actem THE CONNECTED EDUCATOR

AMANDA FOX
ELEVATIION SUMMIT KEYNOTE

Amanda Fox, acclaimed author of "The Canva Classroom" and coauthor of the bestselling "The AI Classroom," is a prominent figure in the field of technology education, particularly in integrating artificial intelligence to elevate learning and instructional design. Dedicated to advancing education, Amanda is recognized globally for her unwavering commitment to shaping the future of learning. As a Top 100 Edtech Educator, she has received prestigious awards such as the ISTE Emerging Leader Award, The STEM Excellence

(Continued on page 3)

2023 ACHIEVE Award Winners

Left: Amy Tucker, Teacher at Maranacook Community Middle School in Readfield. Right: Todd Abbott, K-4 Technology Integrator at Yarmouth Elementary School

The ACTEM ACHIEVE Award honors educators who have mastered the art of effectively implementing technology in their classrooms. They are known for their ability to stay up-to-date with the latest trends and practices in the field, while also being innovative and creative with their approach. They inspire, encourage, and nurture their students, which leads to a positive and engaging classroom environment. ACHIEVE Award winners are setting the standard for being a successful educator in the 21st century. ACTEM provides ACHIEVE winners with a personal cash award of $2,000 plus an additional $1,000 gift certificate for their school to be spent on technology related purchases.

The comments below are from Alice Barr and Cathy Wolinsky's and are taken from the awards presentation at ACTEM's recent fall conference.

I met Todd Abbott on a Skype interview for a position as a third grade teacher at Yarmouth Elementary School. He was connecting with the interview committee from his Brooklyn, New York apartment. With his bicycle hanging behind him on the wall and his trademark grin in place, I began to get to know a remarkably talented thinker, educator and innovator who I respected and learned from for the next six years. Todd brought to Yarmouth

(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It's been an exciting fall full of new learning for me. The ACTEM Fall Conference was a tremendous success due to the work of our conference co-chairs, Alice Barr and Amanda Nguyen, and Executive Director, Gary Lanoie. I'd like to thank them for their hard work coordinating such a fantastic event. This year's conference was highlighted by inspiring keynotes from Patricia Brown and Carl Hooker. Our recently added collaborations with MASL and METDA provided some great sessions for Librarians and Technology Directors. I'd like to thank all who presented at the conference this year. I heard from many attendees that this year's lineup of sessions was the most impressive of any ACTEM Conference. The quality of your sessions helps us support our mission of enhancing education in Maine through the use of technology.

(Cntd. on page 16)

Mike Arsenault, Yarmouth School Dept., ACTEM President

actem Maine
Association of Computer Technology Educators of

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actem 2023-24 BUSINESS MEETINGS

Dec. 14, 2023
March 14, 2024
May 9, 2024

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

actem ACHIEVE A

(Continued on from page 1)

a rich liberal arts background followed by two graduate degrees in Education from Brooklyn College. In addition, his ten years of experience teaching in the Bronx in grade levels from Kindergarten through Middle School prepared him to offer flexibility and understanding to all his students."

Todd is so passionate about what he does with staff and students. He keeps current and up to date on all things tech.

Todd's Tech team of second through fourth graders meet with him during lunch. They keep the 3D printers and other equipment in the building running. It is incredible to hear these students problem-solving with teachers and students when an issue arises. The relationships he has formed with these students carry with them through the rest of their education. When Todd enters the high school, he is often greeted by many kids who have had him as a teacher. They always have a memory to share!

Classroom teachers in Kindergarten through fifth grade regard Todd as an open, supportive person who prepares learning sessions, co-teaches lessons, and offers an enthusiasm that draws in students at all grade levels. The Yarmouth elementary schools are fortunate to have Todd in this instructional leadership role and I thank the ACTEM committee for honoring him with this award.

Amy has been an early adopter of technology and ed tech for as long as I've known her. Apps, devices, practices - Amy tries them out and absorbs them into her curriculum, adapting them to best suit her students and the topics they're discovering. She understands that students need to know how to use technology safely and wisely, that technology is and will continue to be an integral part of their daily lives. She believes that technology has the power to transform the student experience from a flat and one-dimensional experience to a 3- or 4-D experience, making the learning more relevant and applicable to student lives.

A proponent of a student-driven curriculum, Amy is an advocate for student voice and choice. She believes that students must feel connected to and interested in the topics they study in order to find those topics relevant and purposeful, and she understands that technology has the power to help do this. In providing her students with multiple pathways for learning, Amy incorporates student tech options to encourage and allow for increased engagement in learning. She understands the power that technology has in leveling the playing field for ALL of her students.

