

SITE 2010 Preface

Teaching with Technology: Engaging Students through 21st Century Learning

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In 2010, the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) - The Friendly Society - celebrates its 21st year. As the leading professional association focusing on technology and teacher education across the globe, SITE celebrates its professional responsibilities as well as the organizational skills, attitudes, behaviors, and tools our members have helped us develop to ensure continued success as a learned society.

You play a vital role in SITE's evolution and continued success. If you are one of the hundreds of authors whose work is documented in the proceedings this year, we salute you, thank you, and are proud to present your work. If you are new member or you have just located us for the first time, welcome! We hope that you find inspiring research, narratives and new ideas that advance your thinking.

Four areas of SITE's organizational progress bear mentioning:

1. Acquiring new partners and resources for emerging workforce skills
2. Expanding global initiatives and outreach
3. Increased use of a distributed leadership model within the Society
4. Publishing the second book in our series on high quality research

This year's conference theme – Engaging Students through 21st Century Learning – recognizes that technologies many of us find “new,” are actually a part of everyday life for many students. Yet schools are, for the most part, not utilizing these tools and practices to enhance learning. As social networking practices are reinventing a more participatory culture and 3D simulation and game platforms bring us into virtual touch with people all around the world, new challenges are emerging for teacher education.

In San Diego, on March 29 - April 2, 2010 leaders from the U.S. and 50 countries will gather at the SITE 2010 Conference to discuss the latest and most effective ways to engage digital learners. Making debuts at SITE this year are the American Society for Engineering Education (<http://www.asee.org/>), and the New Media Literacies group from MIT (<http://newmedialiteracies.org/>) - two of the important sources of new ideas needed in teacher education for preparing tomorrow's teachers.

The society focuses on worldwide technology use in teacher education. If you work in teacher education and love using technology to drive change, expand horizons, and search for new knowledge, then no matter what country you are from, you are a valued SITE contributor, member and leader. This past year saw the creation of several new initiatives in China, Netherlands, Korea, Singapore, and Australia. Please feel welcome to add your ideas and networks to this mix, and help us join the world of teacher educators into one voice for exploration and expression. Several contributors to the proceedings have set a great example of global thinking; we hope you enjoy and learn from their ideas.

We encourage you to speak to any member of SITE's leadership team – a Special Interest Group chair or vice-chair, a Conference Volunteer, a Founder, a member of the Executive Committee, any of the Officers, any Editor of a SITE journal, members of Councils and their leadership – to express an interest in becoming more involved. Distributed leadership is a norm of the society, and that places YOU in the seat of responsibility for joining us at every level. Our members shape us. Please feel welcome to join, add your creativity and energy, and help the society grow its membership and maintain its focus as the friendliest professional society - one that helps you achieve your goals for professionalism.

The papers accepted into the conference are documented in these proceedings, and will hopefully help initiate and sustain a conversation to further explore new levels of understanding concerning the momentous changes underway in engaging youth, preparing teachers, and shaping educational practices for the century ahead. They deal with issues such as:

- Participatory technologies and sites are becoming an integral part of youth culture. Young people today create, remix, and share content with other creators.
- Today's youth are using social networking tools to create and communicate via blogs, wikis, podcasts, and digital video. In an era of globalization and a world that is increasingly flat, effective use of social media is rapidly becoming a vital global workforce skill.
- Corporations are using these tools to allow large, geographically dispersed groups of workers to collaborate.
- How educators can tap students' enthusiasm and creativity to shape and undertake learning experiences while preparing students for the workforce of the future.
- Linking in-school learning with social media can make education more relevant, meaningful, and connected.
- Share practical ways to bridge conventional school practice with informal learning.

The authors also write about harnessing student engagement while addressing instructional objectives through creation of content in what some have called the "participatory culture" of the emerging globally connected society. Many presentations deal with practical, classroom sessions including:

- Mathematics, Science, English, and Social Studies Teaching
- Evaluation and Research
- Games & Simulations
- E-folios & Assessment
- Distance learning
- Digital Video in Mathematics, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies Classrooms and After-school Programs.
- Web 2.0 Sessions (blogging, podcasting, etc.)
- And much more

SITE is a learning community dependent upon individuals like you who are willing to unselfishly contribute their work and their time for the benefit of all. Our efforts at SITE are aimed at supporting you. This volume is the latest contribution to that global 'commons of knowledge' that is the research and development work of teacher educators around the world.