

# SITE 2020 PREFACE

SITE marked its 31st annual conference in a truly unique and unprecedented way: online! Due to concerns and limitations presented by the COVID-19 health crisis in the United States and abroad, the SITE 2020 conference originally planned for New Orleans was shifted to a completely online conference.

We attempted something SITE has never done before – deliver and engage participants in a totally online conference. Personally, I want to thank everyone for being understanding, adaptable, and flexible as we engaged with an online environment where teacher educators and others interested in technology and teacher education reported their research findings, shared innovative practices, and still “networked” with colleagues from all over the world. These connections and conversations looked a little different this year, but they persevered and we still enjoyed the same warm and welcoming sense of community that has made SITE recognized as the “Friendly Society.” As a part of the conference, you helped us make SITE history! We hope our entire SITE community and their families are safe and healthy during this extraordinary time.

We began each day by engaging with great line up of Keynote Speakers who graciously agreed to transition and deliver their messages in an online format. We also held meetings of our 35 Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which you can still join! Network with colleagues with similar scholarship interests and learn about the many initiatives and good work being done by these important groups. Your involvement with our SIGs is key to having a successful SITE conference experience.

An astonishing 564 attendees joined together from 6 continents and 15 different times zones! Twenty-eight countries from around the world and 400 unique universities and institutions were represented by our attendees. SITE 2020 showcased 215 live-streamed sessions including Keynotes, Workshops, Innovators Playgrounds, Paper Presentations, SIG Meetings, and the Happy Hour Social. Also welcomed were 235 virtual presentations, presented asynchronously by authors who chose to pre-record their work and facilitate discussions on the SITE virtual conference platform.

Thank you for being the innovators and visionaries for making SITE 2020 a reality. A “BIG” thank you to our Executive Director Gary Marks, Conference Director - Sarah Benson, the SITE/AACE staff, the SITE Executive Board, Council Chairs, SIG Chairs, Journal/Book Editors, and volunteers who brought SITE 2020 to life when it seemed an almost impossible task. Everyone’s hard work and determination will be appreciated and valued by the individuals who took the time to attend our online conference. We hope you enjoyed SITE 2020 and you’ll keep others who were unable to be with us connected by using #SITEconf!

Mark your calendars for the 2021 SITE conference in San Diego, California, March 28-April 3. We promise to deliver another successful conference full of excitement, collaboration, networking, and learning!



**Denise Schmidt-Crawford**

President

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