Amy also encourages her colleagues and friends into trying new tech practices that she has found to be successful in her own classroom. She often specifically tailors the tech tools or practices she shares with others, keenly aware of the intended recipient's comfort level with technology and tech tools in general. She's a regular presenter at local, regional, and statewide professional development, and early this spring worked tirelessly to hold one of this state's first post-pandemic EdCamps. Amy has a zest for sharing technology and tech practices with others, students and educators alike.

AWARD WINNERS

Amy embodies all that this award stands for. When I was asked if I felt comfortable giving a brief introduction, I thought that the nomination I'd written was a little NOT brief, so I put it through the ChatGPT machine, asking it to abbreviate what I'd written. Here's the final result:

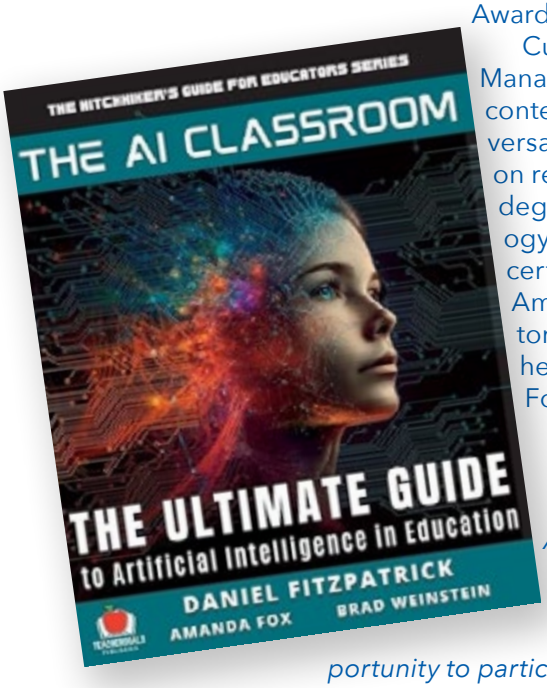
- Amy, tech-savvy educator, elevates learning with safe, relevant tech.
- Beane model advocate, promotes student choice, tech engagement, equity.
- Shares tech insights, empowers all. Amy's superpower: tech for all.

Congratulations to the 2023 ACTEM ACHIEVE Award winners!

Consider nominating an outstanding educator for the 2024 ACHIEVE award at ACTEM's website: https://www.actem.org/AchieveAward

ELEVATION SUMMIT KEYNOTE

(Continued on from page3)



Award, and the title of PBS Digital Innovator.

Currently serving as the Community Manager of Curipod.com, Amanda guides content development, fosters crucial conversations around AI, and advises districts on responsible use policy. With a master's degree in learning, design, and technology from Penn State and a leadership certificate from Harvard's CAEL program, Amanda has trained over 10,000 educators worldwide. You can connect with her at theaiclassroom.net or @AmandaFoxSTEM on X.

Amanda Fox coauthored the bestseller "The AI Classroom" All attendees of the Elevation Summit will receive a copy of this book and have the opportunity to participate in a book study led by Amanda Fox after the summit. Register today for the Elevation Summit at this link: https://www.actem.org/event-5483878

Do you know a teacher or technology educator who deserves an Award?

Each year exceptional Maine educators are recognized by ACTEM through our ACHIEVE award. This ACHIEVE award includes cash prizes for both the individual winner/s and their schools!

ACHIEVE Award winners are 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. These professionals also recognize that further change is necessary, but understand that it is a process for all stakeholders. They realize that teacher and student empowerment is the key element to technology integration. ACHIEVE Educators expect success and motivate through awareness and access to information.

Have you considered nominating a colleague? If not, you should! See the website for more information: http://actem.org/AchieveAward

ACTEM 2023 C

ACTEM was pleased to welcome **457** people to the Augusta Civic Center for two days of learning together and from each other. The theme this year was "ImpactME" – and we are happy to share that these connections were the highlight of the conference for many participants!

Educators from across the state and beyond, and vendors from both near and far, offered **100+ sessions** for participants. These included everything from creating cybersecurity incident response plans for IT directors to learning how to integrate some of the latest AI tools and technologies into classrooms.

Some of the highlights included sessions on Responsible AI, Unleashing Student Potential, A few of my favorite things, 24 for 24, Teaching with Minecraft, Projects for the Planet, and Top 10 AI Tools for Creating Content. Many educators also found Apple's new Pop-Up Classroom to be engaging and supportive. Additionally, participants enjoyed sessions from LEGO, Sphero, and MERGE – vendors who jumped in this year to lead our new Playground spaces.

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 (95%). They provided great input on what they would like to see next year: building a culture of innovation and exploration, more hands on learning, more collaborative sessions, virtual reality, free educational apps for students, sessions on family engagement, and workshops with administrator specific strategies. Participants also are excited to engage again with sessions from LEGO, Sphero, and MERGE - as well as ones focused on AI.

