

History of GAIT

During the second annual SRMLC meeting in Atlanta in 1971, members of the Georgia Education Media Association (GEMA), a division of the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE), decided to disassociate themselves from the parent group, feeling their interests would be better served by creation of a new organization affiliated with AECT. Also, many AECT members who were not public school educators were ineligible for GAE membership, a prerequisite for belonging to GEMA. By trying to bring together diverse groups and individuals from across the state with a common interest in the use of instructional technology, it was felt a strong organization would develop that could be influential within the state and also have some impact nationally through AECT. GAIT chose to refer to itself as "instructional" rather than "educational" so that military and corporate members would be attracted to the organization. The young organization also chose in its title the word "for" rather than "of" to indicate that GAIT would advocate the use of technology for the purpose of instruction. Jack Benefield was GEMA president at the time of the formation of GAIT, and Charles Faires was elected GAIT's first president. 2002 marks GAIT's thirty-first anniversary, and GAIT remains an active affiliate of AECT, continuing the inclusive spirit of involving all in its membership and activities.

- ❖ GAIT is the Georgia state affiliate of the national Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT). Those who enjoy membership in both GAIT and AECT can expand their professional involvement on a national scale. In 1987, GAIT members joined together with others to host AECT's first-ever international convention in Georgia. GAIT members also helped host the 1991 AECT National Convention in Orlando, and the 2001 AECT National Convention in Atlanta.

- ❖ At the regional level, GAIT is represented in a 9 state organization, the Southeastern Regional Media Leadership Council (SRMLC) which provides opportunities for leadership development enjoyed by all GAIT members.
- ❖ At the state level, GAIT is united with other library/media associations through representation on the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (GaCOMO).

GAIT Awards

The GAIT Leadership Committee annually solicits nominations from the membership for 4 prestigious awards. Recipients are announced during ceremonies at the annual meeting of association at the GaCOMO conference.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to members of the association whose service to GAIT in whatever capacity is acknowledged as exemplary and worthy of special recognition.

The Juanita Skelton Award acknowledges individuals in higher education for and ongoing achievement in instructional technology.

The Walter S. Bell Award is in recognition of ongoing achievements in the field of instructional technology from the public school sector.

The GAIT/AECT Leadership Development Stipend is awarded to promote active service to the organization and is to be used for professional growth and development at the annual AECT Leadership Development Conference.

The Goan-Sloan Scholarship is awarded to a GAIT member who is pursuing graduate studies in a media-related area.

Membership Benefits

Being a member of GAIT plugs one into a network of colleagues who provide one another with informal information exchange and who join together for work on various committees and activities. Because GAIT is a diverse organization, members may often interact with others outside their own work setting who share common interests in teaching, learning and technology.

- ❖ The annual GAIT Membership Directory provides each member an organizational handbook as well as human resources directory. GAIT members are provided a password for accessing this in its online version at <http://www.gait-inc.org>.
- ❖ GAIT members keep in touch with association news and information through the GAIT CONNECTION, an online newsletter, a GAIT website (<http://www.gait-inc.org>), as well as other periodic reports to the membership.
- ❖ All members are eligible to hold the office of president; the candidate must be an active member of AECT.
- ❖ A joint conference (GaCOMO) is held with other library/media associations. This annual conference offers opportunities for professional growth by providing workshops, programs on a variety of topics, and presentations by national and local professionals in related fields.
- ❖ GAIT committees include Membership, Program, Leadership Development, Governmental Relations, Media Festival, and Publications.

Membership Form

Name:

Title/Position:

Employed by:

Business Address:

Home Address:

Telephone: () (W), () (H)

Fax: ()

Email:

Web Page:

- Student Member \$5.00
- Para-Professional/Retired \$5.00
- Regular Member \$15.00
- Supporting Member \$35.00
- Contributing Member \$50.00
- Contributing Organization \$125.00
- Sponsoring Organization \$250.00

I would like to serve on a committee:

- Membership Program
- Media Festival
- Leadership Development
- Govt. Relations

Are you a member of AECT? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you a member of ISTE? ___ Yes ___ No
(Federal ID # 58-1945844)

Check here if you do NOT want to be added to the GAIT-L mailing list

Please send this form and a check payable to GAIT, to:

GAIT, c/o Ms. Juanita Buddy
3222 Wyndham Park Court, Decatur, GA 30034

Thank you for Your Commitment to Professional Excellence!

Types of Membership

Student Member

Any full-time student who is actively pursuing a degree may join for two years at this rate. Includes all benefits of regular member. (\$5.00)

Paraprofessional/ Retired

Includes all benefits of regular member. (\$5.00)

Regular Membership

All benefits of regular membership; including right to vote, perform committee work, hold appointive positions, and/or hold elective positions. (\$15.00)

Supporting Member

Includes all benefits of regular membership, plus special listing in GAIT Directory and newsletters, and a certificate. (\$35.00)

Contributing Member

Includes all benefits of regular membership, plus special listing in GAIT Directory and newsletters, and a certificate. 20% Discount off any GAIT function. (\$50.00)

Contributing Organization

An organization may designate two (2) employees as regular members. Includes special listing for organization in GAIT Directory and newsletters, a certificate, and 20% discount off any GAIT function for two (2) employees. (\$125.00)

Sponsoring Organization

An organization may designate three (3) staff as regular members. Special Company listing for organization in GAIT Directory and newsletters, a certificate of recognition, and a complimentary space in the GAIT newsletter for a promotional message. (\$250.00)

Georgia
Association
for Instructional
Technology, Inc.



An affiliate of the Association for Educational Communications And Technology

The Georgia Association for Instructional Technology is open to all who are interested in improving education through the use of media and technology. The **membership** is diversified and includes public school educators, corporate trainers, vocational instructors, college media directors, university professors, library/media specialists, commercial vendors and many, many more.

All unite in activities designed to expand and diversify information and communications technology and improve instruction through the systematic development, utilization and management of learning resources, including people, processes and technology.

You may join the **gait-I listserv** by sending an email message with no subject line from your account, to listserv@listserv.uga.edu with the body text of subscribe gait-I yourfirstname yourlastname. Be sure to substitute your own first and last name.

The **GAIT website** is available at <http://www.gait-inc.org>.