Call for Proposals.
2020 AECT International Convention

Theme: “Towards culturally-situated learning design and research”

AECT invites you to submit a proposal for the 2020 AECT International Convention to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, during November 3rd -- 7th, 2020. The AECT International Convention brings together AECT members and other participants from the United States as well as other parts of the world to engage in social discourse and academic exchanges, showcase the best practices, share research findings, and advance design, development, integration of emerging technologies to enrich individuals’ learning experiences and promote our members’ professional development.

The theme for 2020 AECT convention is “Towards culturally-situated learning design and research.” Culture is broadly defined as a system of shared beliefs, values, goals, customs, and behaviors held by members of a community that distinguish themselves from another community. In the context of learning design and research, examples include being responsive to the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs that learners bring to the educational setting, and being sensitive to learners’ needs and community culture. Issues to be investigated may include instructional design and research in cross-cultural contexts from a global perspective, equity and justice issues for underrepresented population, socially and economically disadvantaged learners, or disparity issues regarding access to technologies and resources (e.g., digital divide, pedagogical divide, and resource divide).

This convention theme is intended to encourage AECT members to strive for understanding the culture of a group, organization, community, or society in the practice of learning design and research in order to make impactful contributions to the field. Instructional designers and educational researchers can only gain a deeper understanding of inquiry questions and critical issues through social construction and negotiation of meaning in the rich social and cultural contexts.

We invite papers that engage in deep conversations of complex and critical issues framed in the culture of a particular social context, which have often been overlooked in learning design and research. Empirical, conceptual, and practical papers on diverse topics, from various theoretical lenses, and at different social levels (e.g., microsystem and macrosystem) are welcome as long as they provide a rich description and discussion of sociocultural situatedness in their design research and practice. The goal of this convention is to connect our members to cultivate a culturally-situated mindset that leads to culturally-responsive learning environments, which will eventually make a transformative impact on individuals and the society.

Proposal Process
To be considered, a complete proposal must be submitted. A complete online proposal submission consists of:

1. Presentation title
2. Description of the session (Maximum of 75 words)
3. An anonymous abstract (750-1,000 words)
4. List of actual presenters and contributors to your presentation.
Session Types
There are 8 types of sessions that proposers should consider and select. Each of these session types are described further below on the page, including specific criteria and guidelines required. For example, research-based proposals should include findings in order to be considered complete.

In addition, sessions may be proposed to any one of our divisions and affiliates. See links below to read the divisions and affiliates individual calls, which may include specific topics, requirements, or guidelines.

The session types include:

1. Concurrent Sessions
2. Featured Research Sessions
3. Fee-based Workshops
4. Inspire! Sessions
5. Learning Design and Technology Showcase
6. Panel Sessions
7. Poster Sessions
8. Roundtable Sessions

Proposers can submit an unlimited number of proposals and can present an unlimited number of times at the convention as registrants.

Accessibility
AECT is committed to making all reasonable arrangements that will allow conference presenters to participate in convention events. If there are accommodations that would best allow an attendee to present, please include any information that may help us in scheduling and to better prepare to meet a need.

Session Strand Identifiers and Keywords
In addition to topical keywords, proposers will also have the option of choosing one of the following strand identifiers. These identifiers are not designed to identify the session presenter, but rather to orient attendees to the content types or audiences intended for the sessions. These identifiers will be searchable (both in the online and phone applications) across divisions. Not all sessions will include one of these identifiers.

- Early career professional
- Mid-career professional
- Instructional design professional
- Administrator
- Research methodologies
- School-based research & practice
- Critical approaches to pedagogy and research

Presenters and/or Contributors
If you are listed as a “presenter” in an accepted proposal, you are expected to register, be present, and participate in the presentation at the convention. If you will not be presenting at the convention, you can
and should be listed as a “contributor.” Presenters are also expected to follow the AECT Code of Ethics found in the AECT Policy Manual and available on the AECT website.

Proposal Reviews & Evaluations

A panel of peer reviewers will review proposals. You will receive electronic notification that your proposal has been received and, at the appropriate time, whether it has been accepted for the convention program. This information will be provided to you by your division’s conference planner.

Proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the convention theme and any relevant division theme
2. Relevance, timeliness, and general interest level of topic
3. Attention to audience engagement and interaction
4. Suitability for division/organization mission and membership
5. Clarity of the writing
6. Quality of the proposed session

If you are unsure of the suitability of your proposal to a particular group, click on the group names below to learn what each group may be looking for in proposal submissions for this year. We encourage you to contact the Convention Planner for that Division or Group.