This year, ACTEM attendees had the opportunity to hear from two wonderful keynote speakers - Patricia Brown and Carl Hooker. Both brought great expertise around the ever popular topic of AI in schools today. As a reminder, attendees can access these session materials, and materials from a variety of other sessions, in the Sched app https://actem2023.sched.com/ used for the conference.

CONFERENCE

By Alice Barr & Amanda Nguye

In addition to the keynote speakers, attendees also heard from Department of Education representative Emma Banks, who shared their excitement for a new approach to the Student Conference, as well as information about classroom technology grants. Educators are encouraged to keep an eye out for more information from the Department in the comings months!

We hosted our first Board Game Night this year. Todd Abbott and Marissa Deku lead the highly successful event - where educators didn't seem to want to leave! We plan to continue this next year. Many attendees also enjoyed an evening of fun and light competition during ACTEM After Hours at the Civic Center with Carl Hooker. We're looking forward to planning more opportunities for educators to connect outside of scheduled learning sessions.

This ACTEM, we also honored several educators. You can read more about the ACHIEVE award winners, Todd Abbott and Amy Tucker, on page 2 and about the Friends of John Lundt Awardee, Crystal Priest, on page 3 . It was an honor to celebrate with them and to hear about their contributions to their classrooms, schools, distrists, and the state of Maine! We also had the privilege of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the SEED program, which featured a special recognition of educators from across the state who had participated over the years. We were honored to have Jenifer Van Deusen (also known as "The Head Gardener") lead this celebration.

Additionally, we were honored to have middle and high school students from RSU 19 (Nokomis) join us as presenters and volunteers again this year. They always bring great expertise and energy to the conference!

The feedback from this year was overwhelmingly positive. If you have any other feedback or ideas for next year, please don't hesitate to reach out to conference@actem.org. *(continued on page 10)*

We want to also thank the conference committee, who planned and led a

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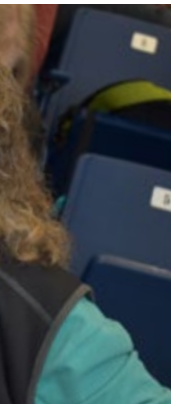
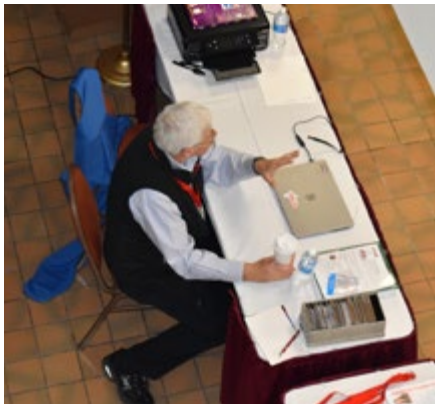

AUDITORIUM
IN DEDICATION

(2023 Fall Conference from page 5)

nearly flawless conference. 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 couldn't have done this without the deep expertise and careful planning that our Executive Director, Gary Lanoie, does to set all of us up for success each year!

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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.

Crystal Priest awarded the 2023 John Lunt Friend of Technology Award

The John Lunt Friend of Technology award was established by ACTEM in 2006 as a way to recognize individuals that have made significant contributions 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 annual MAINEducation conference for over ten years.

The John S. Lunt Friend of Technology is a special award that the ACTEM board gives to recognize individuals who have made a long term, lasting contribution to supporting and advancing the use of technology in education throughout the state of Maine. The standard used by the ACTEM board in how we identify our honorees is - if you mention this person's name to anybody who is involved in technology around the state, the response should be "well of course!" I believe it was Crystal Priest that had some help in determining that standard we have used on past honorees' and "well of course" Crystal perfectly fills that standard.

The ACTEM Board considered it a no brainer to recognize Crystal Priest this year as she retires from her long career in education in Maine for the John Lunt Friend of Technology award. Jenifer Van Deusen, a previous John Lunt award recipient, presented the award on behalf of ACTEM to Crystal at the fall 2023 conference. Jennifer stated;

"Crystal's accomplishments span the technology universe. In 1998, as Director of Technology in MSAD 4, Crystal piloted a 1:1 laptop initiative to students, before Governor King made it statewide. She went on to serve as ACTEM's President from 2008-2012, while becoming an Apple Distinguished Educator in 2011, and then co-chairing ACTEM's Conference Committee from 2013 through 2017."

Crystal still serves on the current conference committee as a valuable member and is always there to help out with whatever we asked of her.

Crystal was also a contributing member to SEED's (Spreading Educator to Educator Developments) garden as a developer (see the Project SEED – 25 Years Later article in this newsletter). As a SEEDling, Crystal not only shared her lesson design "packet" on how to create Claymation videos, she also offered professional development, teaching the teachers. It was Crystal's idea to bring the SEEDlings together for a special recognition at this past fall's ACTEM conference.

