



Sue Oppliger  
ESU 7, Columbus

IT DOESN'T SEEM like that long ago that we so worried about the year 2000 and the millennium bug. And now a new decade is upon us!

The new year and new decade is an appropriate time for technology resolutions. Maybe not resolutions because they seem to always fall by the wayside, but time to set some technology goals.

### About the book

Our staff and board have been in the process of rereading the book, *Good to Great*, by Jim Collins. Collins and his research team identified companies that accomplished great results and sustained them for at least fifteen years and compared them to companies that failed to make the leap.

The purpose of reading the book was not to discover how education could improve by becoming more like business. The concepts that Collins and his research team found moved organizations from good to great are concepts that can also be applied to education. Both entities strive for greatness. If you have not read his book, visit the website to learn or review the key ideas. <http://www.jimcollins.com/index.html>

### Message from the President—

## Moving from Good to Great

One of the key points in *Good to Great* is the Hedgehog Concept. In essence, it is to become clear about how to produce the best long-term results and then have the discipline to say, "No thanks " to opportunities that fail the hedgehog test. The good-to-great companies have a deep understanding of three intersecting circles:

- 1) what you are deeply passionate about,
- 2) what you can be the best in the world at, and
- 3) what best drives your economic engine (Note: in the social sector the concept shifts from being an economic engine to a resource engine.)

### The critical question

The critical question becomes "How can we develop a sustainable resource engine to deliver superior performance relative to our mission?" (Collins) Districts that have determined their vision and mission statements are on the path to identifying their Hedgehog Concept.

There are many technologies vying for a place in education. How does one make decisions on adopting a technology? A recent *Omaha World Herald* article listed technologies that have defined the decade: *Google, iPod, Facebook, YouTube, Blogs, SmartPhones, Gaming consoles, DVR and DVD/Blu-ray* (Taylor ETA 1). These technologies have been used outside of the classroom for almost ten years.

### Which technologies to adopt?

The chapter in the book on Technology Accelerators ("Good to Great" 144-163) provides some insights on making decisions about which technologies to adopt in your classroom:

Eighty percent of the good-to-great organization executives interviewed did not cite technology as one of the top five factors in their companies' transformation. The companies in Collin's study avoided technology  
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If you can share a success story related to technology in the classroom, or a software solution review, we'd love to print it in a future newsletter. For making the contribution, you will receive a 2010 Spring Conference T-shirt.

Contact Sandy Blankenship, phone (402) 540-1904 or e-mail [executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org) with a short summary to see if your story can be included in a future issue!❖



NETA is an affiliate of ISTE—The International Society for Technology in Education.

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William Bolen  
ESU 10, Kearney

IS IT MORE DANGEROUS to put up Christmas lights or to attend a technology conference? Both can be equally painful and rewarding. The conference was ITEC in Iowa and it was great. I always welcome the opportunity to spend time with fellow educators talking about “what’s new” and “what changes are coming.” On the other side, the Christmas lights looked great and transformed our home into a welcoming holiday celebration. So what is so painful about that? Both left me with a sprained ankle.

### Seek professional growth

All joking aside, it will be more damaging to your role as an educational leader and to the future of your students if you aren’t active in seeking out and participating in professional development. If you think change just happens, it will! The problem is it may happen in ways that are not beneficial to anyone. There are many great opportunities for educators to gain professional growth. I would encourage you to participate in several different formats of learning: local training sessions at your school or ESU, online webinars, becoming active in social networks and don’t miss the 2010 NETA Conference! Each format is very

## Message from the President Elect—

# The Danger of Not Participating

different and provides a unique opportunity for learning and change in your classroom. We’ve known for years that a balanced diet is necessary for good health; a well-rounded learning environment is essential to your professional growth.

### Speakers will challenge you

This year we have a wonderful and diverse slate of presenters to challenge you in every step of your professional life. Peter Reynolds will kick off the conference with his challenge to nurture the dream and creative life in your students. Rem Jackson will make you smile while challenging you with your role as a leader in education. There will be strands of sessions for assistive technology, 1-1 classrooms, IT leaders in schools, and school leadership.

### Sessions for everyone

This year I want to challenge you to do everything you can to encourage your school administration to attend the NETA conference. We are providing a strand targeted at helping them shape the role of technology in your school environment. Without their support, change will be slow

and difficult. Therefore, this is your opportunity to make a difference.

Besides all of the great national speakers on the docket (see the November 2009 NETA News or <http://netasite.org>), we again have a wonderful lineup of educators, anxious to share their expertise of what works in their classroom. Every year we have so many great submissions that it is difficult to have to turn away some great presentations. Besides great sessions by national and local educators, we also have a well-balanced program that includes several of the vendors. We encourage vendors to make their sessions not just “sales pitches” but rather opportunities to share how a solution can improve the educational environment.

We look forward to seeing you at the NETA Conference in April! ❖

### The Winner!

The winning design (at right) for the NETA Logo Contest is by **Brian Hoggatt** at the Lincoln Public Schools Information Technology Focus Program, Grade 12. Teacher Sponsor: Steve Carr. Thanks to the contest coordinator, Jason Rushing from LPS.



# A Tribute to Connie Baxter

AS WE THINK OF “pioneers” we many times visualize those who traveled across the prairie and endured many hardships as they settled in Nebraska. NETA has now lost one of its “pioneers.” Connie Baxter was the first President of NETA in 1987-88. In those days the group organizing the conference did not have much funding and contemplated whether to move forward with another conference. Thanks to Connie and other pioneers of those days, we now have the NETA Conference as we know it today. Who would have thought it would grow to the point of having over 2,300 people in attendance?

