

## SITE 2020 New Orleans Shifts to an Online Conference

We are writing to inform you that the SITE – Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference will shift to an Online Conference (synchronous + asynchronous) for 2020 instead of an on-site conference in New Orleans this April.

### The Decision:

SITE leaders have weighed heavily over this issue the last few weeks to not only consider the health and safety of all but also consider those who still plan to be in New Orleans. This dilemma and final decision was complicated by the conference hotel who would not allow SITE to cancel its hotel contract without a major financial penalty.

Therefore, negotiations have been underway the past 2 weeks to mitigate the financial damages to SITE. Fortunately for SITE, the Governor of Louisiana, John Bel Edwards, declared no events of over 250 people were allowed, and therefore the negotiations were finalized. This has enabled SITE to publicly announce the shift from the on-site SITE 2020 in New Orleans to the SITE 2020 Online Conference.

It is of utmost importance that the SITE community annually gather to discuss the latest research, practices, and innovations. This is why the Executive Committee has been working diligently to prepare an online conference with the same amount of engaging and informative interaction!

### Next Steps:

**The conference cancellation deadline of March 16 is waived.** Registrants will be contacted directly by the Business Office regarding existing registrations, online conference registrations, future registration credit, refunds, and donations.

In the coming weeks, you will receive detailed information via email and on the SITE website regarding the online SITE 2020 Conference--presenting online, participating, Proceedings publication.

### Guest Room Reservations:

If you have booked a guest room at the Marriott New Orleans, currently, we believe the same cancellation hotel regulations apply with no penalty if cancelled 72 hours before your reservation. **You must cancel your hotel reservation by visiting the SITE reservations link or calling the Marriott New Orleans directly by phone at : +1 504-581-1000 or +1 888-364-1200.** SITE will not make adjustments to travel arrangements. We are looking into, but cannot control, flight cancellations costs, some of which carry change fees.

### The Future:

The SITE annual conference will not be deterred but rather will shift to a online event in 2020. And as a technology and learning organization, we have the knowledge, experience, and tools to meet online as a community to interact and share our ideas. Two years without SITE conference interaction is too long!

SITE, 'the friendly society,' will emerge from these unsettling times stronger with your help and the leadership of the Executive Committee.

More details to follow soon...

Best regards,  
Gary H. Marks, SITE/AACE Executive Director  
Sarah Benson, SITE/AACE Conference Director