The 32nd annual Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) was held Jan. 23-26, 2012, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. The event is touted as one of the leading technology conferences for educators and administrators nationwide, and highlights cutting-edge technology utilized in K-12 through higher education institutions. The conference offers teachers, faculty heads, media specialists, and technology directors an opportunity to coalesce and learn about new tools to implement in classrooms and curriculums, with the goal of boosting learning environments and student engagement.

This year was the first time Deltek attended FETC, and as the analyst designated to partake in the event, I found it offered a wealth of information for educators and vendors alike. Though most conference sessions were aimed at teachers, vendors were able to gain insight into their competitors, desired product capabilities, and which technologies are highest in demand. More than 500 companies occupied the conference’s 275,000 square-foot exhibit hall to demo and detail their solutions in hopes of making their mark in the ever-expanding education IT landscape.

Later this month, I will post a formal recap of the FETC sessions attended. Admittedly, it was difficult to choose amongst the more than 150 concurrent sessions offered over the three-day event. While not every session was a slam dunk, key takeaways were obtained in each. The recap will contain session summaries with valuable information for contractors wanting to learn more about key players in their market, as well as teachers simply wanting to hear about what’s out there and how they can improve current practices.

Stay tuned for the full analyst recap and follow me on Twitter @GovWinKRidley for the latest state and local buzz.