Jenifer states: "Crystal has been a steady leader within the ACTEM organization for more than 20 years. She tells it like it is and gets stuff done without calling attention to herself. Plus, she likes to have fun!"

Congratulations to Crystal Priest as the 2023 John Lunt Friend of Technology Award honoree!

Arcademics Launches its Seventh Annual Online National Math Competition

The free Arcademics Cup promotes online student engagement and offers educators and families valuable insight into student progress during remote learning

Arcademics, a leading provider of online multiplayer edu-games, today announced that its fifth annual national multiplication competition, the Arcademics Cup, is scheduled for February 2, 2024. More than 12,000 students around the U.S. participated in the free contest this past year, and in 2023, elementary students have the opportunity to win prizes including tablets and classroom pizza parties.

"The Cup is great for engaging students with multiplication practice, and for using their devices in constructive ways," said David Woodward, math specialist at Boulder Valley Schools. "Our students really enjoyed last year's Arcademics Cup, and their performance data was interesting to look through."

When the Cup starts, students log in on their devices and race cars using multiplication problems. Prizes are awarded in a number of categories such as Top Scores, Most Points, and Group Points. In addition to challenging students and utilizing technology, the Arcademics Cup also provides teachers and parents with critical insights through visualized trend reports on student performance.

"The progress reports helped me find areas for intervention," said Woodward. "I was excited to see their percent correct and rate improved so much during the Cup." Nationwide, student accuracy improved by 6% and the rate of correct responses improved by 11% during last year's Cup. For lower-performing or at-risk students who started with an accuracy less than 80%, accuracy improved by 19% and the rate of correct responses improved by 34%.

Students in 1st through 6th grade are eligible for this online racing competition. Teachers and parents not currently utilizing Arcademics Plus can sign up for a free account to register students, who can participate in the competition at no cost.

"As teachers and parents look for new ways to engage students online during this time of remote learning, the free Arcademics Cup helps to motivate them through friendly competition," said David Scherrer, president of Arcademics. "Students join games online with friends, classmates, and other players in the competition—while practicing multiplication facts in a fun way. Parents and teachers can share progress and collaborate using the hashtag #ArcademicsCup."

To support educators, Arcademics is providing any educator who registers for the Cup complimentary access to Arcademics Plus for their students through the competition in February.

To learn more about the Arcademics Cup and sign up, visit Arcademics.com/Cup.

About Arcademics: Arcademics creates research-based and standards-aligned free educational games that engage, motivate, and teach K-6 students in practicing math and language arts. To learn more, visit Arcademics.com, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter @Arcademics.

FREE AI Workshops for Educators

We're thrilled to invite you to the upcoming sessions of our immersive and FREE Demystifying AI in Education workshop series, tailored exclusively for educators and proudly presented by MMSA. This is your last chance to join, so don't miss out!

AI AS A TEACHING TOOL:
Date: Feb 26 Time: 3:30-5:30 PM
Learn practical approaches to using AI in creating lesson plans and study materials. Test out these ideas hands-on.

AI AND ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS:
Date: Mar 25 Time: 3:30-5:30 PM
Engage with experts in a conversation about AI ethics. Gain a decision-making framework and discover valuable STEM lessons.

NOTE: If you missed our first session, "Introduction to AI" and want to learn the basics, don't worry! You can still watch the recording and download our resources by clicking this link: https://tinyurl.com/3uw72kzn

Register now: https://sites.google.com/mmsa.org/demystifyingai?usp=sharing

Join us in this exciting educational journey, and don't miss this unique opportunity to explore your AI knowledge and teaching skills.

Rich Peterson, IT Specialist
(207) 626-3230 Ext. 145
343 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04330

SEED

Cultivating Great Ideas

Project SEED - 25 Years later . . .

ACTEM's conference theme for this year was IMPACT ME - with the dual implications of technology's impact on individuals and on the widespread impact around the state of Maine.

Considering the theme, and that this is the 25th anniversary of the start of SEED (Spreading Educator to Educator Developments), it seemed like a great time for ACTEM to recognize SEED and all SEEDlings at the conference awards ceremony.

SEED was a professional development program funded by a federal technology innovation grant that provided a variety of peer led professional development activities around the state for several years including the initial MLTI training. SEED's model included training technology learning leaders around the state to provide high quality training. These leaders continue to provide technology professional development to this day through venues like the ACTEM Conference.

SEEDlings were invited to the Award Ceremony where they were recognized for their impact on educational professional development over the years by the Head Gardener herself, Jenifer Van Deusen. Jenifer alsoprovided an overview of what SEED provided over the years and the wide reaching impact the program had on the state of Maine.

