine Teacher of the Year Program hosted a unique celebration this year to honor its 2020 Maine County Teachers of the Year and the 2021 Maine Teacher of the Year. With COVID-19 health protocols in mind, the innovative team of people behind [Maine's Teacher of the Year](#) Program planned a safe, in-person tailgate event this year in place of the traditional indoor evening gala.

Hosted in Lewiston at an outdoor event at [Geiger](#), a longtime supporter of the Maine Teacher of the Year Program, the celebration featured lunch provided by Lewiston Regional Technical Center's Green Ladle Food Truck, a socially





distanced awards ceremony, and remarks (both in-person and recorded) from partners, supporters, and 2020 Maine Teacher of the Year Heather Whitaker. Event attendees included the [2020 Maine County Teachers of the Year](#) and Maine's [2021 Teacher of the Year Cindy Soule](#), who were each accompanied by members of their family.

The event was made possible by the impeccable planning of [Educate Maine](#) and the program's generous sponsors: Bangor Savings Bank, Dead River, Geiger, Hannaford, the Maine State Lottery, Unum and the Silvernail Family.

Staff from the Maine Department of Education, including Commissioner Pender Makin, were also present, along with Secretary of State Mathew Dunlap. Honoring an annual tradition, Secretary Dunlap graciously presented Maine's signature license plate to the 2021 Teacher of the Year.

Representatives from the Maine Teacher of the Year Association, legacy County and Maine Teachers of the Year, and members of the Maine State Board were also there to celebrate and honor their fellow awardees.

Attendees adhered to state COVID-19 safety requirements by keeping socially distanced and wearing face coverings. Additional protocols were implemented to ensure a safe event for all. As was stated by several speakers at the event, in a year that has been very different in many ways, all were grateful for the opportunity to come together, in-person, to celebrate and honor Maine's outstanding teachers!

MLTI ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

The MLTI team, on behalf of the Department of Education, is providing this update on the MLTI program project. In December 2020, the Department of Education contacted ACTEM, requesting nominations for the MLTI Advisory Board. Your organization provided nominee(s) to the board. The advisory board, representing over 16 educational organizations, began meeting in January 2020 and concluded its work by putting forth a recommendation to the Maine Department of Education (DOE) in August 2020. You may recall the advisory board's goal was to review and evaluate the MLTI program elements for relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness, and recommend a plan for improving and equalizing access to, and the use of, learning technology in all schools to improve student learning.

The Department of Education wanted to follow up with you to both thank you for your nominee(s) and to provide a summary on the MLTI Advisory Board's recommendation. The recommendation includes the following components:

Device purchase options that include:

- Technical Support
- Software purchase option
- Professional Learning
- Accountability system (monitoring and support system)

You can view additional details on the board's work, meetings, membership, and guiding principles on the MLTI Advisory Board's [webpage here](#).



MILLS ADMINISTRATION UPDATES COVID-19 SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY SYSTEM 12-4-20

The Health Advisory System categorizations are defined as follows:

RED: Categorization as "red" suggests that the county has a high risk of COVID-19 spread and that in-person instruction is not advisable.

YELLOW: Categorization as "yellow" suggests that the county has an elevated risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider additional precautions and/or hybrid instructional models to reduce the number of people in schools and classrooms at any one time.

GREEN: Categorization as "green" suggests that the county has a relatively low risk of COVID-19 spread and that schools may consider in-person instruction, as long as they are able to implement the required health and safety measures. Schools in a "green" county may need to use hybrid instruction models if there is insufficient capacity or other factors (facilities, staffing, geography/transportation, etc.) that may prevent full implementation of the health and safety requirements.





OverDrive PD Library

Are you an individual ACTEM member? If so, one of the benefits of membership includes access to ACTEM's OverDrive Professional Development Library.

Your membership allows you to borrow up to 2 books at a time for up to 3 weeks. Our collection includes books from many of our previous keynote speakers including: Joe Sanfelipo, Jennie Magiera, Carl Hooker, Rushton Hurley and also our 2019 keynote speakers, Tom Murray and Michael Cohen.

To access the library go to <http://bit.ly/ACTEM-overdrive>. All you need to login to your account is your email address that is associated with your ACTEM membership.

OVERDRIVE TRAINING RESOURCES

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

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



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 6TH ANNUAL THOMAS CUP

The 6th Annual Thomas Cup will offer all high school students the opportunity to engage in five (5) FREE virtual challenges and offer each member of the winning team from the Thomas Cup in a Box event up to \$10,000 in scholarships to Thomas College.

