

# MEMBER profiles

Carla Wade



## It's About the Learning: ISTE's Newest Board Member

Newly elected ISTE board member Carla Wade is the Title I lead and technology education specialist for the State of Oregon. “I work with the federal programs and help districts understand how to implement those programs,” Wade explains, “doing professional development for district administrators so they can take the learning into the districts.”

Carla also serves on the board of directors of the State Educational Technology Directors Association, and was nominated by her SETDA colleagues to run for the ISTE board. “Hearing firsthand what my colleagues across the country and beyond are thinking helps me to be better at my job in providing leadership for the state, but I also feel that my background and my work

experiences—not just in educational technology but also in school improvement—give me something to bring to the table to share, especially as we’re looking at it not being about the technology but being about the learning.

“The NETS Refresh is a great step forward for ISTE and all of us,” says Wade. “We’re all asking what is it going to take for our kids to compete in the global environment; I think the work that ISTE is doing is right on target for that. It’s about the processes for learning, not the gizmos and gadgets.”

Wade sees transforming the learning environment as part of her role. “We need to use the tech resources, the devices, to first of all engage kids in their own learning, but then also to allow them to take what they’ve learned and run with it. Students

have the capability today to get on the Internet and search for things that, when I was a kid, we had to look through a number of books to find. We have to teach these kids to be lifelong learners using these tools.

“I would hope that we start looking at the learning environment differently,” she concludes, “so that we aren’t limiting our students’ capacity by keeping them within the structure of the school systems that we have today, the four walls of the classroom. Literally, the world is a classroom, and we need to use it that way and think about it that way.”

## Special Interest Group

### Tracking the Daily Evolution of Distance Learning

Kecia Ray is the quality manager for Policy and Strategic Planning for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, and an online professor for Lipscomb University and University of Maryland University College. She is also the vice president of ISTE’s Special Interest Group for Telelearning.

“I use technology every time I teach,” Ray says. “I also write books that promote the use of distance learning technologies in K–12 classrooms.”

“I’ve been involved in distance learning for over 10 years now,” Ray continues, “and always look forward to meeting up with other DL enthusiasts at annual SIGTel meetings. I became even more involved as I began to publish books with ISTE on distance learning and when I became the Chair of the NECC Distance Learning Committee in 2005.”

Ray’s favorite technology tools for education include Elluminate, desktop cameras, YouTube, and Google. “Elluminate is one of the coolest teaching tools for online learning environments,” she says. “Cameras allow you to visually connect to anyone through freeware and shareware. YouTube is awesome to use video

clips in your online courses, and there are so many neat tools available for free through Google—my favorite is Google Earth. You can use Google Earth to post all of the locations of your distance friends.”

According to Ray, keeping up with the daily evolution of educational technology is the biggest challenge she faces. “Distance learning is growing by leaps and bounds as teachers and administrators begin to embrace online learning as a viable delivery of instruction,” she says. “I work with several national committees to identify areas of research that prove the benefits of distance learning. The publication of this research strengthens the adoption of distance technologies in K–12!”



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