This was a great opportunity to bring many SEEDlings back together as a group and to gather some quotes and comments about what SEED meant to them and their professional life. The big take away from the get together was that SEED had an incredibly positive impact on educators who were involved and they would really like to see SEED professional development resurrected for the next generation of educators.

"It is a shame that SEED ended. I found it to be the best way to allow educators to flourish and spread positive ideas and energy throughout. We were treated like real professionals, and it encouraged us to continue distributing positivity to other educators. I miss those people, and I miss SEED."

- Vincent Vanier - Madawaska School Dept.

"It was the richest Professional Development experience I had during my teaching career so it affected everything!"

Laura Girr, Retired formerly Freeport

"SEED was so right, so correct, so much fun."

Jim Moulton
SEED's First Lead Technologist

actem Maine and Maine Educational Technology Directors Association METDA are proud to announce:

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- ★ Door prizes
  - Participants will receive a free book about use of A.I. in the classroom
  - A light breakfast and lunch will be provided by sponsors
  - There will be a after-hours social event for networking and idea sharing

registration limited to 150 people, so register now!

present

Interested in being a **presenter**? We want to provide range of learning experiences for elevAtIon Summit participants that explore all things A.I. in education (e.g. best instructional A.I. practices/tools, benefits and challenges of A.I. in schools, "how-to" tutorials, instructional leadership with emerging technologies). Partners and groups are encouraged to collaborate on proposals. Pitch us your idea via THIS FORM

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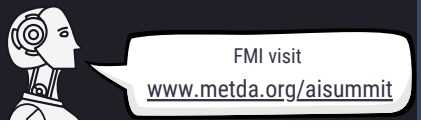

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SAVE THE DATES

ACTEM 2024 Spring Leadership Conference
May 6, 2024
Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

ACTEM 2024 Fall Conference
Oct. 10-11, 2024
Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME

President's Message (from Cover)

There were some new features at this year's conference. We added a new Playground booth option to the exhibit hall. The Maine DOE, Lego Education, MERGE, and Sphero hosted these four new booths. It was great to see all the activity and fun in each booth. We also added a Board Game Night hosted by Todd Abbott. Thanks to Julie York for providing the games for this inaugural event. The games continued throughout the night with our second annual After Hours event hosted by Carl Hooker. We all had a great time with Carl's trivia and the App-mazing Race!

It was great to see Crystal Priest receive the John Lunt award. I have been part of many discussions of people to give that award, with Crystal always stating it should be a "no-brainer." She obviously passed the "Crystal Test" when her name came up. Congratulations to Crystal!

I'd like to thank our entire conference committee for their work to make this event a success. We can not put on such a large event without the support of many people. Two people who do not get enough praise for their hard work at this event are longtime conference committee members Susie Simmons and Jason Berani. Susie Simmons, a Technology Integrator from Bonny Eagle, has been a conference committee member for several years and is one of our most sought-after presenters year after year. She also helps set up all of the audio-visual equipment and takes amazing candid photos at the event. Jason Bersani, Senior Client Deployment Admin in Winslow Public Schools, has also been a longtime conference committee member and is instrumental in setting up(and tearing down) the audio-visual equipment in each room at the civic center ensuring a good experience for presenters and participants. Jason also gets around with his camera to get some great photos from the conference. Much of Susie and Jason's work at the conference goes unseen but is critical to the event's success.

I hope many of you will attend the upcoming AI Summit ACTEM is hosting with METDA. This event is happening on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at South Portland High School. This event will be keynoted by Amanda Fox, author of The AI Classroom. Each event participant will get a copy of her book and be eligible to participate in a virtual book study with Amanda Fox. The sessions look great, and we will have tremendous featured speakers. Registration is limited to the first 150 participants. Please register on the ACTEM website today!

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Andrew Hausman

Seesaw 2023 Updates

FOR SCHOOL & DISTRICT LEADERS...

Every month, Seesaw has new and timely collections in the Seesaw Library! Make sure to share these time-saving materials with your teachers: • National Education Month: This month, Seesaw is also celebrating National Education Month with a collection of lessons that celebrate the amazing ways teachers engage their students through meaningful learning experiences. • Instructional Templates: Make sure to also take a peek at the sample of Instructional Templates that are featured to support you in gaining insight into students' creativity and comprehension, through flexible, customizable, and open-ended templates. • Computer Science: 3rd-5th grade teachers, we have a NEW cross-curricular Code.org Computer Science collection for you! This collection blends Seesaw's multimodal tools and interactive canvas with content from Code.org, so your students can code on Code.org and then return to Seesaw to reflect on their coding projects! As always, teachers can find fun and ready-to-go activities for each school day in Seesaw's November Dailies.

FOR TEACHERS...

