

# President's Column

## Conference Reflection and Forward Movement

By Ana Donaldson, AECT President

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**T**his issue of TechTrends is intended to celebrate our recent conference in Jacksonville, Florida. No event of this scale is successful without the hard work of so many of our members. An additional note of gratitude is owed to each of our presenters and facilitators. The standards were kept high as we aimed to increase attendee engagement and opportunities to be challenged with scholarly discussions and innovative events. Again, my hat is off to each of the planning team members who helped to bring this all together in JAX.

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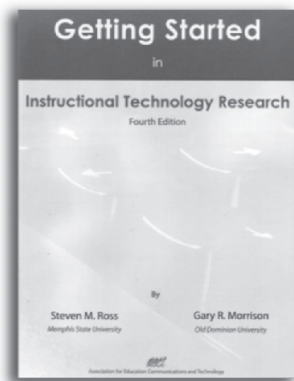
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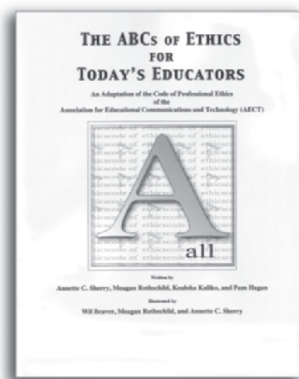
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Please take the time to thank your division planner and support team for a job well done in JAX. The city opened its arms to our members with sunny skies and some great memories. My hope is that the energy we shared at the conference will continue through the year ahead as we continue to strengthen our place in the professional world of learning and technology.

### A Global Perspective

Of special note during the conference was the visibility and participation of our diverse membership. As our affiliations have grown over the last few years, so has our opportunities expanded to include additional viewpoints and experiences into our personal and scholarly discussions. I was informed that The Korean Society for Educational Technology (KSET) had one gathering of almost 50 individuals. The newly affiliated Taiwan Association for Educational Communications and Technology (TAECT) had another 30 members meet and discuss their week together. The recently affiliated Chinese Association for Educational Technology (CAET) was well represented by Professor Liu from Beijing with future plans agreed upon for a presidential visit to their group in China. The Society of International Chinese in Educational Technology (SICET) held their annual conference in conjunction with ours with two key note speakers and a wide variety of culturally-relevant presentations. The International Council for Educational Media (ICEM) has been associated with AECT for over 60

years and provides an international platform for professionals in educational media to interact on individual, organizational, and cultural levels with the goal of advancing education. I was able to spend time with several of our members from the Indonesian Professional Association of Educational Technology (IPTPI) and the Hong Kong AECT (HKAECT). Additional conversations have begun with representatives from Thailand and Turkey to encourage future affiliations with their organizations or universities. Additional affiliate organizations that sponsored presentations during the conference included Minorities in Media (MIM), the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA), the New England School Library Association (NESLA), and the Canadian Network for Innovation and Education (CNIE). Our organization has certainly been fortunate to have such a culturally-diverse share of voices as part of our membership.

### Looking Forward

The year ahead is filled with many opportunities for AECT. Collaborations with other organizations are evident with examples such as participation in the Society for Informational Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) upcoming conference and the continued involvement with National Technology Leadership Summit. Task Forces have been formed to address outstanding issues regarding our organizational Strategic Plan and Professional Standards. Communication will continue as a focus through monthly newsletters and our newly improved website at [www.aect.org](http://www.aect.org). The latest topic for discussion is the idea of holding a future AECT conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our Hawaiian and Asian members have been providing positive feedback on the idea. As always, your voice is encouraged to be heard. Do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns and questions. [Ana.donaldson@cfu.net](mailto:Ana.donaldson@cfu.net) I look forward to representing AECT in the months ahead.