

MEMBER profiles

Cameron McKinley

An Ambassador for Ed Tech: Alabama's Teacher of the Year

I have always been fascinated with technology and how it can be used as a tool to solve problems," elementary school teacher and ISTE member Cameron McKinley says. "Since I was in middle school, I've wanted to become a teacher. However, I went to business school instead and worked in marketing for 10 years. I entered the teaching world 11 years ago. It only seemed natural that with my love of technology, I would end up involved in technology education."

As Alabama's Teacher of the Year, McKinley serves as an ambassador for public education. Her message is that technology can change the world.

"I just received a grant for Mathcasts and More where teachers and students will capture their thinking on math

problems and the short videos will be available online for parents and students to see different math strategies used in the classroom to solve problems. We also plan to bring in more 'virtual visitors' using free software such as Skype. My father is a World War II veteran. Now, classes from all over can have a face-to-face interview with him and people like him with very little setup." Other projects include a technology pilot classroom project and an online collaboration site where the current group of State Teachers of the Year share documents, Web sites, and information.

"I'm interested in showing others how technology allows us to make



connections and collaborate in ways that were not possible before," McKinley says. "We are no longer separated by states or countries; we can all work on a document at the same time and produce powerful communication that would have been difficult if not impossible without these wonderful tools."

McKinley is excited about the possibilities. "Education technology allows us to connect with the world and teach children to be global citizens, communicating and collaborating with the world community. I try to motivate teachers to be lifelong learners, willing to try new ways to reach our digital kids and give them a global voice."

Affiliate

Celebrating Three Decades of Advocacy and Exploration

Computer Using Educators, Inc. (CUE) is a non-profit organization based in California that strives to advance the success of students of all levels through technology.

CUE was ISTE's first organizational affiliate and remains one of ISTE's largest, providing educators, students, and parents with information about incorporating technology into curricula around the state, and is committed to providing technology in classrooms continuously, as opposed to on a grant or one-time procurement basis.

"We see our role as being advocate and ally," Mike Lawrence, CUE executive director, says, "innovating and elevating our

mission from a regional perspective, where ISTE works with broader strokes, leveraging the combined influence of ISTE and its affiliates to effect change worldwide."

CUE is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2008 and is framing the entire 2007-08 year as its "Pearl Anniversary." The group will be hosting its annual conference, titled "Pearls of Learning," in 2008 as the pinnacle of the anniversary celebration.

"CUE believes that our calling is to be permanent explorers," Lawrence says, "tapping into the newest inventions as they arrive, and finding out how each newly available tool and

resource can be used to enhance education in new and undiscovered ways."

CUE members enjoy many benefits, including educator discounts and free access to Web sites. In addition, CUE members receive a discounted registration to NECC. Members are provided with a quarterly newsletter, an online PDF journal, and several brands of educational software.

Lawrence stresses that CUE is about curriculum and content. "Computers (and other technology) are merely among the tools we use."

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