

Darryl LaGace



Darryl was one of the education technology community's most visionary and passionate advocates for transforming teaching and learning through technology. He served two times as president of CETPA and was an influential speaker at conferences around the nation, bringing his vision and passion for collaboration and partnership to help public education to a community of educators, administrators, and vendors working in the K-12 environment.

Raised in Lemon Grove, he worked tirelessly as Director of Technology for the Lemon Grove School District, bringing affordable Internet connectivity through microwave technology, the first such installation in a K-12 district in the nation. With this framework in place, in 1997 Project LemonLINK was born – he worked to link every classroom in Lemon Grove schools to the Internet and put a computer device in the hands of every student. This pioneering one-to-one initiative was one of the most important early efforts for ubiquitous learning and received national attention.

In 2008, Darryl moved on to San Diego Unified bringing the knowledge and skills he had learned at Lemon Grove to lead the district's five-year *i21* Initiative. Its innovative design transformed education for the second largest school district in California that included 7,000 classrooms and 130,000 students, setting the bar for technology projects across the nation.

In 2012, Darryl chose a new kind of challenge when he went to work for Lightspeed Systems. He brought his amazing talent and work done in California to the world and thoughtful insight back to the company to help shape the future of software that keeps kids safe online. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN).



Special thanks to Darryl's long-time friend, Barbara Allen for her help with this award. From Barbara: "We all knew Darryl in different capacities, but everyone recognized his extraordinary visionary intellect. What was always incredible to me was his scope of knowledge – to be able to understand what had to happen to make the vision a reality – from multifaceted plan of action to implementation. And his uncanny ability to gain the trust and support of those in charge to allow him creative freedom to get the job done. Vendors, I'm sure you experienced this too! Many times I watched him 'work his magic'. It was an amazing thing."

