

SITE 2009 Preface

Coming of Age in the 21st Century: Leading the Profession Forward, One Small Step at a Time

or

Twenty More Years of Success in Technology and Teacher Education? Yes We Can!

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2009 marks the year the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) celebrates its 20th year of operations. As is appropriate for such landmarks, the conference in Charleston will be the site of birthday celebrations to mark the event. There will be the opportunity to consider where we have come from as a Society, but more appropriately, the conference week will provide all who attend an opportunity to consider where we might go in our second twenty years.

Being the leading professional association focusing upon technology and teacher education across the globe brings with it certain responsibilities, and in the volatile political and economic context of this new millennium, a new set of organisational skills, attitudes, behaviours, and tools are necessary to ensure continued success as a learned professional organization.

In 'coming of age' in this challenging context, SITE is recognising the expanding global nature of its responsibilities and is making adjustments to accommodate these changing expectations within the organization and with its external partners and collaborators.

For those seeking signs of these changes, there are three major areas where progress towards achieving those new responsibilities is obvious:

- Increasing success in using a distributed leadership model within the Society
- Expanding global initiatives and outreach
- Creating a new publication for disseminating high quality research

SITE's distributed leadership model continues to expand and become more dependent upon the contributions of individual members. Most of you will have noticed an increased role for SIG members, SIG Chairs and Council Chairs in the annual process of reviewing papers for the conference. It is fair to say that the contents of this book of Proceedings is the direct result of that process of involving more and more SITE members in the review process, and moving the point of decision for acceptance of conference proposals closer to the location of the expertise that ensures the quality of the peer review process that SITE has been proud of throughout its twenty year history. SIG chairs now have the responsibility for ensuring that members of their Special Interest Group contribute their discipline knowledge to the analysis of conference proposals and that the papers meet the discipline standards appropriate for a 21st century SITE! The Vice Presidents of SITE who Chair each of the Councils support this process and coordinate the review of papers adding an additional layer of peer review and quality control to the process.

This sharing of responsibility across the society is also a fundamental part of the process of selecting Award Winning Papers each year. This year, all full paper submissions were considered for an Award through the review process begun by SIG members, and in some cases, other professional associations. Several review steps later, those papers exhibiting extraordinary creativity, having an average score from reviewers of 4.5 on a 5 point scale, and/or receiving a recommendation for consideration for an Award during the review process, and meeting the format

requirements were considered. There were almost 50 papers this year in the pool of potential award winners. Those papers making it through this multi-layered review process that began with SIG members, have been selected or confirmed by the President of the Society to receive one of a number of SITE awards and these awards will be presented during the week of the conference.

It is appropriate at this point to recognise the work that has been done in the past by a handful of dedicated SITE members who have shouldered the load for shepherding this process to a successful conclusion each year as the editorial board for the book of Conference proceedings. Dee Anna Willis has been doing this job for the entire life of the association, Roberta Weber for the last eight years, Roger Carlson for seven years, and Karen McFerrin for the last six!! No matter what way you look at it, these folk, need to be congratulated for their unswerving devotion to the cause of excellence and their dedication in positioning SITE as a learning society that maintains very high standards in its conference publications! This year represents a transition year for the review process, and these four long time SITE members have supported the transition process through sharing their editorial wisdom in a way that guarantees that SIGs will have a foundation of excellence to carry forward the proposal review and award winning paper selection process in future years.

As further evidence of a shift in responsibility appropriate for a new millennium, SITE has expanded its role in other areas of professional activity. Two of many upcoming examples define this shift well. Early this year, in association with Kean University in New Jersey, SITE will support a study tour of China that will provide an opportunity for members to meet educational leaders of that country and experience a fascinating culture that is playing an increasingly large role in global affairs and that is already playing a major part in defining educational initiatives and partnerships in education for this new century. Further, the tour of China <<http://site.aace.org/chinatour.pdf>> is an opportunity for SITE to take its long tradition of collaboration and developing partnerships with other associations and other organisations in new directions.

