

## NETA 2017 Ballot

### **President Elect**

*This officer serves for one year in this position and then moves into the role of the President. The President Elect is responsible for helping to plan the spring conference.*

Heather Callihan  
Northwest Public Schools

My name is Heather Callihan. I have been in education for 19 years. Throughout these years I was an elementary and middle school teacher and currently a technology integrationist for Northwest Public Schools. My passion for technology and learning led me to my current position as a technology integrationist. This position allows me to collaborate with teachers, administrators and students across the district and across the state. I believe being innovative and connected are keys to success. I consider myself a lifelong learner and look forward to opportunities to grow professionally. In addition to these learning opportunities, I am also able to share my knowledge and passion by presenting to staff, parents and students in my district and with other schools in the area. As president-elect, I will continue exploring these passions while serving educators across Nebraska. I look forward to this leadership opportunity.

### **Treasurer**

*The treasurer receives and disburses all funds for NETA and keeps the board informed of the status of all accounts.*

Rich Molettiere  
Omaha Public Schools

I am interested in continuing to serve as your NETA Treasurer. Over my previous terms, we have introduced a new online financial accounting system, moved to an almost 100% electronic payment procedure (there are still a few vendors that only take checks) as well as providing any number of reports at the discretion of the Board. Continuing to serve NETA as its Treasurer would be an honor.

### **Directors**

*Directors serve for three-year terms. They attend four board meetings per year and one working retreat. Directors serve on planning committees and have special conference duties. Four positions need to be filled.*

Chad Ackerson  
Westridge Middle School

I am a classroom teacher that strives to integrate technology seamlessly into my classroom every day. I want to be a NETA Board Member to be able to help more teachers find a passion for technology in the classroom like I have. I believe technology plays an integral role in the education of our students. I would love the opportunity to help NETA encourage an excitement for enhancing learning by the use of technology.

Nate Balcom  
Starr Elementary School / Grand Island Public Schools

My name is Nate Balcom. I'm an Integration Specialist at Starr Elementary School in Grand Island. I have ten years of classroom experience in fourth and fifth grades. This is my third year as a technology integration specialist. I teach weekly computer classes to grades K-5. I'm an avid technology user in school. I engage in many connections via social media and was recognized by Nebraska Loves Public Schools as one of the 140 teachers to follow on Twitter (@mrbalcom). I enjoy presenting at EdCamps and conferences (including NETA). Last summer I attended ISTE in Denver. I manage the website and social media accounts for both my school and church and weekly produce three podcasts for my church. I have a Master's Degree in Elementary Administration from UNK and hold a PK-8 Nebraska Administrator Certificate. I'm currently pursuing a Master's in Technology Leadership. I am a Level One Google Certified Educator and also a Seesaw Ambassador. I believe students must always come first and as a NETA board member I would like to continue the legacy of guiding teachers and students through our technology-infused world. If you would like to know more about me visit:  
<http://www.mrbalcom.com>

Eileen Barks  
Educational Service Unit #2

Eileen Barks, M.Ed, has worked in education for 23 years. During the last 10 years she has worked directly with teachers in professional learning, assisting educators to feed their passions through tech integration, content, and leadership. Eileen serves on the Leadership team for the State ESU- Teaching and Learning with Technology group. She is interested in serving on the NETA board in order to promote integrated professional learning in technology throughout the state of Nebraska.

Lisa Bohaty  
Campbell Elementary/ LPS

Learner, Explorer, Passion. This is what I live by. I am a Computer Science Teacher and Building Tech leader at Campbell Elementary in Lincoln Public Schools. This is my 15th year in education. I have been a part of NETA for the last seven years and presented at the 2016 Spring NETA conference. I have always been a self learner who seeks out new ways to use technology to help teachers and students learn. Students in my classroom learn new skills through persistence, collaboration and play. As an explorer, I have been a frontier at bringing new technology to our school such as robots, Google Expedition and BreakOut EDU. My goal is to help teachers and students become global digital citizens.

As a member of the NETA board I will encourage teachers to use technology to engage students to explore the world through technology. My own learning and passion will inspire teachers to step outside their comfort zone and reach learners in new ways.

Michelle Boyce  
Fairview Elementary/Bellevue Public Schools

I am happily married for 23+ years, with two grown children. Currently, I have two bachelor's degrees from University of Nebraska at Kearney in Elementary and Special Education, and a master's degree in Curriculum Integration of the Arts from Lesley University. I am enjoying my 24th year teaching, and have led a resource classroom, a behavior challenged classroom, as well as third, fourth, and fifth grades. My current space is a flexible seating fifth grade classroom that is 1:1 iPads through an amazing opportunity from Bellevue Public Schools called the iPad Academy. I am interested in challenging learners of all ages in the areas of creative thinking, problem solving, and communication. I believe that learning is a process, and that to be outstanding, you have to get comfortable with being uncomfortable as that is your greatest opportunity for growth. It is my job to empower, uplift, and encourage others so that all may see their potential. I believe serving on the board will allow me to develop and grow myself, my network, my skills, and my passions.