On behalf of the NETA Board, past and present, we extend our sympathy to the family of Connie Baxter: husband Don and son Kyle. Connie died December 22, 2009.



Connie Baxter & husband, Don

“Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways—Chardonnay in one hand—chocolate in the other—body thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and screaming “WOO HOO, What a Ride!”

Quote from Connie's signature line

Connie's accomplishments were many. She was a loving wife and mother and a friend to many who also mourn her death. She worked to improve student learning in various Omaha area school districts—Westside, South Sarpy, and Papillion La Vista. She served in many capacities as teacher, principal, gifted coordinator, and elementary curriculum director. In addition to being active in NETA, she was also involved in ASCD, Phi Delta Kappa, Omaha Area Foster Care Board, and MOEC (Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium). She also found time to share her expertise by teaching for Doane College and UNO.

But for NETA, we have lost one of our own—a friend, a former board member, and one of our “pioneers!” ❖

*(Good to Great, from page 1)*

fads and bandwagons, but they did become pioneering leaders in the use of carefully selected technologies.

Technology was an accelerator of greatness that was already in place, not the primary cause of greatness or decline. These companies used technology to enhance pre-existing variables, never as a replacement.

Making technology productive means asking the following question: *Does the technology fit directly with your Hedgehog Concept?*

If *yes*, then you need to become a pioneer in the application of that technology.

If *no*, then you can settle for parity or ignore it entirely.

## Response to change

How an organization reacts to technological change is a good indicator of its drive for greatness. Great companies respond with thoughtfulness and creativity, driven to turn unrealized potential into results; mediocre companies react and lurch about, motivated by fear of being left behind.

“Pause, crawl, walk, run” can be a very effective approach, during times of rapid and radical technological change. This approach emphasizes using a deliberate, methodical approach to select new technologies. The same approach that is utilized in all of their other decisions.

As we move into the new decade is it time to use a new approach in making decisions about which

technologies to bring into your classroom? Don't forget that good-to-great organizations think differently about technology than mediocre ones. ❖

Collins, James. *Good to Great*. 1st. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2001. 144-163. Print.

Collins, James. “Good to Great and the Social Sectors: Why Business Thinking Is Not the Answer.” (2005): Web. 26 Dec 2009. <<http://www.jimcollins.com/books/g2g-ss.html>>.

Taylor, Wes. “Best of the Decade: Technology.” *Omaha World Herald* 27 Dec 2009, Sunday: ETA 1. Print.



## Vote Online! for 2010 NETA Officers and Directors

It's time for election of officers and directors for the NETA board. Read a little information about each candidate and then cast your vote by February 26. Voting will ONLY be done online.

- Choose the link at the NETA web site at <http://netasite.org>
- Use your unique membership ID# from the mailing label on this newsletter.

### 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.*



#### **Renee Kopf** **Falls City Public Schools**

I am excited and honored to be nominated for the President Elect position. I have been a member of NETA for ten years and a member of the Board of Directors for the last four. Although I have never been a classroom teacher, I consider myself a teacher and technology

mentor. My "classroom" includes five buildings and 140+ faculty and classified staff members. I am the LAN manager for Falls City Public Schools, having held that position for over ten years. Besides "other duties as assigned," I repair hardware and troubleshoot software issues on servers, computers, copiers, printers, projectors—anything that involves electricity and technology. I help teach staff members to more efficiently use technology as a tool in their classrooms during district inservices and non-contract time trainings. I have input on all technology decisions, along with our district technology coordinator, to enable Falls City Public Schools to keep abreast of new technologies and incorporate them into classroom learning.

I feel the NETA Conference is one of the premiere technology conferences anywhere. I have seen first hand what an energetic group of people who believe in acquiring and sharing knowledge with educational faculty statewide and beyond can accomplish. The NETA Board works hard to make the conference pertinent to everyone whether they are a student, teacher, or administrator. My hope is that everyone who attends leaves with several ideas that can be immediately implemented in their district to improve student and/or teacher learning. We strive to do that. To continue to meet those high standards will one of my biggest challenges. If elected, that goal will start with the President Elect position and will continue during my service as President and Past President.

#### **No other candidates at this time.**

No other candidates for President Elect were nominated. There will be an opportunity to do a "write-in" vote for another candidate if you wish.

### Secretary

*This officer is elected every two years. The secretary keeps records of the meetings of the Board of Directors, tracks Director attendance at meetings and files and distributes changes in policy issues adopted at board meetings.*



#### **Nicole Badgley—** **Arnold Public Schools**

Nicole Badgley is the district technology coordinator, professional development trainer for technology, and a part-time high school English teacher at Arnold Public Schools. Arnold began their laptop initiative in the spring of 2006 with each year progressively adding

grades until Arnold reached a K-12, 1:1 learning environment. After several years hosting Apple Learning Institutes for teachers and administrators in Arnold, she was honored in February 2009 as an Apple Distinguished Educator. She is actively involved in the state-wide 1:1 Laptop Community Consortium and is one of the founding members.

#### **No other candidates at this time.**

No other candidates for Secretary were nominated. There will be an opportunity to do a "write-in" vote for another candidate if you wish.

**NOTE:** Contact Sandy Blanknship at [executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org) if your membership number is torn or unreadable on the newsletter.

## 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.*



### **Crys Bauermeister, Pierce High School**

In my first year out of college, fellow teachers told me I needed to attend the NETA conference. After being awed that first year, I realized NETA was the place for me. Here I am ten years later ready to serve fellow teachers.