Every month, Seesaw has new and timely collections in the Seesaw Library: • National Education Month: This month we're celebrating National Education Month with a collection of lessons that celebrate the amazing ways teachers engage their students through meaningful learning experiences. • Instructional Templates: Make sure to also take a peek at the sample of Instructional Templates that are featured to support you in gaining insight into students' creativity and comprehension, through flexible, customizable, and open-ended templates. • Computer Science: 3rd-5th grade teachers, we have a NEW cross-curricular Code.org Computer Science collection for you! This collection blends Seesaw's multimodal tools and interactive canvas with content from Code.org, so your students can code on Code.org and then return to Seesaw to reflect on their coding projects! As always, don't forget to check out the November Dailies for fun and ready-to-go activities for each school day in November.

FOR FAMILIES...

Seesaw has a new Highlights folder that enables students and teachers to showcase students' noteworthy work! While you're reviewing your child's work in the Seesaw Journal, just filter for the Highlights folder. And don't forget to leave a comment on their posts! New to Seesaw? Head to our family resources page to learn how to get connected!

Customer Success | Seesaw
andrew@seesaw.me | www.seesaw.com

IN-CLASS BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS:
Begin the assignment with an in-class brainstorming session where students discuss potential topics and share ideas. This ensures that the initial thought process is done collectively and under supervision.

THESIS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP:
Conduct a workshop focused on thesis development. Have students present their thesis statements in class, allowing for feedback and guidance. This helps in refining their ideas before they start writing.

OUTLINE SUBMISSION AND FEEDBACK:
Ask students to submit their essay outlines before the final submission. Provide feedback on the structure and content, reinforcing the importance of a well-thought-out plan.

DRAFT REVIEW SESSIONS:
Implement multiple draft reviews where students submit intermediate versions of their essays. This process allows for continuous monitoring and guidance, making it harder for them to rely solely on external resources.

PEER REVIEW WORKSHOPS:
Introduce peer review workshops where students exchange and provide constructive feedback on each other's work. This collaborative approach promotes accountability within the class.

INTEGRATION OF CLASS MATERIAL:
Emphasize the incorporation of class material into the essays. Require references to specific lectures, readings, or discussions, ensuring that students engage with and apply the content covered in class.

PRESENTATION COMPONENT:
Add a presentation component to the assignment. Require students to present key aspects of their essays in class, demonstrating their understanding and ability to articulate their ideas orally.

REFLECTION ON THE WRITING PROCESS:
Integrate reflective components where students discuss their writing process, challenges faced, and how they overcame them. This adds a personal touch to the assignment and makes it more difficult to rely on external sources.

REAL-WORLD APPLICATION ESSAYS:
Frame the assignment around real-world applications or current events. This ensures that the content is relevant and encourages students to think critically about how the concepts they are learning apply to the world around them.

OPEN-BOOK EXAM STYLE ESSAYS:
Design the assignment with an open-book exam style, allowing students to refer to their class notes and materials. This approach encourages them to use the resources provided in the course rather than seeking external assistance.

A thoughtful approach to redesigning writing assignments minimizes the potential misuse of external resources like ChatGPT

By incorporating these strategies, you can create assignments that not only deter the misuse of external resources but also foster a more engaged and collaborative learning environment.

By Rachel Guthrie, M. Ed.
With a review from ChatGPT

Maine DOE Newsroom

MLTI Student Conference T-Shirt Design Contests!

For the first time ever, we are hosting two separate t-shirt design contests! This contest is open to all students in MLTI school districts, grades 5-10. Design the t-shirt that students around the state will wear during the MLTI Student Conferences! The winners will be recognized during the event they were selected for. Submissions for the Virtual Student Conference are due December 15th, and submissions for the In-Person Student Conference are due no later than February 1st. Winners will be announced within two weeks of submission.

Click here for more information, including the submission guidelines and link to submit.

For questions about the MLTI Student Conferences, please contact the MLTI Project Manager, Bethany Billinger, bethany.billinger@maine.gov https://mainedoenews.net/2023/11/01/two-mlti-student-conference-events-planned-for-2024-registration-open-and-t-shirt-design-contests-begins/

Two MLTI Student Conference Events Planned for 2024 – Registration Open and T-Shirt Design Contests Begins!

The Maine Department of Education's (DOE) Learning Through Technology Team is excited to open the registration and t-shift design contest for the 21st annual MLTI Student Conference events!

Two separate events are being organized this year, each with a distinctive look and approach. We will be organizing another in-person event this year as well as a virtual event again this year, but we are shaking things up. And, for the first time ever, we are hosting two separate t-shirt design contests!

See beow for more information about these exciting updates.

MLTI In-Person Student Conference, May 23rd, 2024

Join us again this year for a day of learning through technology at the University of Maine

in Orono. We are excited to invite you to "Camp MLTI" the 2024 MLTI In-Person Student Conference in May. This event brings together over a thousand students and educators from all across the state for a day of engaging sessions and activities at Maine's largest university.

