# FACT SHEET
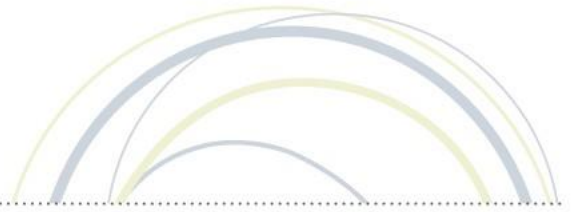
# About

**International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)** is a passionate community of change-makers who believe in the power of technology to transform teaching and learning, accelerate innovation and solve tough problems in education. At our core, we believe technology is the catalyst for creating an ecosystem where students drive their own learning, solve problems in their communities and become a force for good in physical and digital environments. Our work is supported by three pillars: A community of passionate educators; knowledge and thought leadership; and standards that guide the innovative and effective use of technology.
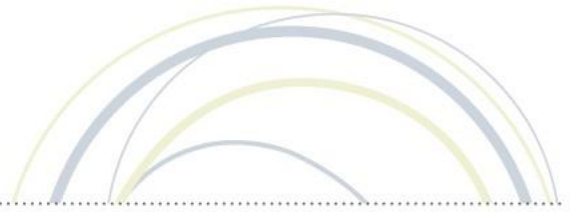
- **Community**: We support our communities by providing vibrant topic-focused learning networks where educators interact and share with each other; by convening events that draw educators, leaders, policymakers, tech companies, entrepreneurs and funders to learn about and solve education challenges; and by hosting dynamic social networks where educators from around the world engage with us.

- **Knowledge**: We provide a conduit to knowledge through award-winning journalism and research from EdSurge; professional development and certifications based on the ISTE Standards; and books, journals, webinars, podcasts, and blog posts informed and created by experts and researchers in the education field.

- **Standards**: We guide educators in helping students thrive in work and life with our suite of standards for students, educators, education leaders and coaches. This framework for innovation in education is designed to give students the skills they need to contribute to a global, interconnected and changing society.

**Vision**
ISTE's vision is that all educators are empowered to harness technology to accelerate innovation in teaching and learning and inspire learners to reach their greatest potential.

**Mission**
ISTE inspires educators worldwide to use technology to innovate teaching and learning, accelerate good practice and solve tough problems in education by providing community, knowledge and the ISTE Standards, a framework for rethinking education and empowering learners.

## Areas of Focus

**Professional Learning** — ISTE offers evidence-based professional learning opportunities, virtual coaching and year-round academies to support educators in learning and applying effective strategies for the transformational use of technology in schools.

**Community** — ISTE provides channels for educators to connect with knowledgeable peers to share best practices, solve problems and collaborate in designing new teaching methods and learning models. The ISTE community is always on and is home to passionate educators who are eager to collaborate.
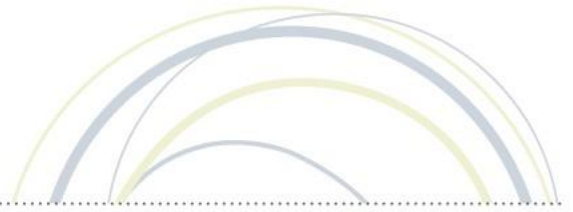
**Events** — ISTE hosts industry-leading events to support educators as they rethink the status quo and use technology to drive good practice from the classroom to the system level. ISTE hosts the annual ISTE Conference & Expo, one of the world's most influential edtech events. In 2018 ISTE saw a record-setting year for attendance with more than 24,000 attendees and exhibitor from every U.S. state and 87 countries. The 2019 event will be held in Philadelphia June 23-26.

**Membership** — ISTE membership provides a platform for educators, leaders and experts committed to and energized by the impact technology has on education. Members have access to curated tools and opportunities to build skills, connect and create with peers, and to participate as volunteers and content creators.

**Publishing** — ISTE publishes cutting-edge titles designed to put educators at the forefront of knowledge and practice in edtech, highly respected peer-reviewed journals, a quarterly magazine featuring the field's foremost thought leadership and the ISTE Blog for learn-it-today, use-it-in-the-classroom tomorrow resources.

**Journalism** — EdSurge is the leading education media outlet covering the people, ideas and technologies that shape the future of PK-12 and higher education. Through our journalism, newsletters, podcasts and research, we spot and report on emerging trends before they're trendy — helping readers stay smart, sharp and ahead when it comes to the people, ideas and tools that shape the future of education.

For more information or to request interviews, please contact the ISTE communications team at media@ISTE.org.

# ISTE LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Richard Culatta, chief executive officer**, brings vast experience in education policy, teacher preparation, educational technology and innovation to his role with ISTE.

