

December 2019 Conference Committee Report to the ACTEM Board and Members

In reviewing the comments from the 2018 ACTEM Conference, the 2019 Conference committee worked to improve the following areas: Improve the depth of information in the Attendify App, Offered a video on how to use the Attendify App on Twitter, offered Apples as a healthy snack, increased the attendance at the ACTEM Awards prior to the Vendor sponsored event on Thursday, offered Strands of sessions including, Google, Special Education, Early Childhood, Elementary focus, Middle/High School focus, Math focus, ELA focus. The committee will continue to offer improvements based on the responses to the 2019 survey.

As of December 1, 2019, 370 people submitted a survey about the conference and subsequently received their certificate of attendance. 44% of attendees attended the conference on Friday and 43 % attended both Thursday and Friday. 88% of attendees found the sessions they attended to be relevant and 86% felt that what they learned was relevant to their work environment. This past conference we implemented Learning the Maine Way to gamify the conference. Over 75% of attendees enjoyed playing the game. The committee felt this would be a way to actively get first-time conference-goers to engage in the activities of the day. Clearly, this was a success!

Over 71% of attendees used the Attendify app to navigate the two conference days. One comment suggested that the maps and information in the Civic Center were well placed that they didn't have to rely on the Attendify app. 96% of attendees were positive about the Civic Center and 86% of attendees were positive about the food and beverages at the conference. The quality of our presenters and their presentations was appreciated by the surveyed attendees.

Some of the quotes from attendees follow:

"I really liked having the Keynote right before lunch. I was more awake and able to soak in the message and the day seemed to go faster."

"I love this conference! My favorite of the year!"

ACTEM had some of the best, most well rounded, session options I've ever seen. Everyone I went in to was extremely useful and the presenters were indeed experts in that craft. I wish every conference had the options and presenter depth of experience that ACTEM had. Thank you for a great two days."

"A few comments about the Wifi-Wifi was hit or miss at times." **The ACC reported that there is an upgrade for next year.**

"Some of the spaces seemed to not fit the size of attendance. One workshop space was far too small for the attendance (Girls Who Code) and others were much larger than necessary. I am sure it is hard to gauge attendance, however. I would love to see more workshops about getting more girls involved in STEM."

Suggested topics from attendees were gathered and posted online for all to see once we open up the call for proposals. Potential presenters should view this online collection as they prepare their proposals. (<https://conference.actem.org/suggested-sessions>)

As part of the survey, we asked for any interest in helping with the conference and had 20 people respond. As of this week, those indicating interest have been contacted with some options of subcommittee work to be done.

Stephanie Cheney and Cheryl Oakes, co-conference chairs, would like to express thanks to the ACTEM Board for their support, Apple Computers for supporting the Keynote The Tech Rabbi, the many presenters who volunteer their time and the many attendees who support the conference. It would not be possible without the many Conference Committee members who have been involved for many years. See you next October 21st and 22nd of 2020, our conference theme is **20/20 Vision!**