This event is open to all educators and students, grade 5-10 school districts in the MLTI program. Registration is free and all materials will be provided. Register prior to March 29th, to ensure that your team/classroom receives their materials and MLTI t-shirts before the big day!

Click here for more information and to register for the MLTI In-Person Student Conference (PDF).

Maine School Systems Enhance Cyber Posture!

The Maine Department of Education has assisted schools in enhancing their cybersecurity posture through Cyber Performance Grants (CPG). The one-time grant was in response to the federal Cybersecurity Act and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's report to K12 education, "Protecting Our Future." Sixty-one school(s) systems participated in the grant, ranging from Ft. Kent to York, including several island schools.

The program supports CISA's Cyber Performance Goals (CPG) including multifactor authentication, security awareness, professional development, system backups, patch management, minimizing exposures, incident response plans, end-of-service equipment and investments in CISA's cyber performance goals.

The grant supports the state's evolving cybersecurity plan as highlighted in the State and Local Cybersecurity Planning Grant (SLCSPG), a Maine Emergency Management and Maine Office of Information Technology managed grant from the Department of Homeland Security through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 established the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act which provides $1 billion of funding nationwide.

K12 Maine school systems will soon have an opt-in option to the SLCSP grant opportunities which will focus upon:

- Cybersecurity Awareness Training for end users (employees and staff)
- Cybersecurity Training for Practitioners – to increase awareness and use of the many federal cybersecurity offerings through the MS-ISAC, CISA, EI-ISAC, and CIS.
- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) for end users (employees and staff)
- Services to support.Gov domain migration
- Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions
- Cyber Incident Response Plan templates/resources

In addition, the Department was recently recognized for its efforts before a national audience through the Cybersecurity Collaborative of the States Educational Technology Directors Association SETDA.

Follow the Learning Through Technology Team on Social Media

The Maine Department of Education's Learning Through Technology Team (LTT) now have dedicated accounts for Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). We encourage people to continue to follow the Maine DOE's accounts in addition to our new presence and will continue to share our most important updates through both avenues. We will be sharing upcoming events, ongoing projects, and highlight educators in the field who are integrating technology and computer science in innovative ways. In addition to following these accounts, we'd love for you to tag us (using "@mainedoeltt") for social media posts that pertain to the MLTI program, #MaineTeachesCS Mobile Labs and general educational technology use.

Maine DOE Newsroom

MLTI Virtual Student Conference, March 7th, 2024

The Learning Through Technology Team is shaking things up with our MLTI Virtual Student Conference this year! We are excited to announce the MLTI Winter Classic, our fifth Virtual Student Conference. This event will be hosted in March this year to provide a unique and innovative opportunity that is better tailored to school schedules and allows for more flexibility than ever before. Join us in a game-based day of fun! Register now to ensure your team can participate in the MLTI "Winter Classic"!

This event is open to all school districts in the MLTI program. Registration is free and all materials will be provided. Register prior to January 8th to ensure that your team/classroom receives their materials and MLTI t-shirts before the big day!

Click here for more information and to register for the MLTI Virtual Student Conference.

CISA Releases AI Roadmap

As the nation's cyber defense agency and the national coordinator for critical infrastructure security and resilience, CISA will play a key role in addressing and managing risks at the nexus of AI, cybersecurity, and critical infrastructure.

CISA has developed a Roadmap for AI, a whole-of-agency plan aligned with national AI strategy, to address our efforts to: promote the beneficial uses of AI to enhance cybersecurity capabilities, ensure AI systems are protected from cyber-based threats, and deter the malicious use of AI capabilities to threaten the critical infrastructure Americans rely on every day.

- Roadmap Link
- Executive Order Link

K12 CYBERSTORM! CISA-DOE-METDA to announce a state-wide voluntary tabletop exercise experience, in late winter 2024! STAY TUNED!

MLTI's Teaching with Tech Podcast Begins Season Two

The "Teaching with Tech" podcast is back for a second season. This project, run by the MLTI Ambassadors highlights new faces and voices centered around supporting technology integration across Maine. The Ambassadors share exciting strategies and tools as well as interviews from the field which showcase how teachers and schools are using innovative educational strategies to provide students with the best experience possible.

The MLTI Ambassador team kicked off season two with an episode titled "What are the Ambassadors Working on?" and continued with the themes of "Tech in the Arts" for October, "Computational Thinking" for November and will revisit "AI in the Classroom" for December. In addition to these regular bi-weekly episodes, be on the look out for "Community Corner" and "Capitol Connections" episodes that provide some bonus content.

