



# NMC: The New Media Consortium

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## For Immediate Release

### Dr. Ted Kahn Recognized as the First NMC Fellow

In acknowledgement of his lifelong contributions to the use of interactive media and telecommunications technologies for the advancement of teaching, learning, and creative expression, NMC: The New Media Consortium has recognized Dr. Ted M. Kahn as the inaugural NMC Fellow.

The designation of “NMC Fellow” is the NMC's highest individual honor. In addition to recognizing significant lifelong accomplishment, the NMC Fellowship Program provides an avenue for collaboration and the pursuit of mutual goals between the fellowship recipient and the NMC. NMC Fellows are encouraged to use the fellowship as a platform to further their work and as a way to help them continue making contributions to the field. Fellowship recipients are accorded all the rights and privileges of NMC membership and their contributions acknowledged in a special program at the NMC Summer Conference.

“The NMC Fellowship Program is an avenue for outstanding thinkers and innovators to continue to make contributions to teaching and learning,” said Dr. Larry Johnson, NMC CEO, “and we hope to honor several distinguished individuals each year. Dr. Kahn, because of his lifelong commitment to education, his many achievements, and his continuing interest in building bridges between both formal and informal forms of learning, is an exceptional choice for the inaugural fellowship.”

Dr. Kahn has over 32 years of experience in innovation and action research in technology and lifelong learning, combined with development of several award-winning commercial educational multimedia products and projects for K-12 schools, higher education, museums, and teacher professional development. He has also co-authored three books on recreational learning with personal computers, and in August, 2000, he was featured by *Converge* magazine, as one of the national leaders and innovators in education, learning and technology. Dr. Kahn is also a frequent speaker/presenter at national and international conferences on learning and technology. Over the past 10 years, he has had a special focus on using the Internet and the Web to support international collaborative learning and design projects involving students, teachers, museums, business and research professionals, and members of the community.

In addition to his role as co-founder and CEO of DesignWorlds for Learning, Inc., Dr. Kahn is a co-founder and principal of CapitalWorks, LLC, a company dedicated to optimizing learning, and human and social capital in large organizations. He has worked for the Lawrence Hall of Science, the Centre for Educational Technology (Israel), Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), Atari (where he founded and directed the Atari Institute for Educational Action Research), Picodyne, Digital F/X, and the Institute for Research on Learning (IRL). He has been affiliated with the introduction, development, and learning applications of four generations of computers, digital media and telecommunications technologies, from using timeshared minicomputers for teaching kids to program their own learning games to desktop digital video production and collaborative learning over the web. However, throughout his career, he has also always focused on the human aspects of technology and learning, especially in his facilitating and enabling informal learning, social networks, and knowledge creation and sharing through collaboration and learning communities.

Dr. Kahn has been a Visiting Senior Fellow and taught at the UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies. He has also been a GLEF Fellow and is currently a featured speaker for The George Lucas Educational Foundation, as well as an Affiliate of the EOE Foundation. His consulting and contract clients have included: Fortune 500 corporations (e.g., Apple, IBM Global

Services, Cisco and Microsoft), major non-profit educational organizations (Galef Institute, PBS, WestEd, Workforce LA), government agencies and contractors (AED, National Academy of Sciences, Office of Technology Assessment (U.S. Congress), USAID, UNESCO/UNDP, SRI International), K-12 school districts and higher education (Oak Grove School District, Cal Poly Pomona, Riverside School for the Arts), and museums (The Getty Center, California Science Center, Jewish Museum San Francisco, and the Hewlett Foundation). Ted and his wife, Frona Kahn, DesignWorlds co-founder, partner and also a co-founder of The Learning Company, were both co-founding board members of the national award-winning Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose.

Dr. Kahn currently directs the Bay Area Science Museum Learning Collaboratory Project, a web-based collaboration between several San Francisco Bay Area science-technology museums, science teachers, and middle schools, funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. He is also an adjunct faculty member with the Center for Teaching Excellence and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco, and he also teaches online classes for teachers on global Project-Based Learning through the Krause Center for Innovation at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA. He holds a B.A. (with honors) in computer science and an M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology, all from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Kahn and his wife, Frona, live in San Jose with their two sons, Yoni and Aaron. They are a very musical family who are all passionate advocates and supporters of music, visual and other performing arts programs for lifelong learning. "Music is an excellent metaphor for learning, knowledge creation and collaboration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," says Dr. Kahn. "Instruments and voices are one of our oldest forms of technology. Making music is a process of continuous learning, individually and together as members of an ensemble. Music has structure, but it can also be highly improvisational. Like playing music, effective teaching and creative expression are about how you use knowledge, people's talents, and technologies in different situations to make something beautiful—and just as music requires a listening audience, learners complete the creation of value."

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*The NMC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that connects people—leaders in NMC's colleges, universities and museums and in advanced technology companies—that are working to define and explore new ways of teaching, learning and creative expression. Founded in 1993, the NMC counts 111 colleges, universities and museums among its members. Each has received the designation as a New Media Center as part of a competitive, peer-reviewed process. These institutions, and the fifteen visionary companies who comprise NMC's corporate membership, were selected for membership in the NMC because of their demonstrated commitment to the exploration of new ways of teaching, learning and creative expression.*

*The NMC is project-focused and action-oriented, and continuously looks for ways to build bridges between innovative people and organizations who are using new technologies to inspire, energize, stimulate or support teaching, learning and creative expression. NMC conferences tackle the tough pedagogical, legal, and technological issues that often accompany emerging technologies, new media forms and the tools that enable them, while offering attendees cutting-edge staff development. NMC projects and special events promote the effective use of technology in higher education, as well as target emerging technologies and issues for in-depth exploration. For more information on the NMC see <http://www.nmc.net>.*

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