EITT 2017 Foreword

The explosive growth of the field of instructional design and educational technology is displayed in the chapters that are included in this volume. There is great diversity in the topics, illustrating the threads of research that are possible in the field. This shows the youth of the field, one which is seeking new ideas, and one which is following new directions for investigation.

As President of AECT, I can see this indicates the great health and opportunity in our field, and it shows a discipline which is still learning and developing. We don't have set doctrine to repeat; we are actively engaged in the creation of new knowledge and building into the future. Truly, we are all engaged in innovation in the field of educational technology; in the writing here, ideas are evident and numerous.

Many of the writings have a focus on learning, which is the most essential aspect of education and educational technology. While it is how we judge the effectiveness or value of our innovations, it is also the center of our research. And still more writings examine innovation through students and their response to the newer models for education.

A number of the writings also focus on teachers and the act of teaching, how technology is used to enhance education. In many cases, this is formalized by TPACK, Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge, which is an accurate summary of the full effort of the field. This is a direction that will strongly continue in the future.

One aspect of great importance to the field is our responsibility to the general field of education. We in educational technology are at the forefront of how learning occurs, and from our experiments and innovations, the entire field of education will be moved forward. This is where education will change…we see the adoption of innovations and new technologies all around us…and this is also where we can improve the entire field, with our background in research, with our investigations and with our application of best practices to learning.

Brad Hokanson
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