Students need to see how technology touches their lives, no matter what career path they choose. NETA is just one way I am more effective as a technology leader. Our school is 1: 1, and one of my new duties is moving from a Language Arts teacher to a computer applications teacher. While challenging, the task is rewarding and my sharing and collaboration skills have grown.

Along with students, teachers need to develop skills with ever transforming technology. Just when I think I have an application mastered, an update is released, which proves that learning is a lifelong task, or a journey in learning. Although change is a constant variable, technology leaders need to continuously adapt to the ever-changing landscape of the educational tools at our disposal.

My involvement with NETA includes presenting at three previous conferences, as well as attendance at the conference for the past ten years. If elected to the NETA board, I will strive to meet NETA's mission of believing in the boundless limits technology provides, recognize and utilize technology in educational endeavors, collaborate and grow with technology, and adapt to the changing needs of students and teachers alike.



### **Jane Davis, Hershey Public Schools**

Hi, I am Jane Davis, the media and technology coordinator at Hershey Public Schools. I have 25 years of experience in education and assist our district with its 1:1 laptop initiative, school information system, school improvement process, staff development, NSSRS, STARS assessments, curriculum, and hardware

and software purchases. I support the students and staff with media and technology usage. My career has continually evolved just as technology and its usage in today's school have evolved.

As a parent of three children, (one with a verified learning disability), I have a passion for making our students' learning experiences the best that they can be. I have spent considerable time researching and learning about proven instructional practices that touch all learning styles. Couple those practices with technology and you have a win-win combination: students become engaged and excited about learning.

As a current NETA board member, I have seen the excitement and enthusiasm that take place when teachers come together. I believe that teachers learn best from each other and sharing this knowledge with others is what NETA is all about. It has been a great honor serving you as a NETA board member and, if re-elected, I will continue to serve the board with enthusiasm and a passion for improving learning and instruction.



### **Jason Degn, College of Saint Mary**

I am a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a BS in Computer Science (Minor in Telecommunications Management). While working on my undergraduate degree, I worked at ESU 10 providing LAN management for contracted schools. I have worked with College of Saint Mary for nearly

six years, serving mostly in Director-level and Senior Leadership positions. In my current position as Vice President of Institutional Technology, I provide the strategic and tactical leadership for the technical infrastructure, instructional technology and information services. This position reports to the President and interfaces frequently with the Board of Directors.



### **Jason Everett, ESU 10**

I am a Systems Engineer and Technology Trainer at Educational Service Unit 10 in Kearney. First, thank you for the opportunity to serve you the last three years. It has been a joy to be on the NETA Board working with such great and innovative people across the state for the betterment of the Nebraska education system. We have seen many exciting changes and there are more to come.

Our NETA 2010 Keynote, Peter H. Reynolds has always stressed the importance of having a mission. It's what drives us, motivates us, and leads us in our life journey. As I reflect each year about what my mission will be, I incorporate those values I feel are important in education and building 21st century skills capacity is at the top of the list. So this year, my mission is to "Go Global!" To use the tools and technology to build programs and relationships around the globe assembling a collaborative network of educational support for Nebraska teachers. As we embark on our journey to give our students the skills needed to survive in this new world economy, I plan on using tools such as the Framework for 21st Century Skills, ISTE NETS, and the new K12 Horizon Report. These tools provide a wealth of information and resources as we prepare for another year of advancing our skills as teachers and providing for the success of our students. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a NETA Board member.



### **Tom Gamble, Indian Hill Elementary**

As the technology facilitator for Indian Hill Elementary in South Omaha, I've been very fortunate to bring the limitless opportunities of technology to our students and staff. Technology is a vital part of a student's education and must be integrated into their education.

I have introduced handheld computing, laptops, and interactive whiteboards to our staff and students. I have been fortunate enough to offer training to our staff as well as our district. It is imperative we pursue new and creative means of technology instruction, never becoming complacent.

NETA is a valuable resource for the Midwest. I have attended the conference for years and have been fortunate to be a presenter. I am a member of ISTE and attend the annual conference bringing new ideas and concepts back to our state. NETA is a means to bring together the best our state has to offer in educational technology in all grade levels. This allows us to foster better technology instruction for the students of our state and keep us ahead of the educational technology curve. I would be honored to contribute my knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to the NETA board and its members.



### **Brian Gibson, Northwest Public School**

As a technology coordinator for the past ten years, beginning at Centura PS 2000, I was the PowerSchool Administrator, the LAN Manager, in addition to maintaining over 300 computers on both Mac & Windows platforms. In 2006 we made the move to a 1:1 initiative. I am proud to have been part of the Technology Committee that planned for and implemented the program. Being one of the first schools in Nebraska to move to a 1:1 program at the time, Centura became a role model for other area districts exploring laptop initiatives. I enjoyed the role that I played in that process.

Today I am the technology coordinator for Northwest PS and once again I find myself challenged by the multi-platform system as the district operates over 800 Macs & Windows computers in its five buildings. Besides my technology title, I also coach the speech team. My public speaking experience has enhanced my training and presentation skills. I have enjoyed presenting at ESU 10, NEPSUG, and NETA. The best parts about my job as a technology coordinator are working with students and helping teachers improve their technology skills.

*(Continued on the next page)*

(Board of Directors nominees, continued)



**Nicki Noordhoek, Waverly Middle School**

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.” – John Dewey

My attitude about technology in the classroom is one of passion, commitment, and the belief that we can always learn more WITH others! I am currently in my fourteenth year of teaching at Waverly Middle School

as a special educator. I work daily in a variety of classrooms with many different students as well as teachers. As a special educator, I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the NETA Board, one which considers all levels and abilities of learners in conjunction with various areas of curriculum.

