

MEMBER profiles

Christine Jager

With an Eye to the World: ISTE's International Representative

Hailing from New Zealand, Christine Jager is completing a three-year term as ISTE's International Representative to the board. "I had a principal who was looking for somebody who recognized that technology would have an impact on education," Jager remarks. "Within five years, I had moved from teaching mathematics to computer studies. I knew I was a qualified math teacher, but I never felt that I was becoming a qualified computer studies teacher, because the technology was evolving faster than I could learn it."

According to Jager, educational technology must reflect the development of society at large. "What has changed in our society as a result of the rapid development of technology, and how do schools have to respond

and embrace that?

"It's hard to pin down what the international rep does or should do," Jager explains. "What I've tried to do is be a watchdog on behalf of non-U.S. ISTE members. We're naïve to believe it's anything but a U.S.-centric operation. As long as everybody has an eye on that, I'm satisfied that the organization will continue to develop."

Part of that development means making ISTE accessible to educators around the world, Jager continues. "The membership committee has been grappling for years with how to develop a membership category better suited to non-U.S. members who



can't get the benefits of NECC. It's quite a lot more expensive for New Zealanders to attend NECC, but go to South America or Africa where the salaries are nothing like ours. NECC is not ever going to be a possibility for them, so what other benefits are they going to get? Does *L&L*, for instance,

provide as much for the non-U.S. membership?

"No one I know has the solution for education nailed," Jager concludes. "We've got so much to learn. I see ISTE becoming crucial as education around the world better responds to and reflects what's happening in society, and this organization is the means to facilitate collaboration. There's huge, huge potential for that to happen."

Affiliate

Massachusetts Center of Ed Tech Leading Regional Revival

According to Massachusetts Computer Using Educators (MassCUE) president Walter McKenzie, the organization "is enjoying a resurgence right now, with a growing membership and a number of new activities underway, from our 2nd annual Technology Leadership Symposium to our upcoming 25th Anniversary Conference in November."

ISTE and MassCue have a long history of partnership that very much continues. McKenzie says "ISTE has been instrumental in helping us make the most of our presence in Massachusetts and across New England. With ISTE's guidance, we have recently led the formation of a New England Regional ISTE Affiliate that coordinates



<http://www.masscue.org>

the talents and resources of all six state affiliates in our area of the country."

Additionally, MassCUE members are active participants in NECC. McKenzie expects 10 of the MassCUE Board members to attend the event in Atlanta this year. The organization has plans to build on its momentum. "Moving ahead, we are planning an ISTE Leadership Institute, and we are beginning work to bring NECC back to Boston," McKenzie says.

MassCUE members enjoy their annual state technology conference each year, as well as a high-quality membership publication, *ON CUE*, published three times annually. MassCUE also supports 15 special interest groups, and has a deep and well-maintained Web site with features such as blogs, message boards, and job postings. Annual membership dues are \$35 (\$25 for students).

MassCUE currently has a 15-member board of directors, including four executive officers.

President: Walter McKenzie, wmckenzie@masscue.org

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