



SITE 2020 Online Participant Testimonials

[AACE–Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education](#) organizes virtual events either as AACE stand-alone conferences or as events co-existing with its face-to-face conferences.

For example, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [SITE 2020–Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference](#) was converted into a very successful online conference. Building upon the AACE conference management platform, this transformation occurred within only a few weeks.

For the story, read “[SITE 2020: How COVID-19 Led to the First-Ever Online SITE Conference.](#)”

Below are several comments from SITE 2020 conference participants:

Due to current circumstances, SITE was able to transition to an online conference format with ease and proficiency. The sessions I attended and presented at were highly interactive and productive. SITE took action to provide its members with the most authentic conference experience possible during uncertain times.

Cory Gleasman, Tennessee Tech University, USA

SITE has led the way in demonstrating what can be done in a virtual format conference. This conference was enjoyable and engaging with virtual conversations that were as good as or better than face-to-face ones I have experienced during previous SITE conferences.

Monty Jones, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

With just a few week's notice, the SITE team flipped a face-to-face conference in New Orleans into an online conference that was easy to navigate, participate in, and learn from. The team needs to share with the world how they managed this amazing feat. They are the pros with the know-how.

Lauren Cifuentes, New Mexico State University, USA

I just wanted to send a quick note to say thanks to you and the whole team for the amazing job in making SITE 2020 happen. You all did a nearly impossible job to produce the conference. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Gerald Knezek, University of North Texas, USA

I was impressed at the amount of interaction among participants at SITE 2020. While of course we missed the informal opportunities to chat in hallways and over meals that are hallmarks of SITE conferences, we still participated in robust conversations in response to presentations during concurrent sessions, and the Social Media SIG enjoyed one of our most engaging SIG meetings yet.

K. Bret Staudt Willet, Michigan State University, USA

SITE is always a top-notch conference. This year the adaptability to going virtual, albeit unfortunate, was seamless. The tools were easy to use and help. Great job. Thanks,

Dowayne Davis, The Newark Opportunity Youth Network, Inc., USA

Being subject matter experts in digital literacy, it is with great pride to see us practice what we preach. There is no more gratifying experience than seeing the value system we all represent within the AACE organization converted into a successful SITE 2020 virtual gathering. SITE 2020 marks the cornerstone of our ability to lead by example and come even closer together while building a new understanding of the future of education.

Martin Mehl, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, USA

I truly enjoyed SITE 2020. What a timely conference for technology and education when the entire world needed what SITE had to offer as so many of us moved from brick and mortar to virtual teaching and learning because of COVID-19.

Tarrah C. Davis, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA

SITE's online conference brought a new intimacy to professional learning and sharing. The psychological distance shrunk in the online sessions as participants could engage both verbally and textually with the presenter and peers. Having the papers online also helped prepare participants to take a more active role in their learning and exchanging of ideas. It was a noble effort on the part of SITE and should help them be even more efficient next time. I would recommend both delivery systems, and maybe regional days to complement the online presence.

Lesley S. J. Farmer, California State University Long Beach, USA

SITE gave me my first virtual conference experience and it was excellent. The sessions were friendly and allowed for a great exchange of knowledge. Thank you for being creative and actually practicing what we have been researching by using technology to drive knowledge forward.

Roger Chambers, University of North Texas, USA

SITE stepped up and supported the academic community. It was a wonderful opportunity to stay connected to the community of global scholars. Well done!

Tod Shockey, The University of Toledo, USA

This online conference was a series of three firsts for me: first time giving a paper when the time difference between home and the hosting country was 14 hours; first time zooming and getting dressed at midnight to watch keynote presentations; first time engaging with topics that I can't always listen to when attending f2f – well done SITE 2020!

Jane Hunter, University of Technology Sydney, Australia

At a time when almost everything was closed or cancelled, SITE embraced the mantra, 'The show must go on.' I'm so glad SITE made this decision in order to provide access to rich information and valuable experiences for attendees and presenters alike.

Douglas C. Elmendorf, Towson University, USA

SITE did something impossible this year. While all conferences opted or needed to opt to cancel theirs, SITE went online with complete success. What's more amazing was that SITE managed to move into online in a very limited time. As a presenter and participant of SITE 2020, I feel the responsibility to thank all conference organizers to make it come true. Presentation sessions were amazing, SIGs were informational, workshops were fruitful, and keynote speakers were outstanding. I look forward to attending SITE 2021 in San Diego.

