

SITE 2015 Preface

The 2015 SITE conference in Las Vegas will be the 26th annual conference for SITE. This represents a time where SITE is really entering adulthood. We can no longer claim the ignorance of youth, nor the omniscience of our teenage years, and not even the learning and partying days of being a college aged organization. We must now face reality as a well-established professional society with a reputation to uphold and protect. And that reputation is:

The Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education is an international association of individual teacher educators, and affiliated organizations of teacher educators in all disciplines, who are interested in the creation and dissemination of knowledge about the use of information technology in teacher education and faculty/staff development.

The Society seeks to promote research, scholarship, collaboration, exchange, and support among its membership, and to actively foster the development of new national organizations where a need emerges. SITE is the only organization that has as its sole focus the integration of instructional technologies into teacher education programs.

When we gather in Las Vegas during the first week of March 2015, we will bring together over 1000 individuals from nearly 60 countries all interested in information technology and teacher education. SITE provides a unique opportunity to interact and learn from professionals from across the world and across disciplines. It provides a venue to disseminate ideas globally and for E-ternity through the digital distribution of the submitted papers.

SITE plans to strengthen and carry over connections made during the conference into the 12 months between conferences. One method of doing that is through Academic Experts (<http://AcademicExperts.org>). Every SITE attendee is encouraged to complete their profile, join groups, start discussions, and be an active participant prior to, during, and after the conference in Academic Experts. This platform allows you to carry on these conversations and connections *throughout* the year.

Part of joining the SITE community is becoming active in a Special Interest Group or SIG. SITE offers a wide variety of SIG's in both Information Technology and Teacher Education.

The Information Technology SIG's include:

- Computational Thinking
- Digital Fabrication
- Digital Storytelling/Media
- Distance/Flexible Education
- Equity & Social Justice
- Games & Simulations
- Graduate Education and Faculty Development
- International Education
- Mobile Learning
- New Possibilities with Information Technology (NPI)
- Research & Evaluation

- Technology Leadership
- Virtual Schooling
- Wearable Technologies in Education
- Workforce Education

The Teacher Education SIG's include:

- African Perspective
- Arts & Interdisciplinary Education
- Assessment/E-Folios
- Assistive Technologies
- Creativity
- Early Childhood Education
- Engineering Education
- English Education
- Geospatial Education
- Information Technology Education
- Information Literacy Education (Library & Media Science)
- Mathematics Education
- Science Education
- Social Studies Education
- Special Education
- Technology, Pedagogy and Content Knowledge (TPACK)

If you can't find one or more SIG's in your interest area to join, you can always start your own! Starting a SIG simply takes a mission statement, five signatures, and approval by either the Teacher Education Council or Information Technology Council as well as approval by the SITE Executive Board.

SITE is always looking to develop its membership. There are many teacher educators, teachers, and graduate students that could benefit from the knowledge and research that SITE shares. SITE can serve to push teaching, learning, and schooling forward during the constantly shifting landscape of technology in teacher education. So, as you participate in this conference in Las Vegas, think about filling the next 12 months with invitations to friends, students, and professionals to next year's conference in Savannah, Georgia.

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