On behalf of CEISMC and Georgia Tech, I am pleased to welcome you to Atlanta for the 21st annual National Education Computing Conference.

Although CEISMC is the official host of this year’s conference, we could not have done it without the help of the sponsors for this event, and we thank them for their support.

Atlanta has always been a crossroads. The city grew up around the intersection of three railroads, and is one of the few cities where three interstate highways meet. It became an early air-hub and today has the busiest airport in the world.

We are also an information technology crossroads. Major fiber-optic trunk-lines intersect here, and this is one of the few places in the nation where you can climb to the top of a skyscraper and see three giga-pop sites at the same time.

Georgia Tech is helping to drive the development of information technology, and our Strategic Plan emphasizes the importance of educational technology within that picture. We require all students to own computers, our entire curriculum is web-enhanced, and we encourage our faculty to be innovative in creating web-based learning environments.

We have a campus computer network of 1,700 miles of fiber optic cable, and we also have a complete wireless computing environment, thanks to an agreement with BellSouth. And this morning you will be hearing from a good friend of ours from BellSouth – Duane Ackerman.

Georgia Tech also reaches down into K-12 education to help schools and teachers make better use of education technology. In addition to CEISMC, we are a founding partner in several coalitions that are designed to promote math, science, engineering, and technology in K-12 education. In fact, we have 550 high school teachers and students on our campus right now, spending two weeks working with education technology among other things.

So we are very pleased to participate in the National Education Computing Association, and to serve as your host as you “connect at the crossroads.”

Next on the schedule is the presentation of awards to educators, and I am pleased to introduce Dale Neiderhauser from ISTE’s Special Interest Group for Teacher Educators, which many of you know as SIGTE, who will present the first award.