Ozlem Karakaya, Iowa State University, USA

I didn't think I would like an online conference. I was wrong. The part I liked the most was the fact that we were able to record our sessions ahead of time. This allowed me to attend and listen and learn – and really enjoy the event. Without the pressure of presenting, I got so much more out of my interactions with others.

Teresa Foulger, Arizona State University, USA

As a virtual presenter/participant at SITE2020, I applaud the conference committee's efforts to disseminate educational research in an online interactive format. I truly appreciated the opportunity to forge ahead with sharing topics and evidence in support of our future in real time!

Anne Marie S. Marshall, Berry College, USA

Planning for and designing virtual conferences can take months and yet the SITE conference team managed to move an in-person conference online in a matter of days. The sessions were well-designed and engaging. I expected to sit back and listen, but instead the sessions and keynotes were interactive. The conference team did an incredible job communicating updates and responding to emails. Although I can't turn down an opportunity to visit San Diego at SITE 2021, I'd love to see more virtual conferences like this in the future.

Torrey Trust, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA

Thank you all for making such an impossible become a reality. SITE 2020 was the pioneer and has created an important precedent.

Min Hu, Brigham Young University, USA

As a fellow conference organizer, it is amazing that SITE was able to pivot to fully online in under a month. I really appreciate that I still had an outlet to present my work.

Torrie Raish, Penn State University, USA

First, I think that the SITE Executive Committee did an outstanding job of transitioning to an online format. I appreciated the option to present synchronously or asynchronously. I love going to SITE and having informal conversations with different people. The sessions I attended still provided me with the rich conversations that I have come to expect from the SITE community. Loved the presentations where we introduced ourselves and were encouraged to participate in the discussion--they provided a great opportunity to learn from the presenters and others attending.

Lorraine Beaudin, University of Lethbridge, Canada

Many thanks to the SITE 2020 Conference team for moving so quickly to develop an excellent online conference for the presenters and participants. It was easy to navigate both the live and pre-recorded presentations.

Beth Carter, Methodist University, USA

I was really impressed with how the SITE responded to getting this conference up and running within such a short span of time when it had to be converted to a virtual conference. The team did an amazing job under extraordinary circumstances, and from what I could tell, participants had a good experience.

Ellen Barker, Nicholls State University, USA

I am a third-year Ph.D student and this was my first year at SITE. I look back and see how much work went into offering the conference online. It was a great effort especially when so many conferences simply canceled. I thank the organizers for making this effort to go online. I not only got a chance to present my study but got amazing feedback, could attend other presentations and meet a lot of new researchers in my field. I did not lose out on all these experiences when going online. Thank you again!

Parama Bhattacharya, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA

Hats off to SITE for creatively thinking outside the box in this difficult time of COVID-19! As I realized that I would probably not be able to attend the traditional face-to-face conference, I felt disappointed for all researchers who had worked so hard. And, then SITE announced they were moving the conference online! My disappointment disappeared and I became involved in getting my materials "online" ready. Thanks to all the leadership and conference personnel who made this experience a fantastic reality.

Ann Armstrong, Northcentral University, USA

Congratulations to SITE leaders and AACE staff on their support to and implementation of the 2020 SITE virtual conference. Your support to an online venue provided the SITE community with the opportunity to share with and learn from others--research methods, results, and potential applications for the future. Most importantly, the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the country and around the world reinforced a sense of professional engagement and "normalcy." Thank you!

Arlene Borthwick, National Louis University, USA

SITE 2020 set a great precedent with an amazingly organized virtual conference. Technical issues were minimal and quickly resolved. The sessions ran smoothly, presenters were extremely well prepared, and the SIG meetings were structured and productive. Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. Stay healthy, rejoice and be glad!

Janice Newsum, University of Houston Clear Lake, USA

Thanks for putting on this virtual conference! Connecting with attendees from around the world was enriching, even in a digital context. Kudos to SITE for going virtual in 2020! See ya' in San Diego!

Todd Cherner, Director of the Master of Arts in Educational Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship Program, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, USA

Thank you very much for a great conference. I find it very interactive using the online system in terms of receiving questions and feedback. I had the chance to search and read the papers of my interest. Since I live in Turkey, the virtual conference saved so much time and money. Thanks again for a great conference

Hatice Akkoc, Marmara University, Turkey