Culatta is a longtime ISTE member and a past recipient of the ISTE Making IT Happen Award.
Prior to joining ISTE, Culatta served as the chief innovation officer for the state of Rhode Island. In this role, he focused on developing partnerships to improve opportunities for students, including launching a program to make Rhode Island the first state to offer computer science in every K-12 school and creating a state vision for personalized learning.
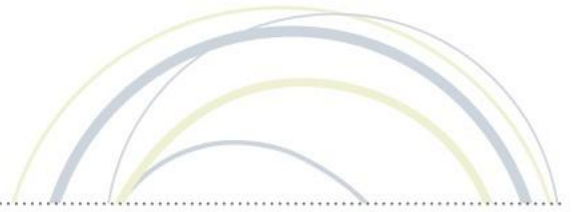
As the director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology, Culatta was at the helm of numerous efforts to expand connectivity to schools across the country, promote personalized learning and develop the National Education Technology Plan. He also pioneered new ways for the department to engage with educators and tech developers.

Prior to his role with the Department of Education, Culatta served as an education policy adviser to U.S. Sen. Patty Murray. He was also the learning technologies adviser for the David O. McKay School of Education at Brigham Young University where he redesigned the technology component of the teacher prep program. He also served as the director of operations for the Rose Education Foundation, which brought the first internet connections to schools in rural Guatemala.

Culatta began his career in the classroom as a high school teacher and, across his career, has coached educators and national leaders around the world on using technology as a tool to reimagine learning.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish teaching and a master's in educational psychology and technology, both from Brigham Young University.
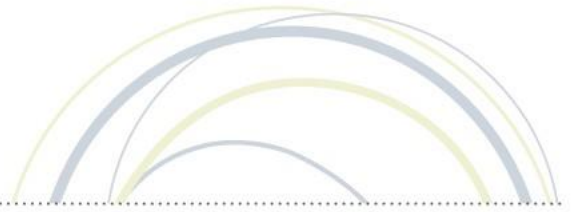
**Joseph South, chief learning officer,** is a strategic national educational technology leader focused on evidence-based learning transformation.

He formerly served as the director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education. In his role at the department, he was an adviser to the Secretary of Education and developed national educational technology policy, formed public-private partnerships to assist state and local education leaders in transitioning to digital learning, helped school districts expand the use of openly licensed educational resources (OERs), and collaborated with stakeholders to nurture a robust ecosystem of edtech entrepreneurs and innovators.

He also worked on a cross-governmental team to bring high-speed broadband, interactive devices, professional development for educators and leaders, and high-quality affordable digital content to U.S. classrooms. He is a strong proponent of the active use of technology by learners.

South has led learning product development teams at startups, museums, nonprofits, corporations and higher education institutions. He has also directed a host of learning programs and consulted on projects in China, Korea, Mexico, South America and the Middle East.

He holds a doctorate in instructional psychology and technology from Brigham Young University.
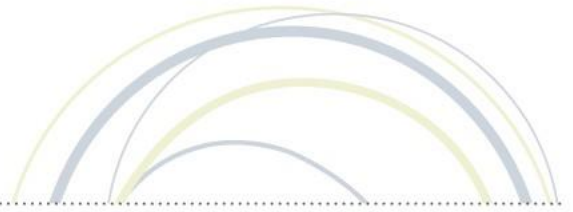
**Jennifer Ragan-Fore, chief events officer**, is an association and events professional with overall responsibility for the content and logistics of the ISTE Conference & Expo, including event strategy, general session production, program content, citywide site selection and information delivery. She leads a talented team of internal event staff, partners and specialized contractors in all phases of event design and execution.

Jennifer has served ISTE in a variety of membership and conference roles. In 2005, she worked as director of special interest groups, then progressed to general membership director, director of new media and member communities, and most recently, senior director of conference services. In each of these roles, she's had the good fortune of working closely with amazing members, volunteers and presenters who are transforming education. Some of Jennifer's key ISTE accomplishments include the launch of ISTE's Second Life community and television series, creation of ISTE's webinar series and significant growth in ISTE's conference attendance and programming.

Prior to joining ISTE, Jennifer worked in event-focused roles within higher education at Northwestern University, Emory University and the University of Washington. At UW, Jennifer was responsible for the launch of a public-private outreach center that brought Seattle's corporate and academic communities together, and for the launch of a national executive conference, production of a television series that aired on the Research Channel and creation of a research magazine.

Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University's School of Communication with a double major in performance studies and anthropology. She serves on three industry boards including Visit Denver, Visit San Antonio and Maritz Travel.

**Jim Flanagan, chief administrative & strategy officer,** has more than 25 years of diverse experience in public and private education. Before joining ISTE, he owned and operated Flanagan Education Services, a consulting firm that helped schools and education companies identify and implement best practices to enhance teaching, personalize learning and improve management practices. His educational technology experience includes expertise in instructional software, online courses, specialized programs, administrative software, analytics programs, hardware, network services, professional services and strategic consulting.

Previously, Jim held roles as the CIO and director of research, assessment and evaluation for the St. Louis Public Schools and served on the Chicago Board of Education. This experience provided him with a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges of today's education ecosystem from a leadership perspective.

Jim has extensive experience with education services corporations, including Amplify, Connections Education (Pearson), Public Consulting Group and Education Networks of America. He has also worked with the Partnership for 21st Century Skills to advocate for improvements in education, and he currently serves as treasurer for TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School board of directors.

Jim holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in finance and marketing from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.