Looking at the future of technology, collaboration on all levels will be an essential component to not only educate ourselves, but more importantly our students. The students of today’s world connect, learn, communicate, and operate their daily lives through multiple facets of technology. As educators, I believe it is our responsibility to actively engage and incorporate ‘their way of learning’ into our classrooms.

Each year I look forward to attending the NETA Conference. My students and I have not only benefited from the ideas shared by keynote speakers and others willing to share their expertise, but we have also presented our experiences to encourage others! I would be honored by the opportunity to expand my knowledge by collaborating with others in moving Nebraska students into the 21st century.



**Linda Peters, ESU #3**

We need to prepare students for their future, not ours! Key to making this a reality is technology integration. NETA is a valuable resource to Nebraska educators and a positive step towards making this happen.

As an instructional technologist I enjoy working with students and teachers to integrate technology. But an integral part of my job includes online teaching and learning. With the rapid growth in this area I have found myself training on ANGEL, Moodle and Blackboard and have become a member of iNACOL and NROC (all are terms I had not even dreamed of a decade ago!)

I am grateful to be nominated to run for the NETA Board. As a non-native Nebraskan I hope to add a unique perspective to the NETA leadership team. I have taught in four states besides Nebraska and have been involved with technology in education since I began my teaching career in Montana. Do you remember those 5.25” disks? I do. After accepting my current position as an Instructional Technologist at ESU #3 in Omaha, I attended my first NETA Conference. What a rewarding experience. Learning technology related ideas from expert session presenters and networking with colleagues from across the state was an invaluable experience. As part of the NETA board I hope to give back to the profession that is leading students to “their” future.



**Mike Peterson, O’Neill High School**

Mike has been teaching with technology since his first teaching job over 20 years ago when he fired up a TRS-80 to teach BASIC programming. Since then he has seen the computer as a means to engage and inspire students in learning. As a computer teacher in inner-city Long Beach, CA, he saw how he could educate students that were coming to him from the worst conditions imaginable, by making learning “fun” for them with technology.

A self-declared “geek,” Mike loves everything about technology. His current assignment has him teaching Cisco IT Essentials, Cisco Networking, Web-Based Accounting, Digital Design, Digital Media and Web Design. Several of Mike’s students have been successful at the yearly Apple “Digie” Digital Media competitions. His students are now completely responsible for the local cable access channel in O’Neill and are looking forward to the real-world learning opportunities that this brings. In his spare time, Mike enjoys camping with his family, photography, bicycling, and cruising in his 1962 Ford Thunderbird!



**Jason Rushing, Lincoln Public Schools**

I am a Computer Technology teacher for Lincoln Public Schools, have been teaching for 15 years and have been a NETA member for just as long. NETA has been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to me. I have learned so much from so many wonderful educators across our great state during the NETA

conferences and through the articles written in the Newsletter. I have been proud and honored to serve on the NETA Board for the last three years. Some of my responsibilities have been to organize and coordinate the NETA Logo Contest and the Student Open Class Contest each year. I have also served on the Web Committee Task force and worked with the Outreach committee developing ways to help and support our membership. I would be thrilled to be re-elected to serve on the NETA board for another term. Thank you for your vote.



**Lenny VerMaas, ESU #6**

Lenny started his education career helping students enjoy learning at Norris Public Schools. During his twenty-eight years at Norris he went through several generations of computers, calculators, and technology. One common thread through this time was the support, guidance, leadership and ability to look into

the future provided by NETA. Through the years Lenny has given several presentations at NETA. Eight years ago Lenny began working for Educational Service Unit #6 in Milford, helping teachers and administrators to help students enjoy learning. Lenny wants to become more active in contributing to the vision that NETA has for Nebraska including hosting the best conference in Nebraska and the Midwest.



**Jolene Walker, Lincoln Public Schools**

The first eight years of my career as a Kindergarten Educator I took advantage of technology by integrating computer-based resources with other media. By coordinating material closely and integrating with other classroom content, the field of learning was greatly expanded for students. Learning was fun, and

reinforced from several directions. For several years now I have been on the other side of this partnership. As a Computer Specialist I understand how to integrate technology into the curriculum. It’s important to work very closely with other faculty to maximize the use of technology resources for meeting learning objectives. Working with other staff, several units that involve Internet sources, software programs and imagery tools were designed. The results are clear—students learn more and enjoy learning more. Our work has gotten noticed recently. My partners and I have been invited to present our units at many NETA, NECC and other regional/national conferences.

I began my teaching career in Apple Valley, CA and later worked at Omaha Catholic Schools, OPS and for the last eight years I have taught at LPS. This varied background has given me a variety of information on how schools use and implement technology standards. I would be honored to be a director of NETA.



**SuAnn Witt, Nebraska Dept. of Education**

NETA exists for the purpose of providing leadership and promoting the application of technology to the educational process. Its span of interest includes all levels and aspects of education. Technology impacts every facet of the educational environment, from the classroom to the board room. It is in the homes and workplaces of our students, faculty, and other stakeholders.