April Bridwell  
Prairie Lane Elementary/Westside Community Schools

This is my 23rd year in education, however I have spent my entire life learning! How can you not when technology is continually changing! I believe that the digital development of learners begins very early and how we present that to elementary students makes a difference in how they grow in our ever-changing digital world. As a 6th grade teacher, I spend my time engaging students by allowing them to take risks, developing problem-solving skills, finding ways to share their passion(s), and encouraging them to advance their learning, all through the use of technology. We even have a weekly "Channel 6th Grade News" segment aired throughout our building! As part of our district's eMerge team, a group of early adopters of technology, I have been able to collaborate with other educators, learn, ask questions, attend conferences and inservices, share ideas and new resources, take risks and more! NETA is an organization that has the same vision to inspire educators to take those risks, be innovative, share, collaborate, and grow professionally. It would be a wonderful opportunity to be a NETA Board member where I could encourage other educators to be as enthused about learning, especially in technology, as I am!

Jay Ceerle  
Adams Central Junior/Senior High School

This is my 16th year in education. Each year I learn better ways to teach through technology. I first attended the NETA spring conference was with my colleagues as part of a learning web team. It was a transformative experience that helped make my classes

more engaging. My experiences attending sessions and talking with other teachers at the NETA conferences continues to inspire me to push the envelope of educational technology. If I am elected, I will work with the other elected officials to ensure the organization and the conference continues to be a source of ideas and inspiration that keeps teaching fun.

Stephanie Dannehl  
Bertrand Community Schools

I am the tech integration specialist and school librarian for Bertrand Community Schools. In this role, I lead, educate, and support students and staff with the purposeful use of technology. I am passionate about technology integration and how it can engage and empower students. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve on the NETA board and be an advocate for the vision and goals of the NETA organization.

Joshua Drake  
Silver Lake

As the 5th grade homeroom teacher and 4th-6th grade Social Studies teacher at Silver Lake I have found educational technology to be an integral part of my day to day instruction. I view educational technology as a powerful tool in our classrooms as long as it is being utilized in the proper manner. The NETA organization provides professional development opportunities for educational professionals to learn to utilize technology in an effective manner. I would like to be on the NETA board because I am passionate about helping teachers and pre-service teachers learn to utilize whatever technology they may have access to to the fullest so that we can continue to drive student achievement in an ever changing world.

Karen Dux  
Fairbury Public Schools

My name is Karen Dux. I am the Technology Integrationist for Fairbury Public Schools. Prior to my current position, I taught 6th grade and served as a Technology Assistant. As a member of the Technology Committee, I have been involved in technology planning and inservice within our district. Through my years in education, I have been an advocate for educational technology. I played an integral part in implementing a 1:1 rollout in my district and continue to play a leading role in staff development. I am also a member of the ESU 5 Leaders of Technology group and have presented each year at the ESU 5 Summer Technology Fair and several times at the spring NETA conference. As an adjunct faculty member of Doane University, I teach classes focusing on integrating technology within the curriculum. Because of my passion for educational technology and attendance at almost every NETA conference, it would be an honor to serve as a member of the NETA board.

Abby Fitzgerald  
Bennington Public Schools - Bennington Elementary

Abby Fitzgerald is a 5th grade teacher for Bennington Public Schools. She is in her 7th year of teaching, and has also coached volleyball for 5 years. Abby has been on the Bennington District Technology Committee for 7 years, and served on several sub committees. She strives to implement technology into her classroom in a variety of methods such as project based learning, flipped math, mystery hangouts, Amazing Race, 3D printing, blogging, BreakoutEDU, GoogleADay, and coding. She has attended 6 NETA conferences, 2 ISTE conferences, and is extremely passionate about technology, teaching, and learning. She is a Google Certified Educator - Level 2, and also a co-director for EdCamp Omaha. Abby is currently working on a second master's degree in Gifted and Talented Education. She has many district responsibilities such as PST Coordinator, Gym Director, 5th Grade DC Trip Coordinator, and PTO Board Member. NETA has played a huge role in shaping Abby's teaching experience, and as a classroom teacher, she feels she could bring a unique perspective to the NETA Board. Her enthusiasm, persistence, and drive are qualities that would help continue NETA's superior influence and impact on education in the state of Nebraska.

