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President's Column

AECT 2012: Louisville Convention Reflections

By Marcus D. Childress, AECT President

Marcus D. Childress

With the AECT 2012 Louisville Convention behind us, we now have an opportunity to reflect upon our many experiences in Louisville. With the “Frankenstorm” (Hurricane Sandy) bearing down upon the US, our members showed amazing dedication and persistence, waiting through hours of telephone holds, rescheduling flights and transportation plans, and some eventually driving long distances through sleet and snow; all so that they could join us in Louisville! Once again, the Galt House Hotel provided a comfortable setting for our members to their expertise, meet new colleagues, and catch-up with old friends. Our keynote speakers shared timely and inspiring messages. In his presentation, *World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students*, Dr. Yong Zhao discussed his view of a future-oriented education that aims to prepare students as globally competent and creative entrepreneurs. In addition, he discussed the role technology plays in creating and delivering such an education. In his keynote presentation, *The Changing Landscape of*

Higher Education, Dr. Malcolm Brown explored developments in higher education over the past decade, the period of rapid evolution that continues and the technology that enables them. In his closing keynote, *The Mind, the Brain, and Quality Control in Educational Technology*, Dr. Daniel Willingham offered a principled look at the relationship of neuroscience and technology, and suggested ways that AECT members might play an important role in conversation that drives the direction of education. Our divisions provided a plethora of session and activities, building a convention program with a wide spectrum of opportunities for sharing and networking with colleagues. The 2012 convention planning team, comprised of division and affiliate representatives, should be commended for its countless hours of planning and preparation. However, the planning never stops. Our 2013 convention planning team is already at work on the Anaheim convention. Let's keep our fingers crossed that our meeting in Anaheim will be blessed with wonderful weather and uneventful travel experiences!