

# **Professional Associations**

by  
Amanda DeCardy  
EDD 8008 CRN 20071  
Principles of Instructional Technology

Nova Southeastern University  
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## **ISTE: International Society for Technology in Education**

### **The History of ISTE**

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is a nonprofit organization for educators and educational leaders “engaged in improving learning and teaching by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education” (International Society for Technology in Education, 2011). Since its founding in 1979, ISTE has grown into a powerhouse of groups and individual members who promote professional development, advocacy, collaboration, and innovation in the area of technology education and educational technology.

One of ISTE’s most recognized efforts includes the creation of the series of National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) which first came to fruition in 1998 with the release of NETS for students (NETS-S). ISTE followed suit in 2000 with the release of the NETS for teachers (NETS-T) and again in 2002 with the release of NETS for administrators. Since their original release, ISTE updated the NETS-S in 2007, the NETS-T in 2008 and the NETS-A in 2009 as part of a refresh effort. ISTE released new standards this year for Technology Coaches, Technology Directors and Computer Science Educators (International Society for Technology in Education, 2011).

ISTE partners with several associations to support projects that benefit technology in education and educational technology. The Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology (CARET) was founded with Educational Support Systems in 2000 to link research to practice in the areas of student learning, curriculum and instruction, online teaching and learning, professional development, and assessment and evaluation (Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology, 2005). Another partnership ISTE has garnered is with the New Media Consortium with whom ISTE recently worked with to publish the annual Horizon Report.

The Horizon Report looks at emerging technologies along with their trends and challenges that impact teaching and learning (New Media Consortium, 2011).

ISTE maintains a presence online at <http://www.iste.org/> and opened up an educational technology blog to its members in 2009 called ISTE Connects Blog. ISTE also has a presence on twitter with @isteconnects, @iste, and @sigms.

### **Headquarters and Membership**

ISTE has long been affiliated with the University of Oregon and still has their Operations office in Eugene, Oregon. Their primary headquarters are in Washington, D.C. so that they can achieve their advocacy goals through policy makers and federal legislators.

ISTE membership includes individual members, regional and international affiliate organizations, member countries, and corporations. The individual membership groups draw from teachers, library media specialists, technology coordinators, teacher educators, pre-service teachers, administrators, and other decision makers in educational technology and technology education (International Society for Technology in Education, 2011).

### **ISTE's Mission**

ISTE's mission is to "improve learning and teaching by advancing the effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education" (International Society for Technology in Education, 2011). ISTE achieves its mission through an advocacy plan that reaches beyond putting technology in classrooms. Their advocacy has resulted in millions of dollars of stimulus funds for educational technology. ISTE's mission supports professional development by providing resources for educators such as the NETS series, Special Interest Group (SIG) networks, journal publications and conferences.

## **ISTE National Conference**

ISTE's national conference has grown out of the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC), which began in 1979. The spirit of the conference has remained the same, as it's "a forum for participants to learn, exchange and survey the field of educational technology" (National Educational Computing Conference, 2007). Educators from around the world gather to network, share experiences and inspire each other with fresh ideas.

The national conference is held each summer and has grown to nearly 20,000 participants. ISTE 2012 will be held in San Diego on June 24-27 and will consist of smaller pre-session/seminar-demonstration workshops, model lessons, lectures, panels, and hands-on workshops. This year's sessions will be organized around themes, including School Improvement, Technology Infrastructure, Professional Learning, Digital Age Teaching and Learning, as well as Virtual Schooling/E-learning (ISTE 2012, 2011). The conference includes over 500 exhibitors as well. It's notable that there is an interactive floor plan showing which exhibitors will be at the ISTE 2012 conference (ISTE 2012, 2011).

## **ISTE Offices**

The President of the International Society for Technology Education Board of Directors is Holly Jobe. National and international educational leaders form the remainder of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, which is ISTE's governing body. The Executive Committee currently consists of Helen Padgett (ISTE past president), Dan Meyer (Treasurer), Kara Gann (Secretary), Ben Smith (at-large member and PK-12 rep), and Julie Evans (at-large member).

The remaining members of the Board of Directors consist of Mike Lawrence and Ric Wiltse (affiliate representatives), Kecia Ray, Christopher Fuller, and Tony Brandenburg (at-large representatives), Stephen Rainwater (computer science representative), Eileen Lento and Kari

Stubbs (corporate member representatives), Julie Lindsay (international representative), Gwyneth Jones (PK-12 representative), Howie DiBiasi (special interest group representative), John Keller (state technology representative), and Arlene Borthwick (teacher education representative).

### **Membership and My Professional Goals**

I have been a member of ISTE since 2007 and have attended one of the national conferences over the past four years. Being a member currently benefits me as I use the NETS in my daily work with students, teachers and my administration. As a member, I also have open access to their journal publications online.

Most importantly, ISTE supports my long-term professional goals. While I have attended an ISTE conference, I have not presented at an ISTE conference in the past. Through this assignment, I found that the deadline for submission is fast approaching and is October 5, 2011. As a doctoral student and a technology enthusiast, I am interested in presenting at a national conference. The mere thought of it gives me butterflies, but if past experience holds true my butterflies will steer me in the right direction.

My professional goals encompass advocating for best practices in the PK-12 classroom. I am fascinated with teacher education programs (both pre-service and current teacher programs). I hope that I am on the right path by obtaining my doctorate, as I believe the formal and informal research that I conduct will be seen as valuable in future professional journals publications and through presentations at national conferences such as ISTE.

## References

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