In 2010, another opportunity for SITE to model its leading international role in technology and teacher education presents itself on the international stage. The 2010 Symposium on the Future of Teacher Education and School Leader Education will take place at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia in the last week of July. SITE leaders and members will play a central role in this international initiative, as will partner associations around the globe. The new millennium brings challenges for many organisations both in terms of mere survival and in terms of redefinition of purpose and approach. The process of preparing professional educators is no less in need of serious and unrestrained analysis. This symposium will present an international opportunity for the greatest minds in teacher education to gather together in one place and consider where the profession is going and where it should be going. SITE will play a leading role in this process of considering and redefining the future for a profession that is crucial to the success of nations and to the health and well being of the individuals who build nations. It is timely and appropriate to step back and take a look at the potential impact of changing times and changing capabilities on a profession that has a solid foundation of tradition related to learning, leading, and teaching. As a leader in the field, it is appropriate for SITE to figure prominently in this process! Watch the SITE website for further details in the coming months.

A final piece of evidence related to the changes SITE is fostering in order to respond to the challenges of the 21st century relates to the 'tools' that are being made available to SITE members. Many of you will be more than aware of the technology based 'tools' that have become available to SITE members during the last few years. Innovations in communications, knowledge building, sharing, and 'archiving' have been implemented in SITE keynotes, and on the website. The SITE Blog, and the Screening Room are two excellent examples of the innovations brought to life by the work of individuals or small groups of individuals within the Society. The latest tool is one designed to support the academic work of SITE members and expand the support provided by the Society to the academic standing of its members. The new publication, *Research Highlights in Technology and Teacher Education 2009*, provides another means by which SITE members are able to have their research published in a heavily refereed book. The review process is rigorous and in its first year 121 papers were submitted for consideration. Only 45 of those were accepted. This equates to an acceptance rate of 37%. Such a submission response from SITE members is indication enough of the need for this publication. The fact that it represents such high standards in its review and acceptance process is indicative of the quality of the work that SITE members contribute to the growth of the profession. Those involved in this new publication initiative are to be congratulated for their dedication to the ideals of support and excellence that have been the hallmarks of SITE since its inception. Keep your eyes open for the advent of this new publication!!

Responding to change is replete with challenge. To respond successfully to change requires a strong commitment to collaboration, cooperation, 'reasonable-ness', and intelligence. SITE demonstrates all of these capabilities through its members, its focus on partnering with other associations and organisations, and its growing awareness of the need to think globally, act locally, and lead initiatives designed to advance the profession. In supporting such changes and demonstrating a ... *new set of organisational skills, attitudes, behaviours, and tools... necessary to ensure continued*

success as a learned professional organization ... SITE is positioning itself well for its second twenty years of success as a ‘friendly society’ and a learning community of some prominence! The content of this book of proceedings is evidence of that.

Herein, there are well researched explorations of issues and topics recognising the impact on learning of new ways of thinking and doing appropriate for the technology-rich, global, diverse learning environments of the 21st century. The content of these papers reflects the growing awareness of global trends and the pressing needs of local concerns. Topics represented here cover the full gamut of interests in educational circles and incorporates work supported by the SIGs of the SITE Information Technology Council:

- Assessment/E-Folios
- Development of Future Faculty
- Digital Video
- Distance/Flexible Education
- Equity & Social Justice
- Games & Simulations
- Information Technology Diffusion/Integration
- International Education
- New Possibilities
- Research & Evaluation
- Graduate Education and Faculty Development
- Technology Leadership

and the work supported by the SIGs of the SITE Teacher Education Council:

- Arts & Interdisciplinary Education
- Assistive Technologies
- Early Childhood Education
- English Education
- Human Languages 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 are interested in following up your interest in any of these topics, please go to <<http://site.aace.org/sigs/>> for further information and to meet the people involved in each area.

In addition, many papers contained within this volume cover more than one of these areas, and there are many papers that cannot be easily contained within these descriptors. The best way forward of course is for you to dive deeply into this extraordinary collection of papers and explore for yourself. This publication is designed to assist you in that process.

SITE is above all else a well developed learning community dependent upon individuals who are willing to contribute their work and their time unselfishly for the benefit of the larger community. All our efforts at SITE are aimed at supporting that process. This volume is the latest contribution to that global ‘commons of knowledge’ that is the research and development work of teacher educators from around the world.