The 2017 AECT International Convention in Jacksonville

Brad Hokanson¹

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The base responsibility of our profession, whether described as instructional design or educational technology, is to advance education in all forms. Given recent developments in education and increased focus on technology we have the responsibility to lead these changes in education.

Instructional design and educational technology are central aspects of a new ecology of learning. Educational technology is more than the simple use of computers and the internet to provide learning experiences; they are a rethinking of the field of education, examining how people learn and how technology can enhance that learning experience. From the use of mobile devices to robotics to immersive experiences, instructional design can transform how people learn. And our field has the responsibility for Leading Learning for Change.

That is the focus of our upcoming convention in Jacksonville, Florida. The annual event offers many opportunities to present and interact, to connect with colleagues and to

develop new collaborations. Along with an organization wide team of divisional planners, President-elect Eugene Kowch and Convention Planner Linda Campion have assembled a great program. The convention will include great keynotes from Dr. Marcy Driscoll of Florida State University, Dr. Derek Cabrera of Cornell University, and Dr. Thomas Reeves of the University of Georgia. We'll also have a great number of workshops and concurrent presentations spread over three days. We'll also have the engaging Breakfast of Champions which is a chance to personally meet with leaders in the field over a quick breakfast.

The convention also includes newer and exciting session formats such as the High Impact Talks, which are 10 min live sessions that are not unlike TED talks. Selected by video proposals, these showcase captivating presenters with high-impact results from research or practice. Our Emerging Technology Showcase continues in a new and larger format, as an informal presentation to share and talk about new hot technologies used for learning. Also planned are sessions to reach out to new members and K-12 teachers in the Jacksonville area.

Beyond the scheduled activities of the convention, perhaps the most important aspect of the event is the connections that are made and maintained between members. At the convention, we see our colleagues who have become friends, develop dispersed research teams, and engage in leadership activities. There are great opportunities for social engagements in the many restaurants in the downtown Jacksonville area.

I'll see you November 6–11 in Jacksonville as we are Leading Learning for Change!

✉ Brad Hokanson
brad@umn.edu

¹ University of Minnesota College of Design, Minneapolis, MN, USA