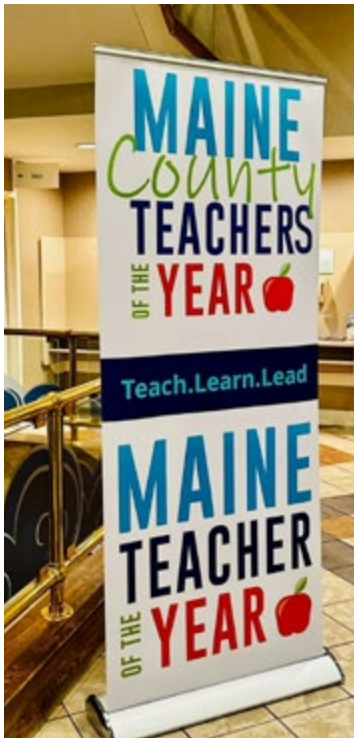
Do you have a topic you want to hear on Teaching with Tech or know an educator doing exciting work with technology integration? The MLTI Ambassadors would love to hear from you! To join the conversation, email the team at DOE-LTT@maine.gov. Teaching with Tech is now streaming on

For more information about the Teaching with Tech podcast or other MLTI Ambassador initiatives, contact the MLTI Ambassador Program Facilitator, Jonathan R. Werner, jonathan.werner@maine.gov

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, and YouTube Music.

Educate Maine Honoring the 2023 County Tea

Annual Teacher of the Year Gala



Each year ACTEM representatives attend the awards Gala and recognize the sixteen 2023 County Teachers and 2024 Maine Teacher of the Year. This year, Amanda Nguyen and Alice Barr attended on behalf of the ACTEM Board. It was a special evening, celebrating 10 years of naming County Teachers of the Year and decades of other legacy Maine Teachers of the Year.

Each of the 2023 County Teachers of the Year received a Maine canvas pouch with a copy of the book Ready, Set, FAIL! By Carl Hooker - who keynoted ACTEM's Fall 2023 conference. They each also received free registration to the 2024 Fall conference. We look forward to welcoming them to the Augusta Civic Center next year!

Since ACTEM is an educational technology association, we also presented Joshua Chard, Maine's 2024 Teacher of the Year, with a brand new iPad Air. We hope Joshua finds this to be a useful tool to help with the exceptional teaching and learning that we know already happens in his classroom!

chers and the 2024 Maine Teacher of the Year

actem
eacher
of the YEAR

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.

ISTE Affiliate Member

ACTEM 2023-24 Dates to remember

ACTEM 2023-24 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 14, 2023
March14, 2024
May 9, 2024

Spring Leadership Conference
May 6th, 2024 | Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

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 Reimburse ment program. In accordance with ACTEM's mission to enhance and influence education in Maine though 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 you 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.

PLEASE NOTE: The ACTEM PD Reimbursement Program Rules permit reimbursement only to individual members and not to school districts

OVERDRIVE MOVING TO SORA

verDrive has retiried the legacy Over-Drive 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 d istrict

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

actem Purchasing Conso

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-sate 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.)

ortium *for Maine Schools*

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@explorelearning.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

December 8, 2023 2023 Annual Education Symposium – Educate Maine, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

January 13, 2024 elevAtIon Summit [AI Summit] South Portland HS, South Portland, Maine

January 23-26, 2024 FETC - Future of Educational Technology Conference, Orlando, FL

March 8, 2024 METAA CTO Clinic - DoubleTree | Milford, MA

March 22 – 25, 2024 ASCD Annual Conference 2024, Washington DC

April 8-10, 2024 CoSN Annual Conference, Miami, FL

May 6, 2024 ACTEM Spring Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME

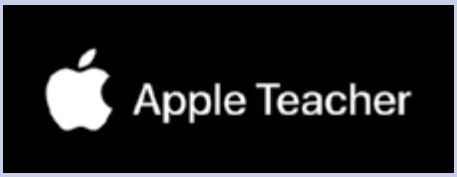
May 16-17, 2024, Dynamic Landscapes Conference, Champlain College - Burlington, VT

May 31 - June 1, 2024, MassCUE Spring Conference, Polar Park - Worcester, MA

June 23-26, 2024 ISTELive 24, Denver, CO

ACTEM OverDrive/Sora PD Library Free with your ACTEM membership!
https://soraapp.com/welcome/login/202974

Google Teacher Certifications
Become a Google Certified Educator
https://edu.google.com/intl/ALL_us/for-educators/training-courses/?modal_active=none



Maine: Become an Apple Teacher https://education.apple.com/#/home/rp/T006360A

MLTI 2.0 Professional Development

Apple solution: http://maine.gov/mlti/events/apple.shtml

HP Solution: http://maine.gov/mlti/events/hp.shtml

MLTI SLAMShow
http://mlti.me/
Thursdays at 11:00 am

#EdChatME
Mondays 8:30-9:30pm