As educators, one of our goals is to integrate the uses of technology into the learner’s world through application and example. I have 30+ years working in K–12 technology and will continue to use my experience and resources to help NETA achieve its purpose and mission. Increasing leader capacity, and the integration of technology throughout educational and administrative processes, is a top priority. I will continue to leverage my professional memberships with ISTE and CoSN and my day-to-day work with E-rate, Network Nebraska, and the NITC Education Council to assure that technology resources are available for all Nebraskans. ❖



Scott Plummer  
Morrill Public  
Schools

## The Past

It is absolutely amazing to consider that we have completed the first decade of the 21st Century. I sit writing this article on New Year's Eve, 2009. Ten years ago the world waited in fear of what might happen when the clocks struck midnight. Would the computers shut down? Would we lose all data? Would planes fall out of the sky? Lots of media hype helped to fuel the fury. It is interesting to note that countries that did not spend nearly as much as the U.S. on preparing for the problem did not experience any more problems than did the U.S.

Technology has continued to infiltrate nearly every part of our lives in the past decade. The average number of text messages sent by teenagers in a month is over 2000! Students often experience leaving their digital "life" outside the classroom walls, since much of their technology is not welcome in schools today. As we continue to consider how convergence of technologies will change life in the 21st Century, we must consider how it will out of necessity change the way we educate students. How can we take the cell phones and smart phones created in the past decade and integrate them into the future of education? How can we better leverage the Internet, Web 2.0 tools and social networking to an educational advantage?

## Past President Reflections

# The Past—Just the Warm Up Act

*Are students graduating this year from our schools prepared? Many Fortune 500 company CEO's are saying they are "woefully unprepared."*

## The Future

Carly Fiorina said, "The past 25 years in technology have been the warm-up act. What we are now entering is the main event which is the era in which technology will truly transform every aspect of business, government, education and society of life." Many educators have been thinking that technology would eventually just die down and take its place in the hall of educational relics. Strategies once tried and failed. These attitudes still persist in some schools...we'd rather use technology to "automate" rather than "infomate." Using technology to keep track of our grades and attendance makes sense, it eases our lives. Using technology to have students become information literate takes time and effort. Technology is often unpredictable, and I think the unpredictable nature of it is what often scares teachers, parents and school boards.

Most schools have continued to add technology, but often fail at making sure that "every" student is technology literate. Standards have forced us to travel a path where every student will be given the necessary reading, writing and math skills. We've got to do the same with technology. Students who fail at leveraging technology will be considered "illiterate" in the future.

Being able to send text messages and surf the web does not make one "technology literate." Students who lack the skills needed to process and sift through massive amounts of information, communicate on a global basis, and lack the self-direction to learn the necessary skills for success will be left behind.

More unique information will be published this year than was published in the last 5,000 years. This is a staggering amount of new, unique information. How are we to deal with it? How do we prepare students to deal with it? Students of tomorrow must be more self-directed than ever before. How do we instill those skills in our students? Are students graduating this year from our schools prepared? Many Fortune 500 company CEO's are saying they are "woefully unprepared."

Another quote from Carly Fiorina really makes me think, "Time had stood still for the people of HP (Hewlett-Packard); they did not know how to move forward without their founders. They were afraid of change; what if changing anything meant destroying everything." This quote encapsulates education in America today. Our founders are long gone, yet the  
*(Continued on the next page)*

*(The Past, continued)*

“system” of education they put in place is still here. We have and continue to show fear of change. The last portion of the quote is something that we all need to deeply consider. “What if changing anything meant destroying everything?”

Our students today do not learn best in the linear fashion that has been present in our educational system for over 100 years. In ten short years, what now fits in our pockets (smart phones) will probably fit in the space the size of a blood cell. How will this change what “fits” in our pockets? What needs to change in education? How do we secure the necessary funding to make it happen? What skills do we feel are nonnegotiable for all students? How do we get past our fear? What would a Fortune 500 CEO say about how well our students from Nebraska schools are prepared? Only our graduates will be able to tell us, if we were successful in preparing them for their future.

### Volunteers

Speaking of the near future...don't forget to volunteer at NETA! A crew of “Ask Me” volunteers is needed. If you are interested in doing this, please e-mail me at [splummer@panesu.org](mailto:splummer@panesu.org). Have a wonderful 2010! ❖

### Sources:

Did you know 4.0?  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ILQrUrEWe8>

Did you know IV?  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjKBsfk\\_O8c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjKBsfk_O8c)

Carly Fiorina Enterprises.  
<http://www.carlyfiorina.com/>

<http://netasite.org>

## The Learning Web Turns Six!

**The Learning Web is a year-long professional institute promoting technology integration projects which meet school improvement goals and support proven instructional strategies.**

The Learning Web staff development process will again be offered to the educators of Nebraska. The Learning Web is a yearlong professional institute promoting technology integration projects, which meet school improvement goals and support proven instructional strategies.

### The Learning Web teams:

- attend the NETA Conference in LaVista (Omaha area) April 29–30, 2010 to gather ideas for the project.
- attend a regional two-day institute in June at an ESU to learn about instructional strategies and develop an action plan.
- work with a team facilitator who will help to answer questions and provide resources.
- align the project to a school improvement goal.
- make sure the project supports at least one proven instructional strategy.
- implement the project during second semester of the 2010–11 school year.
- share the project at the NETA conference in April, 2011.

The project supports a team of five from a school or district in each ESU, who create an action plan to implement a technology integration project which supports a school improvement goal. For example, in support of a reading and/or writing goal, a school may elect to integrate graphic organizers as a research based comprehension strategy. The team of teachers may train and create graphic organizers using Inspiration software.

The project teams from last year will be presenting the success of their Projects at a poster session during the NETA conference on April 29th. Don't miss this session! Last year's teams received a classroom response system (clickers), so many of the poster sessions will highlight how they have utilized this technology tool to improve student learning.

