HISTORY OF EDTECHSA

DATE ASSOCIATION COMMENCED

1986 under the name CEGSA

KEY PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Provide high quality professional learning, to all educators, in successfully embedding technologies across the curriculum and in the Technologies subject area, to transform learning in order to improve educational outcomes for all students across South Australia.

MAIN FOCUS AREAS

Provision of High Quality Professional learning in face to face, online and blended learning environments Improve educator access to and skill in providing engaging and rigorous learning experiences, using Technologies across the curriculum, as well as directly through the implementation of AC Technologies subject. Opportunities for students to solve problems in a real context with Technologies knowledge and understandings Industry partnerships to bring new and emerging technologies into the direct experience of educators.

LEVELS OF CARE AND EDUCATION

Primary and Secondary, some Preservice engagement

KEY EVENTS

State conference in July

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS/ACHIEVEMENTS

- EdTechSA has played host to esteemed Technologies specialists such as Gary Stager, Stephen Heppel, Paula Christoferson and Alec Couros.
- 2023 Student involvement in Make IT Better competition as a way to engage both students and teachers in technologies for a real purpose and audience,
- 2020 Online Symposium
- 2019 Engagement with key thinkers in the Industry hosting Stephen Heppel and Paula Christopherson.
- EdTechSA has had a series of highly skilled executive members.

HISTORY

CEGSA was founded in 1986. A year or so later it replaced the Computing Studies Teachers Association (CSTA) on the ACCE (Australian Council for Computer Education) Board. CSTA was a seen as a secondary group and CEGSA more of a primary group at the time. CEGSA changed its name to EdTechSA in 2013 to more fully reflect the broad nature of Technologies learning across the curriculum and to ensure educators knew its focus was both primary and secondary learners.

Understanding Technologies was no longer centred around computers but more focussed on the transformative benefits of technologies across the curriculum, and professional learning needed to reflect this. When the Technologies subject was formally introduced by ACARA in 2016 the focus was to provide high quality professional learning in order to upskill teachers in its implementation. This was achieved through partnerships with Industry and bodies such as the ACS - Australian Computing Society.

EdTEchSA has continued to recognise and award teachers on a local, national and global level through its partnerships with ACCE and ISTE (International Society for Technologies Education). EdTechSA was famous for its world class 2 day conferences. In 2020 the global pandemic meant that this conference could not be held. EdTechSA pivoted and presented a full day online Symposium. While this was successful the pandemic had a devastating effect on members in 2021 and 2022 and the offerings provided by EdTEchSA were limited. In 2023 EdTechSA has retuned to providing the two dayconference using a blend of face to face and online forms of delivery.

KEY PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS
STARTERS, DRIVERS, CHANGERS

Gerry White, Trudy Sweeney, Kevin Richardson

Gerry White was EdTechSA's first president. At the time it still ran under the name of CEGSA. He was principal at Mitcham PS which was seen as a leader in the use of computers in primary schools.

Trudy Sweeney was the president between 2007 and 2013. Her leadership developed unity as the committee strived towards a shared vision and organisational strategy, based on teamwork, integrity, and clear communication and decision-making procedures. Affectionately, this process was described as identifying the right people for the seats on the bus, setting the coordinates for the GPS, and keeping the wheels turning.

As a testament of Trudy's leadership, EdTechSA recently hosted the successful national conference ACEC2014. Trudy is currently employed as Senior Lecturer, Digital Media in the School of Education at Flinders University. In this role, Trudy provides leadership on the use of ICT and digital technologies with F- 12 teachers, preservice teachers and postgraduate students in South Australia and Internationally.

Trudy collaborated on the Teaching Teachers for the Future Project as the Flinders University Project Coordinator and was a member of the project's Research and Evaluation Working Group. She has conducted ICT research and published multiple peer-reviewed papers. At ACEC2010 she received a best paper award. Recently, at ACEC2014 she chaired the Refereed Papers sub-committee and co- authored the conference proceedings.

She has presented at numerous state, national and international educational technology conferences including ACEC (since 2004) and ISTE (2012). As a long-standing member of the ACCE Board since 2007, Trudy has demonstrated leadership at the national level through her voluntary management of two AITSL funded ICT projects related to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers in 2011 and 2012. She designed and led ACCE's 2012, 17-day study tour to the USA and Canada with 24 participants. She was ACCE Treasurer for five years (2009 to 2014) and is on the editorial board for the Australian Educational Computing Journal. Trudy Sweeney is a most worthy recipient of EdTechSA's 2014 Leader of the Year award. EdTechSA is honoured to endorse her nomination to the Australian Council for Computers in Education, as the 2015 Leader of the Year.

Kevin Richardson is currently Principal, Immanuel College, South Australia, a position he has held since 2002. Immanuel College is a Lutheran Co-Educational Independent Boarding School where he has continued to implement a comprehensive ICT strategy. "Immanuel is considered one of the leading schools in Adelaide in the use of ICT to enhance learning". Kevin has been extensively involved in leadership in education and ICT at state, national and international levels. His service spans over twenty-five years and he has held multiple senior leadership positions.

In 1989 he initiated the South Australian School of the Future as Principal / Manager and led this internationally significant project until 1992 before taking up a the role of Senior Consultant / Policy Analyst and Adviser to the Premier in Western Australia with a focus on technology in 1993-1994. Kevin also worked in New South Wales in the roles of Director of Organisational Improvement, and Director of School Technology between 1995 and 1997. He returned to South Australia and held the positions of Director, Executive Services, and Executive Director, Strategic Development and Chief Information Officer for the Department of Education Training and Employment in South Australia between 1997 and 2001.

In addition, he has given numerous keynote addresses and been directly involved in national policy development with an ICT focus for nine years.

He currently serves on two national boards as a member of the Board for the Australian Council of Educational Leaders (since 2010) and as an Executive member of the State Heads of Independent Schools (since 2011).
Throughout his career, Kevin has been recognised for his contribution to educational leadership and ICT as a recipient of numerous distinguished awards. These have included an Australian Centenary medal for services to technology and education (2000), the Minister's Valuable Contribution to Public Education (2002); the Australian Council of Educational Leadership's Alby Jones Award as Eminent Education of the Year, South Australia (2011); finalist for the NAIDOC Premier's Award for contribution to Indigenous Education (2011); Fellowship for the Australian College of Education (2001), and the Australian College of Educational Leaders (2012). "Kevin is recognized by his contemporaries, not only for his vision and knowledge but his generosity in sharing that knowledge and assisting others." EdTechSA is honoured to have nominated Kevin Richardson as South Australia's representative to the Australian Council for Computer's in Education national Leader of the Year Award.

LIFE MEMBERS

- 2000: Kerrie Smith
- 2013: Ralph Leonard
- 2013: Anne Ballard
- 2014: David Horsell
- 2016: Sue Urban
- 2021: Tina Photakis

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EDTECHSA, BECAUSE...

We have a driven management committee who is interested in connecting with members and their students more dynamically in the future. A number of Industry sponsors have sought out EdTEchSA and we are looing forward to being able to offer unique experiences for members.   office@edtechsa.sa.edu.au

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!
office@edtechsa.sa.edu.au
edtechsa.sa.edu.au