

- Assessment/evaluation
- Documentation of standards/progress of students
- Technology literacy levels, integration vs. basic skills, (course sequencing vs. integration) across COE courses, lack of modeling tech integration in education courses
- How can technology facilitate teacher induction?
- Performance based assessment
- How can technology facilitate?
- Effectiveness
- Games, podcasting and emerging technology in P-12 environments
- NCATE/AECT Standards
- Alternative Certification, revisions in licensure and state certifications
- Required instructional technology refresher courses
- Need for online texts to support online courses

Issues for the professorate:

- Male privilege
- Service (tenure vs. non-tenured faculty)
- Relationship between professors and students via email
- PDS workload is barrier to publication and lack of credit for work
- Advocacy for TED among other divisions and other national organizations (NEA, NECC, CUE, ATE, SITE, AACE, State agencies, etc.)

TED members are invited to join the conversation on our blog about the survey and ideas generated at the convention. This is an opportunity for all of us to make a difference and explore the important issues relating to technology and teacher education. We all have a responsibility to advance our field and we need leaders to organize the information that will emerge from our discussions. Please contact TED President Paige Worrell at [paige.worrell@tamut.edu](mailto:paige.worrell@tamut.edu) if you would like to take the lead on any issue we cover in our discussions this year.

## Attention Graduate Students: AECT Convention Done Cheap

By Michael K. Barbour

Attending AECT conventions is mission critical for graduate students. Conventions are your opportunity to get your own ideas out there for public consumption, to get feedback on the research you have been doing, and to meet others who are interested or working in your specific part of the field. Though there are many things that may get in the way of attending these conventions, funding is usually one of the biggest. It is important for graduate students to consider attending and how they might pay for such a trip.

Three big items can really eat into your budget – registration, transportation, and accommodations, plus other smaller items that add up in a hurry. There are ways to cut costs and seek out funding which can make attending conventions easier on your wallet.

- AECT offers graduate students opportunities for financial assistance, including the ECT Foundation Internship Program that selects five students each year to receive complimentary convention registration, housing, and \$500 cash, which can go to help offset transportation costs.
- ECT also offers the Mentor Endowment Scholarship, a \$3,000 award to one graduate student at each annual convention.
- Each year AECT selects about 70 graduate students to receive a reduced registration rate (\$95 in 2006) for 12 hours of volunteer service spread out over four days of the convention.
- Advanced graduate students should consider conducting a pre-convention workshop in an area of expertise, as all pre-convention workshop presenters receive free registration.
- Investigate sources of funding at your own institution. Many departments, colleges of education, graduate schools, and colleges/universities provide money for

graduate student travel to conventions, particularly when they are presenting at that convention. Talk to your advisor and other students to find out what might be available to you.

- Remember that AECT offers a discount for early registration, so make sure you register before the early bird deadline.

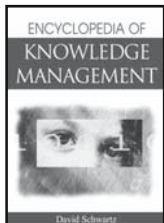
Depending on how far you have to travel, transportation can take the biggest bite out of your convention funds. Consult with websites like [cheaptickets.com](http://cheaptickets.com) or [cheapflights.com](http://cheapflights.com) to get the best fares. Some travel websites (e.g., Priceline, Orbitz and Travelocity) allow you to set alerts for changes in price on specific flights. For example, [kayak.com](http://kayak.com) will send a daily update of the cheapest flights so you can watch for a bargain. Flights that leave late in the day will allow you to stay an extra day at the convention without spending an extra night in the hotel because you can sleep on the plane. Try to fly with others going to the convention so that when you land you can share a taxi from the airport to save money. Shuttle buses or public transportation often go directly to convention sites.

Sometimes a convention is close enough to drive, but even a drive that may seem like too far to do by yourself may be worth car pooling when you have several people willing to share the driving. A twelve hour drive by yourself shouldn't be completed in a single day, but with three other people you only have to stay alert for three hours.

An obvious strategy to trim your accommodations costs is to share a room. A hotel room with two double beds can easily sleep four comfortably. Many hotels will provide a cot for an additional \$10 or so per night, a smart way to add another person to your room to share expenses. Some hotels offer suite-style rooms that have ample room for people who don't mind sleeping on a couch or even on the floor. If you don't know anyone you can share a room with, AECT offers a roommate matching service. One of the main advantages of rooming with someone who is not from your own institution is that you get the chance

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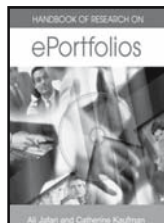
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to "get out of the silo" and get a different perspective.

Generally speaking, the convention hotel, even at the convention rate, will be more expensive than other hotels in the area. One way to search for alternate locations is to use Google local to locate hotels and motels near the convention hotel. The price of public transportation will be far less in most cases than the added cost of the convention hotel. Most people find that something within a half mile or even more is a comfortable walk, depending on the time of year, the expected weather, and your own personal stamina. It is a good idea to talk to others who have previously been to a convention in that location to find out how much walking is reasonable. If you choose a hotel on the opposite side of a freeway from the convention hotel, for example, it may take longer than you think to walk around or it may be unsafe.

Meals can be a surprisingly big ticket item. See if you can find a hotel that offers free breakfast; a good breakfast can help fill you up for the rest of the day. Many graduate students find that they can survive during the convention on two meals a day if they can find a good deli, cafeteria, fast-food restaurant – even a grocery store – nearby. Buffets are usually a good source of lots of tasty food, but keep in mind that hotel buffets tend to be a little more expensive.

Another option is to find a hotel that has an in-room microwave and/or fridge or bring a cooler. This will allow you to buy food at a grocery store, especially for breakfast and lunch. You

can bring non-perishable snacks or lunch substitutes such as granola bars, trail mix, pop tarts, and peanut butter crackers. Drinking water throughout the day also helps keep the hunger pains down (and is good for your health as well). Watch for convention venues where food is served, such as the graduate student lounge, the universities' reception, various board meetings, and the ECT Foundation awards reception. Most graduate students who have attended previous conventions advise to save money on breakfast and lunch so you don't have to go cheap on dinner. In addition to enjoying a good meal, dinners tend to be valuable social and networking opportunities, so don't eat by yourself – get a crowd together!

Finally, you are going to have to resign yourself to the fact that conventions can be very expensive; most academicians will budget for no more than one to three events a year. As an upcoming scholar, you are making an investment in your future. Conventions are a way to meet influential people in the field and to become known. Embrace it and have fun. Make the most of your investment by meeting people, networking, and mingling.

### Acknowledgements

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