This is the sixth year for the project, and the hope is that it will be on-going and grow in future years. Each participating ESU will recruit a district as their 2010 team. If you are interested, please contact the technology professional development person at your local ESU.

*The Learning Web is sponsored by the Nebraska Educational Service Units, NETA, Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education & the Nebraska Department of Education. ❖*

**The Learning Web**



by Nicki  
Noordhoek,  
Waverly Middle  
School

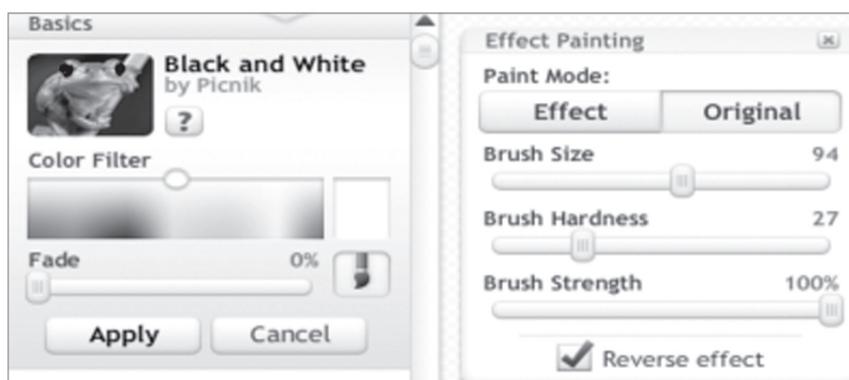
## Picnik...Truly a Walk in the Park!

PICNIK IS A FREE, web-based photo editing tool that has students in the 21st century classroom bringing creativity, technology, and photography together to express themselves and what they think, see, and feel (<http://www.picnik.com>). One of the strongest features is its ease of use. In addition, if you do need help, Picnik provides pop-up tips throughout the editing process, including ideas on how to use the various tools.

Picnik resembles many of Photoshop Elements' features. However, instead of launching a program to resize, crop, or rotate a picture you can quickly and easily log in to any computer and access this resource. This is a major benefit when you are looking at using it with an entire classroom or possibly having to use different computers with your classes. The free version will save and store your last five photos you've worked on (you do have to sign up for an account). In addition to being able to resize, crop, and rotate your pictures, you can also (see below) adjust the exposure and color (saturation and temperature), as well as sharpen your images or take out the red-eye.



Once you've done your basic editing you can move on to the fun stuff! Under the create tab you'll find the options to add cool effects, a variety of text and stickers, do a little touch-up or add a frame to your picture. Like most programs you are able to change your image to black and white, sepia, and others, but with Picnik you can add the effect and then also reverse parts of your photo by selecting the paint brush and original effect.



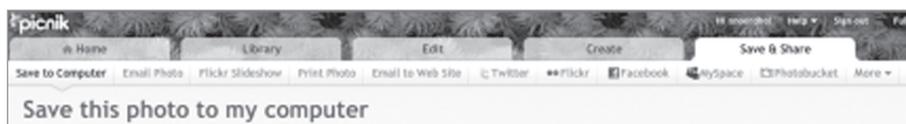
The result will look like this. Added to the picture is a 'sticker' (tree) and text at the bottom right.

There are a few features you can access with the free version under the touch-up tab as well. For example, you are able to touch up unsightly blemishes,

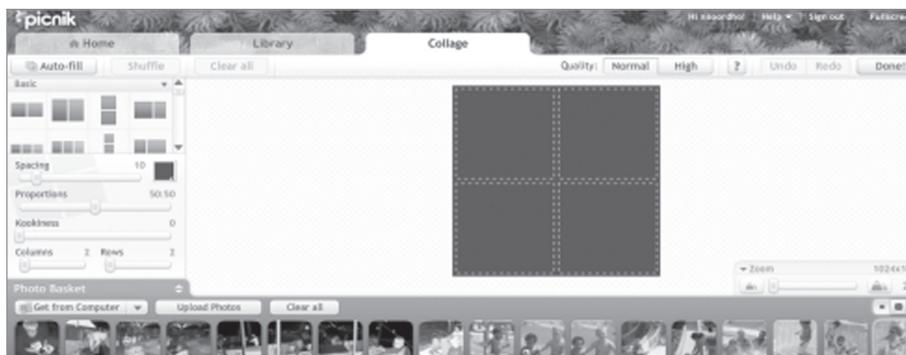
whiten your teeth, or make yourself look a little thinner if you'd like. There are several more options, but they come with the premium version only. Although these features can enhance a photo, for purposes in the classroom I don't believe they are necessary. This would also apply to the frames feature.

The one feature that I believe puts Picnik ahead of the rest, especially with digital natives, is the ability to import and share pictures seamlessly with Facebook, Twitter, Picasa, Flickr and more. And for those of you who still like to save to your computer, Picnik also provides that option (next page).

(Picnik, continued)



*Save photo to computer*



*Collage templates*

In addition to editing photos, Picnik also features several collage templates. You are able to choose your pictures from your current library or any of the other photo sharing programs listed previously. If you don't find a template you want, you can build one of your own. It offers the option of auto-fill and will shuffle photos until you find the one you like.

Overall, I think you will agree Picnik has taken web-based photo-editing to a new level! You will find that you have several students already using the program for personal use so the ease of transition into the classroom and using it as a learning tool should be smooth. I personally have learned a lot from my students, too! ❖

## Burwell Wins Interactive Classroom Makeover Contest

### Congratulations to Joy Schott, a member of NETA, and her students from Burwell, Nebraska!

They are the winners of a \$30,000 grant from *eInstruction*.

