Call for Presenters - UCET 2017 Conference

Presenters are needed for the 2017 Utah Coalition for Educational Technology Conference. UCET is looking for presenters who are excited to share what they have learned about technology in education. We need people willing to present based on the following selections:

- **Listen and Learn** (One-way audience interaction)
  - Lecture: Hour-long traditional presentation
  - Panel: Hour-long presentation/discussion with moderator and 2-3 panelists
  - Over the Shoulder: 20-minute focus on specific solution, tool or content provider
  - Ignite!: Inspire teachers in 5 minutes and 20 images! (Not a vendor showcase)

- **Participate and Share** (Moderate audience interaction)
  - Interactive Lecture: Hour-long presentation with some activities for audience participation
  - Student Showcase: Two-hour demonstration, 1:1 or small group interaction -- Now part of the playground! All student showcases should be submitted as a Playground presentation (see below).

- **Explore and Create** (Extensive audience interaction)
  - BYOD (Bring Your Own Device): Hour-long, hands-on learning
  - Workshops: 2-hour, in-depth exploration with limited enrollment
  - Playground: 2-hour interactive, open session with discussions, presentations, demonstrations, and hands-on activities

Please review the UCET 2017 Call for Presenters Submission Guide before submitting your proposal. The submission deadline is January 31, 2017. Questions? Contact ucetinfo@ucet.org.

UCET Board Elections

*By Dani Sloan*

Do you know someone who elegantly uses tech to improve their classroom instruction? A teacher or ed tech leader who advocates for awesome innovations in our schools? Now is the time to start thinking about nominating someone (even yourself!) for the UCET Board.

The UCET board organizes all aspects of the conference - from the playground to the keynotes, presenters to vendors, our board members make it possible for our conference to run smoothly.

The UCET Board is made up of members with rich experiences from all areas of educational technology. Board members have lots of laughs and rewarding experiences together and often form lifelong friendships. We would love to have you run for the UCET board and join a dedicated group of teachers, network specialists, and educational technology professionals who put on the yearly UCET conference.

To nominate yourself or someone else, please fill out this form: goo.gl/11AFfl
New Year’s Resolutions
DON’T WORK

Michael Hakkarinen, UCET President

It’s a brand new year! 2017 is here. What will you change? Improve? Resolve to do better?

Don’t worry if you don’t have an answer. New Year’s Resolutions don’t really work anyway.

Every year millions of people wake up on January first with a grand plan of how to make themselves or their lives better and very few are successful. The first few days or weeks of the new year may go well, and people might feel better as a result. By February, however, this “new you” loses its shiny newness and by the end of the year you’re probably right back at square one.

According to Psychology Today this is because NYR’s are usually about changing your behavior and the only way to change behavior is to change your thinking and that requires making a change over night. Changing your thinking will require dedication and commitment over a long period of time. (Source)

As you think of your life, your teaching, and your work for this upcoming year maybe you should avoid making goals, and instead look for areas of focus. Focus on places you can grow or learn more and dedicate time in the new year to expanding your comfort zone. Do the same for your students and staff. Whether it’s a new math skill, teaching strategy, or piece of technology; set areas of “Focus” for 2017, then step back and watch them grow.

For more information about the negative effects of goal setting check out Peter Bergman’s Article in the Harvard Review.

Adobe for Academics

Hear how Higher Education faculty are preparing digitally literate students for success, get started by trying something new with your students, and discover tips, resources and training to take your practice to the next level.

Explore the new site ›

Adobe Education Exchange will get educators and students instant access to free courses, workshops, & teaching materials and connect with the creative education community. Sign up or Log in ›
Do you know an outstanding teacher or leader who deserves recognition? Nominations for all UCET and ISTE awards close on Friday, February 10, 2017. All award winners will be announced Thursday, March 16, 2017 at the opening session of the 2017 UCET Conference. The awards are UCET Outstanding Teacher of the Year, UCET Outstanding Leader of the Year, UCET Outstanding Young Educator of the Year, and ISTE Making it Happen Award.

