



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

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SIGTE Connects Along the Way to San Antonio

The theme for this summer's National Educational Computing Conference in San Antonio emphasizes the opportunity to "convene, connect, and transform." Although most of us have but one time per year (NECC) to convene as a face-to-face group, our SIG continues to expand opportunities for meaningful connections throughout the year. As described below, we have engaged in professional development and leadership activities in an effort to transform teaching-learning environments. These activities have included the SIGTE book discussion, input to the revision of the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T), participation in national efforts related to 21st century uses of technology and related assessment, and use of the SIGTE wiki to expand our support to one another.

SIGTE Book Discussion

The summary below was shared by Sarah McPherson (New York Institute of Technology) who chaired the 2008 SIGTE Book Discussion.

More than 130 educators from across the U.S. and beyond joined the SIGTE online book discussion group for *Reinventing Project Based Learning: Your Field Guide to Real-World Projects in the Digital Age* by Suzie Boss and Jane Krauss published by ISTE in 2007. The book used the metaphor of a journey with traveling companions to explore the dimensions of project based learning (PBL). The ning network was organized as a literature circle to guide the discussion areas on the topics of PBL and 21st century skills in the classroom. Participants explored major elements of PBL, resources, and assets to use in project planning and implementation, and assessment strategies. We discussed the essentials of PBL and learning communities, and debated the differences between project-based learning, problem-based learning and performance-based learning. Experts and novices (and even the authors!) weighed in on the discussions. We had a terrific Skype chat which really addressed the "nuts and bolts" of classroom implementation. Some participants gave us all great insights into making PBL a way of doing "business" in the classroom with the teacher as the CEO.

In April, the group was in the final stage of celebrating and reflecting on the discussion process. Participants shared new insights gained for use in PBL activities and were reminded that members of the SIGTE ning are a community of learners and, as such, are resources for planning future projects. Even though the formal discussion has ended, the connections the participants made will endure!

The ning itself has tremendous resources for others interested in this topic. We will keep the ning up indefinitely, so feel free to stop by at <http://sigte2008.ning.com/> and connect with other like-minded educators seeking to bring PBL to 21st century classrooms.

SIGTE Input to Revised NETS-T

The summary below was prepared by Christine Greenhow (University of Minnesota) who served as a SIGTE representative to ISTE's NETS-T Stakeholders Advisory Council.

Members Christine Greenhow and Neal Strudler represented SIGTE on ISTE's Stakeholders Advisory Council to provide input on the revised National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T). The advisory council was comprised of leaders from school districts, industry, teacher education, and public policy. In October 2007, the group met in Washington, D.C. to discuss an initial draft of NETS-T. This was followed by a conference call in January 2008 and a meeting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas at the close of the SITE Conference. A final version of the refreshed NETS-T will be unveiled at NECC. Greenhow and Strudler will also be leading a panel at NECC, "Next Generation NETS-T: How to Implement New Standards for Teachers," that will focus on how to implement these new standards in teacher education. This panel will involve PK-12 educators, teacher educators and others who helped shape the NETS-T. (See table on page 134 for date/time of this session).

SIGTE Participation at the National Technology Leadership Summit (NTLS IX)

SIGTE officers Mike Charles (President-Elect), Melissa Pierson (immediate Past-President), and I participated in the ninth annual National Technology Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. last October. At the summit, we had the opportunity to interact with leaders from content area professional associations (e.g. NCTE, ASTE), government and educational agencies, and corporate partners. The summit was organized around three discussion strands, and Mike, Melissa, and I each participated in a different strand: (1) Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK); (2) Digital Visualization; and (3) Research, Policy, and Practice. Along with Glen Bull, Gerald Knezek, Michael Searson, and Ann Thompson, we'll provide an overview of Summit outcomes and implications at a panel discussion during NECC. (See table on page 134 for date/time of this panel session).

Teleconference and NECC 2008 Forum Consider Next Steps for Assessment of 21st Century Skills

Our SIG conversations around assessment of 21st century skills began at our 2006 business meeting, continued with our resolution to the ISTE Board, and brought over 100 attendees to the SIGTE Forum at NECC 2007. Most recently, under Kyle Peck's leadership, an exciting group of about 20 assessment experts, teacher educators, and business/industry

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Phelps, R., Graham, A., & Watts, T. (submitted). The whole-school context of ICT integration: Acknowledging diversity in culture, practices and leadership. *Improving Schools*. <http://www.sagepub.com/journalsProdDesc.nav?prodId=Journal201678>

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Dr Renata Phelps is a senior lecturer in the School of Education at Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW, Australia. Her research interests include: educational information technology in primary, secondary and adult education; adult and professional learning, in particular teacher professional development, online and flexible learning and teaching, action research and complexity theories. Renata's recent research includes the development of Technology Together a holistic and flexible approach to ICT professional development for primary and secondary school teachers.

