Bob Tinker was a pioneer in the field of educational technology and a leading contributor to TERC’s success and reputation. He began at TERC in the early ‘70s when the organization had 3 staff members; when he left in 1995 to establish the Concord Consortium, TERC had grown to more than 100 members. During that creative period, he and many talented collaborators initiated the use of probeware for education and pioneered student online science networks with programs like the National Geographic Kids Network and Global Lab (perhaps the first climate change education grant awarded by NSF). A physicist by training, Bob took his love for science and sought to inspire others to explore, discover, and experience the joys of scientific inquiry. He dedicated his life to transforming science education and removing barriers to students’ learning through scientific practices, technology, and data. Bob has changed the field of education and education technology and has inspired many educators, researchers, and learners throughout his lifetime. He will be deeply missed.

…Bob gave me a glimpse of the excitement, variety, and import of science education — not as an academic discipline, but as an absorbing passion, and a way to see the world with all its delights and puzzles — deeply rooted in the fun and mess of science itself. He loved it best when you told him of a question or a phenomenon that was bugging you; the questions and the, yes, tinkering around an answer were work and play … that was, in a way, what he taught me TERC’s mission was. Science for all, science in a democratic society, education as growth, the pleasure of finding things out, doing your damnedest with your mind, gladly learning and teaching gladly — the echoing phrases were not just words, but were woven into the stuff of his life, and an open, cheerful invitation to play along. I am grateful.

Brian Drayton

Remembering Bob, Concord Consortium

The Thomas Edison of STEM, Gary Stager