The submission form for all awards can be found at http://bit.ly/ucet-nomination
Selection criteria for each award can be found at: http://bit.ly/ucet-criteria

Ignite Sessions at UCET 2017

Welcome to Ignite at UCET 2017, where you have 5 minutes and 20 images to tell your story, share your tool and inspire an audience of your peers! Ignite is a fast-paced event - think TED talks, only shorter. Each speaker gets 20 slides, shown for 15 seconds each on an automatic rotation for a total of 5 minutes of fame. Ignite speakers are encouraged to share their passions about education. We introduced Ignite at our 2016 conference and our speakers and viewers loved it!

How to prepare an Ignite presentation?
http://purplepresentations.com/2013/03/how-to-prepare-an-ignite-presentation/

Ignite Examples:

- John Kelly: https://youtu.be/3z2qS0i3jGo
- Jamie Hagen: https://youtu.be/DmLFzX3xssE
- Ignite Presentation: Six Tips to Give the One of Your Lifetime
  http://spinsucks.com/communication/ignite-presentation-six-tips-to-give-the-one-of-your-lifetime/
Math skills event invitation for your students!

Our multiplication gaming event, the Arcademics Cup, is Feb 2-3 - no cost for students to participate. Students use their computers/devices to race for prizes like iPads and pizza parties, and teachers get access to student performance data. [www.arcademics.com/cup](http://www.arcademics.com/cup)

12,000 students raced in last year’s Cup. We're expanding it this year, but space is limited so we want to get the word out soon to the UCET group. This is a great way to utilize classroom technology, engage students, and apply data.

**UELMA NEWS**

*by Leslie Lewis*: Utah Educational Library Media Association has NEWS!

We are furiously planning our 2017 conference for Friday, March 3, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center! This lovely venue is located at 1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City. Please Join us! Our theme this year is Librarians: Agents of Change!

To present or learn more, visit [http://www.uelma.org/](http://www.uelma.org/).

We are pleased to announce that Youthlinc has earned our service project funds this year! YouthLinc is a Utah-based 501c3 nonprofit dedicated to creating lifetime humanitarians by offering students and mentors local & international service experiences. Funds to Youthlinc, serve double duty. Our youth here at home gain valuable experience and lessons working with those in need and we aid students in Peru who are desperately in need of books. For more information about the Peru project – [check here](http://www.uelma.org/).

We would also like to remind you about schoollibraryPALS – Parents Advocating for Libraries in Schools. PALS endeavors to demonstrate the value of school library programs in developing young readers and critical thinkers and to encourage the legislature to budget money for school library books and electronic resources. For more info [click here](http://www.uelma.org/).
Free STEM Education Webinars From NASA Educator Professional Development

The NASA STEM Educator Professional Development Collaborative (EPDC) at Texas State University is presenting a series of free webinars open to all educators. Join NASA education specialists to learn about activities, lesson plans, educator guides and resources that bring NASA into your classroom. Registration is required to participate. To register, simply click on the link provided beneath the webinar description.

January 18, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. ET: Teaching Gravity With NASA (Grades 5-8)

Participants will receive an overview of resources for teaching about gravity and microgravity to students in 5-8. Discussion will include modifications of activities and accommodations. Activities discussed in this webinar address the Next Generation Science Standards PS2 and PS3. Register online to participate.
https://www.etouches.com/217658

January 19, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. ET: Aeronautics -- Come Fly With Us: How High Is It? (Grades 5-8)

Explore the NASA "How High Is It?" lesson guide and additional online resources that create scale models of our atmosphere. Models include the layers of Earth's atmosphere and altitudes of NASA aircraft, spacecraft, and natural and artificial satellites. Develop number sense by representing scale factors in terms of ratios, decimals, and percentages. Register online to participate.
https://www.etouches.com/217988

January 23, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. ET: Aeronautics -- Come Fly With Us: Balloons and Kites for Early Elementary (Grades K-5)

Discovery and Inquiry are fun. This educators' guide explains how to teach thematic lessons on aeronautical science principles through children's literature. It is never too early to start STEM education. Incorporating the ideas and principles in popular children's books engages children in the crosscutting concepts and science and engineering process skills found in the Next Generation Science Standards. Register online to participate.
https://www.etouches.com/219461

January 24, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. ET: Aeronautics -- Come Fly With Us: Principles of Flight (Grades K-12)

Participants will get an overview of the Principles of Flight and the Four Forces while using NASA's Museum in the Box lessons. Participants also will learn about current research at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center. Register online to participate.
https://www.etouches.com/223669

