



2026 Best Practice Award for the Innovative Use of Technology

About the Award

This award, overseen by AACTE's Committee on Innovation and Technology, recognizes an innovative use of educational technologies in an **AACTE member institution**- school, college, or department of education (SCDE).

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

SCDE initiatives that infuse technology throughout the curriculum do not necessarily have to be technologically sophisticated. To be considered innovative, the SCDE must use technologies to stretch beyond what might normally be done in its educator preparation programs; the programs must have changed in some way as a result of the technology use and integration. For example, the innovation may have resulted in one or more of the following outcomes:

- Bridging the theory and practice of teacher preparation through the use of multiple technologies.
- Integration of technologies with teaching and learning.
- Effective use of distance learning.
- Effective learning for teachers and/or PK-12 students.
- Practices that involve educator preparation faculty and faculty from other disciplines in activities across the college or university.
- Leadership in the development and/or conduct of activities across campus.
- Forging state, regional, national, and international links.

Applicants should identify the program's context, goals, and objectives; program components; and the impact technologies have had based on qualitative or quantitative research. Only programs that have been in place for at least two years will be considered. Competitive preference will be given to submissions that align with [AACTE's strategic priorities](#). All nominations must be from AACTE member organizations.

Submission Requirements

All entries must be made through AACTE's online submissions site. Application materials for this award must include:

- A 300-word abstract of the program.
- A narrative, not to exceed 2,000 words, that addresses the program's context (e.g., urban/rural, elementary/secondary, etc.), goals/objectives, program components that integrate technology and pedagogy, duration, outcomes, and sustainability.
- A list of any scholarly works, awards, or internal/external funding associated with the program.

The committee recommends the use of multiple media formats, not to exceed three attachments to the submission. These may include short videos or audio (60 seconds or less), images, and other multimedia elements as appropriate. These can be included in the application or provided as links to where these materials are hosted. However, the formal narrative is of primary importance to reviewers. Attachments should be seen as helping instantiate the narrative but not as a replacement for it.

For more information about this award, contact Brooke Evans at bevans@aacte.org

[Click here for nomination form](#)

Entry Deadline: July 7, 2025