Over 200 entries showing the benefits of a technology-driven classroom were submitted. Each of the three Grand Prize winners won an interactive classroom makeover worth over \$30,000! A combination of public vote and a judging panel selected Joy and her students. They won the grades 6–8 category.

Mrs. Schott's 23 sixth grade students at Burwell Elementary all played an integral role in the productions of this video. Singing to the tune of Billy Joel's 80's hit, "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me," the students proclaim the necessity of technology in the classroom. As the video depicts, money is the biggest obstacle in keeping up with the advancement of technology. However, if students are not exposed to the technological tools available,

then as educators we are doing a disservice to our students. The students went to great lengths to make this video production a success by traveling after school to shoot a clip on location, by lying in a pile of real money, and even by re-enacting the branding of a calf with the *eInstruction* logo. This information was taken from the following web site where NETA members can also view Burwell's contest entry:

<http://eimakeover09.shycast.com/submission/show/412/>

#### Here is a partial list of the items won:

- INTERWRITEMOBI™ system including one Mobi, two Mobi learners and docking station
- INTERWRITEMOBIDual-Board™

- 32 unit CPS Pulse™ Student response system
  - One full-day of Professional Development
  - Free Product Installation
  - 3M Super Close Projection System
  - SP Control System
  - Inspiration® and Kidspiration® software
  - Fablevision Livewire school Bundle
  - Texas Instruments calculator emulator software (specific software based on grade range of winner)
  - Dell Latitude 2100 computer with 1 year warranty and 6 cell battery
  - \$1,000 USD cash towards the purchase of technology in your classroom
  - Cake Party
- Congratulations! ❖



Jackie Ediger  
ESU 9

# diigo –Bookmarking Made Simple

Do you ever get tired of spelling out a website URL to your students? Are you constantly hunting for that website you saved in your long list of bookmarks?

Here to save the day is social bookmarking! This may not sound like a useful classroom tool to you, but it is! Social bookmarking is convenient and organizes your favorite websites, not to mention providing collaboration with others who share the same interest, all in one easy to use tool.

Diigo is a fast and easy way to save your bookmarks on the web (and yes, it's free)!

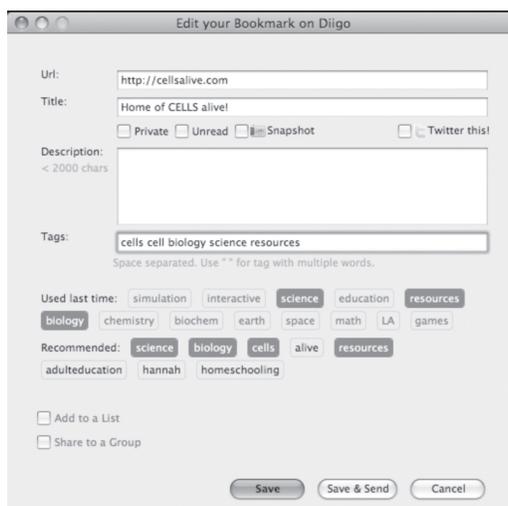
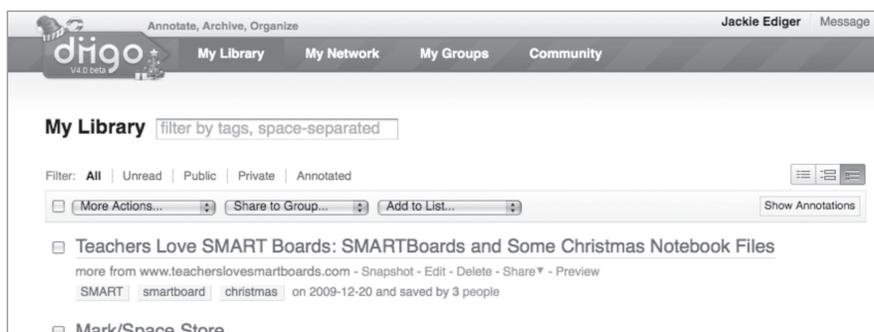
## Further resources for Diigo:

[http://www.diigo.com/learn\\_more](http://www.diigo.com/learn_more)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RvAkTuL02A>

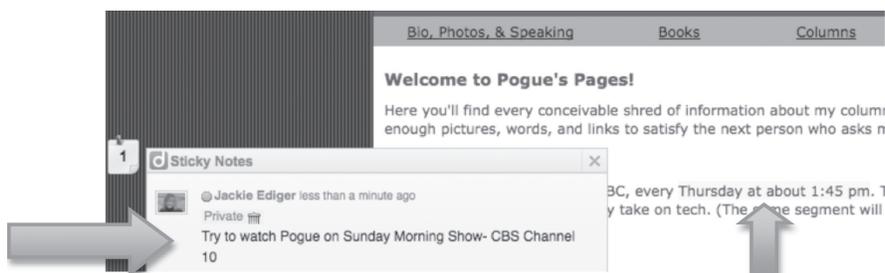
## My Diigo site

<http://www.diigo.com/user/jediger1>



After signing up for a Diigo account, you click on the Diigo icon in your toolbar to save a bookmark. With each bookmark you will add a *Tag*. Tags are keywords you use to describe your bookmarks. If it is a biology site, teachers may tag the site as: biology, science, resource, and/or 9thgrade. Next time you are looking for a site, you find it easily by searching your tags (keywords).

Diigo allows you to highlight and add sticky notes to the webpage. You will see your highlights and sticky notes on the original page, just as if you had you highlighted or written on paper!