In order to promote safety and social-distancing, this year's activities can be completed from your own home. Students are asked to participate remotely in teams of three (3) to five (5) and should be from the same school and have an adult chaperone who can serve as a point of contact for the team. Students will need access to a laptop/tablet with internet access, a Gmail account that can access our Google Classroom, and the Chrome browser. For some of the challenges, Thomas College also will provide online access to Hopin, Minecraft Education Edition, and CoderZ Robotics.

CODING & INNOVATION CHALLENGE (December 7th - 12th, 2020)

Learn to code. Tell your favorite childhood story. Play in the Minecraft World.

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION (December 14th-19th, 2020)

Find clues. Think critically. Solve a crime.

ESPORTS COMPETITION (January 11th-16th, 2021)

Choose your role. Find treasure. Protect your ship.

ROBOTICS COMPETITION (January 18th - 23rd, 2021)

Make a plan. Code your robot. Finish the mission.

THOMAS CUP IN A BOX

Two flexible 12-hour time blocks to complete challenges

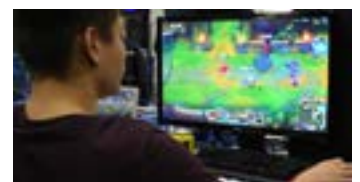
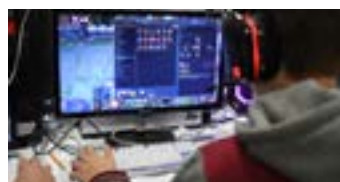
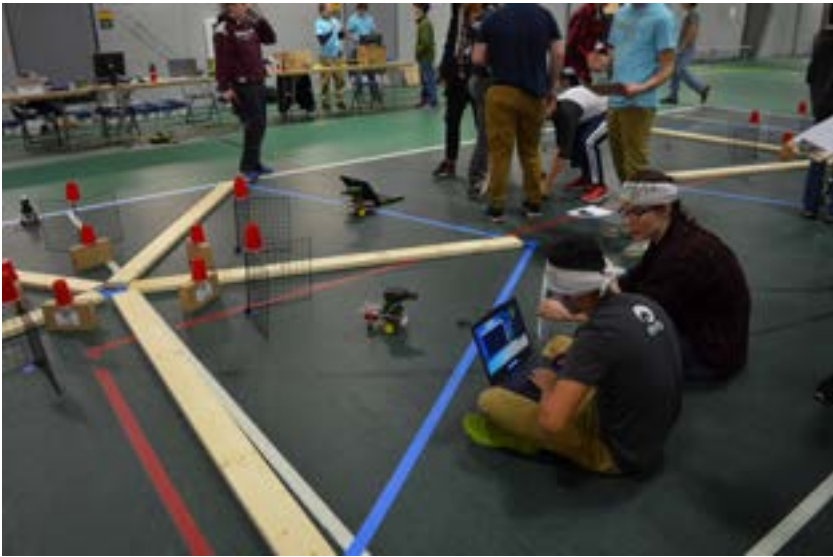
All day: Challenges open 1/29 at 7am and are due by 7pm

All night: Challenges open Friday 1/29 at 8pm and are due by Saturday 1/30 at 8am.

REGISTRATION: <https://www.thomas.edu/thomas-cup>

For answers to questions or more information, please reach out to Jim Delorie (James.Delorie@thomas.edu) or Amanda Nguyen (Amanda.Nguyen@thomas.edu).





UPCOMING EVENTS: Professional Development

November 29-December 5 ISTE Live
 Conference, Virtual Conference.

December 3-4 Educate Maine
 Education Symposium (virtual)

**Week of January 11
 2021** CMTC: Christa
 McAuliffe Technology
 Conference (virtual)

February 9-12, 2021
 MassCUE 2021
 Conference
 (virtual)

March 1-4 2021-
 COSN Conference.
 (virtual)

May 4, 2021
 ACTEM Spring
 Leadership
 Conference

June 27-30 2021-
 ISTE 2021 San
 Antonio, Texas

Maine Educators
 Become an Apple
 Teacher

**Google Teacher
 Certifications**
 Become
 a Google
 Certified
 Educator



Tech Sherpas meet every
 Tuesday at 3:00 pm.



#EdChatME
 Mondays 8:30-9:30pm

MLTI Professional Development

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

**ACTEM
 OverDrive
 PD Library**
 Free with
 your ACTEM
 membership!