Scott Harrington  
Norris High School

My name is Scott Harrington (Twitter: @srharring) and I have taught high school social studies for the past 11 years at Norris High School. I have been very passionate about the integration of technology in the classroom since I began teaching. I love exploring and tinkering with new technologies and how they can be implemented to positively enhance my student's learning experiences. As our students have become more accustomed to technology, I have enjoyed re-envisioning the role of technology in my classroom. I believe that critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration are at the cornerstone of taking student engagement to the next level. I think the most effective activities are those that force students to become explorers through discovery and creation. I believe this forces the student to become the catalyst of their own learning. In conclusion, I enjoy researching (through various websites, especially Twitter) and experimenting with new technology tools that I love to share, not only, with my colleagues but also with other educators through social media and by presenting at the NETA Conference. I would be honored to serve on the NETA board.

Nathan Kleinmeyer  
Plattsmouth Community School District

I've taught 8th Grade American History in Plattsmouth for 11 years. During that time I've utilized the benefits of being a connected educator to enhance and transform what I do in my classroom and share those benefits with my colleagues, students and community. I believe that technology is an educational tool that can transform what learners do and being connected can bring the world into our schools and our classrooms to the world. From the perspective of a classroom teacher, there is so much that we can do to promote best uses for the amazing new tools that are created each day to empower our students and staff to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. I would like to be part of the

NETA Board so I can continue to promote what NETA does in the state for all educators and students.

Wendy Loewenstein  
Omaha Virtual School

Wendy Loewenstein has served one year on the NETA board and hopes to continue her work on the board. Wendy plans to leverage her multiple perspectives in education to advocate for innovative endeavors for NETA and its members. Currently, she is the principal of Omaha Virtual School with Omaha Public Schools. This is the first K-8th grade virtual school in Nebraska. Wendy is a risk-taker and embraces failure, as she believes this is how true growth and learning occurs. Previously, she has worked at University of Nebraska at Omaha and Bellevue Public Schools. She is a Microsoft Innovate Educator and passionate about blended learning, Minecraft in education, and coding.

Becky Miller  
Norfolk Public Schools

Technology Integration. Project-Based Learning. STEM/STEAM. Flipped Classroom. Blended Learning. All buzz words in education. Buzz words continually evolve, yet the fact remains that we need to educate children to navigate the ever-changing world around them. Technology has opened up limitless opportunities for teachers to focus on the best practices in teaching and learning as well as make their day-to-day classroom routine run more smoothly. I am blessed each day to work with teachers to leverage the power of technology to meet the needs of special education learners. I get to see empowerment happen each and everyday. Becoming part of the NETA Board, has only deepened my commitment to innovative technology use. I truly enjoy meeting with educators across the country to help meet NETA's vision to "promote utilization of appropriate technology to support quality teaching and learning". I embody this vision and will continue to strive to improve the instructional technology teaching practices across our state. It would be my privilege to continue serving you as a NETA Board Member. @techy\_becky

Joe Sherwood  
Morrill Public Schools

Having lived in Nebraska for 23 years. I was head administrator at Parkview Christian School in Lincoln eleven years, Superintendent in Pender for 3 years, Tryon for 7 years, and now at Morrill Public Schools since June 2015. Each school advanced significantly in technology integration. The Morrill board has set out to become the most progressive district in the valley when it comes to technology. As a result since June 2015 we have gone 1 to 1 for teachers, 1 to 1 for 3rd-12th grade students, we have 50 iPads in the preschool-2nd grade classrooms, and we have 10-station 3D virtual computing lab, called zSpace. The devices are great and the students enjoy them, but we desire to do way more than put devices in the hands of our learners, we want teachers to utilize the devices to redesign the learning experiences of students. Our students collaborate locally and

globally, they problem solve, and use technology to enhance creativity, curiosity, and engagement. Today's students can learn faster than teachers can talk. We must not expect students to power down at school. Rather we should free them to access information and develop skills necessary for the world they will graduate into.

Kent Steen  
Lincoln Public Schools

NETA has been my primary professional organization for 20 years. I have learned so much as a NETA member and have met so many outstanding education leaders. I served as NETA President in 2006. I've presented multiple times at NETA, sponsored student contest entrants, and was honored to receive the NETA Excellence in Leading with Technology Award. I currently work for Lincoln Public Schools as the Curriculum Specialist for Computer Science. I've led many trainings throughout Nebraska and at NETA related to Code.org and advocacy for Computer Science. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to again serve the NETA membership on the Board of Directors. I would appreciate your vote and will work hard for the continued success of NETA.

Spencer Vogt  
Peru State College

Spencer Vogt is a hard working and technology savvy professor from Peru State College. His previous 10 years were spent molding young 7th grade minds as a Social Studies teacher in Hastings, NE. Spencer is an active member in NETA and has been for 6 years, as well as, more recently becoming a member of ISTE, AMLE, and AECT. It would be considered the highest honor if you would vote for him to be apart of the NETA Board of Directors. In his current position as Assistant Professor and Technology Coordinator for the School of Education, Spencer always strives to bring technology and education to the forefront of future and current teacher's minds. Spencer's background and experiences make him a perfect candidate to fill one of the available NETA Board of Directors positions.