January 24, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. ET: Aeronautics -- Come Fly With Us: Future Flight Equation (Grades 6-8)

Participants will discover how NASA engineers develop experimental aircraft. Learners will use geometry and algebra to design, construct and test an experimental wing to achieve maximum distance using a portable glider catapult. Register online to participate.
https://www.etouches.com/223435

January 25, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. ET: Staying Healthy in Space: Engineering in Life Sciences (Grades 5-8)

The Next Generation Science Standards have focused attention on engineering in the classroom, primarily as it pertains to robotics. This webinar will explain how NASA scientists use biology and health sciences to keep astronauts nourished and fit while braving the dangers of space. Using engineering design, participants will develop eating and exercise regimens aligned to NGSS standards. Register online to participate.
https://www.etouches.com/215207

January 26, 2017, at 8:00 p.m. ET: Pi in the Sky! How NASA Uses Math (Grades 6-10)

In this free workshop, a NASA education specialist from JPL will introduce educators to the popular Pi in the Sky math problem set. These illustrated problems give students a chance to apply the mathematical constant pi to some of the real calculations space explorers use every day. The problem set can be used as a handout or poster to show students, especially visual learners, all kinds of stellar applications of the math they're learning in school. This activity meets Next Generation Science and Common Core Math standards. Register online to participate.
https://www.etouches.com/212793
Desmos - Free Math Resources

https://teacher.desmos.com

Desmos is a great, free site for math. It not only provides online calculators (graphing, scientific, and four function), but it has many activities students can do. They're interactive, and almost game-like.

Teachers can create a class with student logins - and monitor student progress.
**Yummy Math**

http://www.yummymath.com

Yummy Math is a free online resource that has the feel of a blog. But behind the look, it’s all about applicable, real world math.

You’ll find activities and lessons, organized by grade level and subject. The lessons are related to world events, and cover probability, numbers, quantity, geometry, functions, stats, and algebra.

Example from the site: "Giancarlo Stanton and Wayne Rooney signed big contracts recently, paying each of them millions. Let’s take a look at some of the world’s biggest sports contracts from the NBA, NHL, NFL, MLB and European Football (what Americans call soccer). We often hear about big player contracts, sometimes over 100 million or even 200 million dollars! But who makes the most per year? In this activity, with a twist on unit rate, students find the average pay per year or “unit rate of pay” for a collection of highly paid athletes. Students think about unit rate, proportionality, slope and the relationship between multiplication and division."

**Cymath**

https://www.cymath.com

Cymath is a free math problem solver on the web. You can type in a math problem, and it will show you, step-by-step, how to solve the problem.

Cymath covers basic math, pre-algebra, algebra, trigonometry, calculus, graphing, and so much more.
The Smithsonian Learning Lab is about discovery, creation, and sharing.

https://learninglab.si.edu

The Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access created the Smithsonian Learning Lab to inspire the discovery and creative use of its rich digital materials—more than a million images, recordings, and texts. It is easy to find something of interest because search results display pictures rather than lists. Whether you’ve found what you were looking for or just discovered something new, it’s easy to personalize it. Add your own notes and tags, incorporate discussion questions, and save and share. The Learning Lab makes it simple.

By encouraging users to create and share personalized collections of Smithsonian assets and user-generated resources, the Learning Lab aspires to build a global community of learners who are passionate about adding to and bringing to light new knowledge, ideas, and insight.

The Learning Lab infuses real-world experiences into learning to build lasting knowledge and critical skills that take learners from simply finding resources to thoughtful selection, organization, and creation of new resources.

Why Use It?

Guided by our desire to create authentic, meaningful, and personalized learning experiences, the Learning Lab blends trusted resources and contemporary media for learners of all ages to:

- make discoveries across disciplines
- create new ideas
- share their knowledge and creations with a global community of experts and peers
- access vast collections in history, science, art, and culture
- build lasting educational networks

Common Sense Education says the following about it:

Teachers and students alike will enjoy browsing and curating their own collections of Smithsonian resources. Users will be drawn in by the beautiful artifacts and the ability to organize, share, and annotate their collections.

It’s evident that the Smithsonian worked with teachers when designing the Learning Lab. The flexibility, feature set, search capabilities, and social aspects make it great for learning.

A clearly written FAQ and help pages are easily accessible. More short video tutorials could help newbies get started faster.