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representatives gathered via teleconference in early April of 2008 to discuss the feasibility and possible design of future collaborative efforts to create viable methods of assessing higher order learning outcomes required of 21st century learners. Participants included Walter Heinecke (University of Virginia), Gerald Knezek (University of North Texas), Kimberly Lawless (University of Illinois at Chicago), Cheryl Lemke (Metiri Group), Deborah Lowther (University of Memphis), and Bill Penuel (SRI International). Especially interesting to me were the ideas generated related to possible work groups (by 21st C. skills/terms), open source assessments, the vision for a "total package" approach involving both student skills and teacher models, and the potential to influence policy through bringing the right groups together. Participants will teleconference again prior to NECC and some members of this group will be presenting at the 2008 SIGTE Forum discussing next steps in this effort. (See table on page 134 for date/time of the forum.)

SIGTE and Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners

We have been appreciative that throughout the year Hilary Goldmann, ISTE's Director of Government Affairs, has kept in touch with SIGTE officers and members regarding the status of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The bill to authorize a program to prepare teachers for digital age learners (H.R. 5848) was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor on April 17, 2008. SIGTE participated in conceptualizing the original proposal for this legislation to replace the discontinued PT3 program. (Visit <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-5848> to learn more.)

SIGTE Wiki Holds Resources for SIGTE-Sponsored Workshop on Podcasts and Vodcasts

Serving as SIGTE Communications Officer, Teresa Foulger has done a wonderful job of developing the initial SIGTE wiki pages. When we asked for additional volunteers to assist with the SIGTE-sponsored workshop at NECC 2008, Peggy George (retired Arizona State University–West faculty member) used the wiki to give the workshop a boost by posting resources about podcasting, vodcasting, digital storytelling, music and image resources, RSS, and K–12/higher education examples. Peggy's description of the resource list suggests that it can be used before, during, and after the workshop. SIGTE members are encouraged to post material of potential interest to other members. You can find the wiki at <http://sigte.iste.wikispaces.net/>

In conclusion, you can see that SIGTE members have been working together during the past year, not only to prepare for NECC, but linking together for our own professional development and connecting our advocacy to major issues related to technology and teacher education. We invite you to participate in these efforts both at NECC and in the year to come!

SIGTE Recommended Sessions at NECC 2008

Saturday, June 28	Monday, June 30	Tuesday, July 1	Wednesday, July 2
<p style="text-align: center;">8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. [SIGTE-Sponsored Workshop]</p> <p>Learn to Design, Develop, and Syndicate Effective Podcasts and Vodcasts</p> <p><i>Joan E. Hughes, Maria Avgerinou, Rachel Barrera, Ching-O Hsin, Chung-Kai Huang, and Benjaporn Wattanawaha, and Peggy George</i> [Registration Required]</p>			<p style="text-align: center;">8:30 – 9:30 a.m. [Concurrent Session]</p> <p>Next Steps: Analysis of a Course About Web 2.0</p> <p><i>Michael McVey</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon [Panel Session]</p> <p>Next Generation NETS•T: How to Implement New Standards for Teachers</p> <p><i>Christine Greenhow, Neal Strudler, and others</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</p> <p>SIGTE Forum: Assessing 21st Century Skills—Next Steps [Includes lunch; Registration Required]</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10:30 – 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>SIGTE Research Paper Award Session</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">12:30 – 1:30 p.m. [Concurrent Session]</p> <p>A Different Direction for Video in Teacher Preparation</p> <p><i>Rushton Hurley</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12:00 – 1:00 p.m. [Concurrent Session]</p> <p>Web 2.0 in Teacher Education</p> <p>Part 1: University 2.0: Digital Innovations in the University Classroom</p> <p><i>Kristen Kozloski and Megan Fritz</i></p> <p>Part 2: Preservice Teacher Collaboratories: Extending Learning with Web 2.0 Tools</p> <p><i>Carrie Rathsack</i></p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">1:00 – 3:00 P.M. [Poster Sessions]</p> <p>Creating Technology Rich, Culturally Responsive Learning Experiences for ESL Students</p> <p><i>Margaret Thombs, Candace Chou, Maureen Gillis, Chi-Syan Lin and Mark van't Hooft</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>Visual Literacy and Web 2.0: Implications and Applications for Education</p> <p><i>Nancy Sharoff, with Maria Avgerinou</i></p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">3:30 – 4:30 [Panel Session]</p> <p>Professional Development: Models Integrating 21st-Century Tools</p> <p><i>Karen S. Grove, Mike Charles and Julie A. Moore</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p>[Concurrent Session]</p> <p>SimMentoring: Using Simulation to Engage Preservice Teachers in Applying Theory</p> <p><i>Lisa Hettler, Rhonda Christensen, Kelley King, Gerald Knezek and Carol Wickstrom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3:30 – 4:30 [Panel Session]</p> <p>National Technology Leadership Summit: Connecting TPACK and NETS via Research, Policy, and Practice</p> <p><i>Arlene Borthwick, Glen Bull, Mike Charles, Gerald Knezek, Melissa Pierson, Michael Searson and Ann Thompson</i></p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">4:45-6:15 p.m.</p> <p>SIGTE Annual Business Meeting</p>		

Note: Consult the SIGTE wiki for the announcement of SIGTE Research Paper Award winning author(s) and paper title.