

## From 15 to 1500 in 30 years

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the 2012 MassCUE/MASS Conference, Power Up, celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MassCUE. What I am calling “From 15 to 1500 in 30 years”—(SLIDE) the attendance at the first conference in 1983 and this year’s.

As you can see I am not Alan November, the president who deserves credit for transforming MassCUE into the organization we know today by --among other actions-- growing the conference significantly, moving it to a hotel from the schools and “ making it a more powerful voice than any single person could be.” He would have been here to speak to you were he not somewhere in the world “building learning communities” which originally was a MassCUE event !

Instead, I am the Superintendent who started the MASS Technology Task Force with the support and encouragement of Peter Finn, then the Executive Director, in 1990 and who with the help of Apple and Jim Lingle-- whose name some of you may remember-- mounted the first Professional Development event about technology for Superintendents in 1992. We invited Collier Crumb, a professor at the Harvard Business School and instructed, at least in part through a dramatic simulation where the task force members had parts to play. You can imagine that it was quite amusing.

Having an annual conference cosponsored by the two organizations here today (instead of two separate events focused on attracting the same people) was an initiative that I wished and advocated for and I thank Past President of MassCUE, Annamaria Shrimp and Pat Martin of MASS for bringing that to reality three years ago...

My function this morning to take you briefly down memory lane.

Do you remember what you were doing in December of 1982, the year Time Magazine had a computer as its Man of the Year?

I was finishing my eighth year as principal of Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School. Around that time I bought a 256K fat Mac (SLIDE) and thus was invited to MassCUE's either first or second annual conference (15 educators came to the first and 18 to the second) to show off my computer and what it could do for education.

I was a novelty--a high school principal with a computer who could travel! I packed the precious machine in the special carrying case and drove to either Easthampton or Marlborough. I was supposed to describe how I was using the computer as an administrator and instructional leader but the session ended up being an interactive face-to-face conversation about practices, possibilities and hopes, an example of MassCUE's mission (SLIDE). This session was hands on...a group of 'pioneers' trying to figure out how this instrument could work for teaching, learning and productivity and beginning to envision what it could do for students, teachers and schools.

Alan November describes these first meetings as what we would now call "unconferences." He believes that "MassCUE gave people a chance to be part of a larger community and to adopt a 'paying forward' attitude."

According to Chuck Drayton, the first SIG (Special Interest Groups) convener, "sharing is what it was all about. Teachers had no resources back when computers were first being used in education. MassCUE recognized the importance of computer use, and the key role computers would play in the future of education ... so, we created our own resources by sharing with each other and developing learning opportunities through collaboration."

Earle Hancock, the fourth president (SLIDE), said " the beauty of the organization is that it gave ambitious people who were not in positions in schools where they could actualize their ambitions, an opportunity to act as leaders and agents of change. We could have an impact on education beyond our limited scope." And we thank our leaders for taking MassCUE to what it is today.

A good sign of the importance and influence of MassCUE is its relationship with the Department of Education. Connie Louie, then the Department's point person for Instructional Technology, wrote to us: "The MA DESE has been involved in the MassCUE Conference throughout its history. MassCUE has always been very generous in supporting the Department and the districts. " An example of how MassCUE supported the Department is reflected in a memo from DESE staff to 'No Child Left Behind' grant recipients about their showcases at the 2004 MassCUE Conference.

I want to quote one sentence:

"Regarding your questions about wireless internet access, MEC will try to provide this, but cannot guarantee it. There is a wired connection in the room, so you might want to let us know if this is really essential for your project, and we will try to provide you with a strategic location in the room."

Some things never change !

MassCUE also took the initiative to work with the DESE to develop a certification for instructional technology specialists (ITS). Several of us spent a number of years on this project. We achieved success temporarily and then the license morphed into ITT.

We have always said that while the technology is essential, that alone without the people to support it, will not produce any significant results. So walk with me through some more history, please, for the next few minutes noting how people have made a contribution both to MassCUE and to the integration of technology into teaching and learning in the Commonwealth (REMAINDER OF SLIDES).

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