And if that is not enough, now that you are organized, have notes on webpages and highlights on the important parts, there is more! It is called 'social bookmarking' because you create groups and join groups of interest to you. People who have the same interests as you are now sharing their bookmarks all in one place.

Now you are able to find your bookmarks with a simple tag word. You can also send your students to your Diigo site where they can see all the websites you have referenced in class and even from outside your classroom! ❖

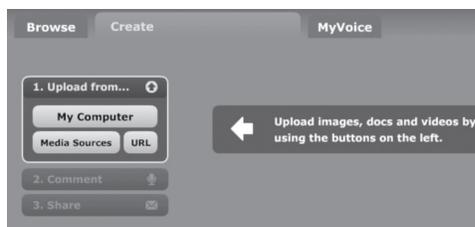


Josh Allen  
Papillion La  
Vista Schools

## Multimedia Conversations using VoiceThread

THE POWER OF WEB 2.0 is the ability to publish content and share with anyone in the world. The website *VoiceThread* allows you create a multimedia conversation from your pictures, documents, audio or video that can be shared and commented on using a variety of tools. When comments are made on your VoiceThread, each person's picture (or VoiceThread "identity") appears, giving a visual of the global conversation. To get started, go to VoiceThread's Education page (<http://ed.voicethread.com>).

A basic VoiceThread account only allows you to create three VoiceThreads, but the free educator account allows an unlimited amount (there is a paid educator account that offers additional features...see the pricing page for more info). To apply for the free educator account, go to <http://ed.voicethread.com/pricing/k12/> and click on the 'Apply' button at the bottom of the 'Free Educator' column.



Once you have your account and log in, you'll need to find content to share. Click the *Create* tab at the top of the page to begin your VoiceThread and then click *Upload/Edit* to begin searching for content. You can use content from your computer, online resources, or other social sharing sites. Clicking *My Computer* lets you browse your computer. By clicking *URL*, you can copy and paste the URL of online content you have permission to use. By clicking *Media Sources*, you can import content from your Facebook account, Flickr account or your other VoiceThreads.



This past summer, VoiceThread teamed up with the New York Public Library (NYPL) so that you can browse their expansive online content for images to use in your VoiceThread. Whichever content you import or upload, you are allowed to go back and add, edit or delete later.

Once you've added content, click on the *Comment* button to add text, audio (either by recording online, uploading an audio file or calling from your phone!) or video to explain your picture or pose a question for others to answer. Once you click the *Comment* button under the picture and choose the type of comment you want, a color palette appears to the right of the menu. You can choose a color and use your mouse to annotate on top of the picture. Viewers will see you annotate while they listen or view your comment.

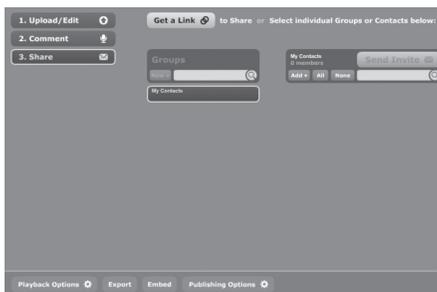
To give you an example of a comment, the picture I have on this VoiceThread (from the NYPL) is of a farmer plowing the land in the late 1800s. A question may be "What is the most influential invention in farming from 1900 to today?" Students would then go to your VoiceThread and leave a text, audio or video comment with their opinion. Note: If you have all of your students comment using the same account, only one *identity* (picture) will appear around your VoiceThread.



(Continued on the next page)

(VoiceThread, from previous page)

Once you're finished, how do others access your VoiceThread? There are two ways with a free account. First (and easiest), VoiceThread creates a URL that can be linked from your homepage. Second, you could embed the VoiceThread on your homepage (if it allows you to) so that students stay on the website they are familiar with. Both options can be found by clicking the *Share* button.



Before directing traffic to your VoiceThread, review your *Publishing Options* at the bottom of the page. There you can decide who can view and comment on your VoiceThread. If you have a paid account, you can export your VoiceThread to your computer.

VoiceThread is a great way to spark discussion within your class, gather information from other classes and participate in a global conversation. If you'd like to see some great examples, check out <http://voicethread4education.wikispaces.com>.

Want to get involved in a VoiceThread community? Check out the VoiceThread Ning: <http://voicethread.ning.com>. ❖

**voicethread**

## NETA Technology Grant Program

### Mid-Term Reports from 2009 Winners



#### mp3 Players for Instruction

**Sara Churchill**  
**Blair Schools**

A number of our students are eagerly using the mp3 player/recorders that were purchased with the NETA grant money. One group of high ability students recorded and pieced together a podcast on Ancient Greece and Rome using the mp3 players and Garageband. This project was shared with parents and even presented at the Nebraska School Board Conference in November 2009. We have also purchased a few mp3 CDs from our library vendor that have liberal usage policies and are in the process of loading them onto several of the players for check out.

We have run into a few difficulties. There was a change in the codec that iTunes uses, so after one of the iTunes updates, the mp3 files would not pull seamlessly into iTunes. Audacity is needed to import the audio files cleanly and save them as mp3 files. Students have also been slightly confused when recording by the buttons that are required to be pressed.

Title I students are getting ready to use the mp3 players as recording devices to monitor fluency. We look forward to using these mp3 players in other endeavors in the school because they are certainly generating excitement right now.

#### Marvelous Math Facts With The Apple iPod Touch

**Lynn Spady**  
**Westside Community Schools**

The iPod Touches have changed the way Hillside Elementary students approach their math facts! The grant money from NETA was enough to purchase five iPod Touches, and with additional funds from the district, we were able to purchase 25 more and also a cart to house them.

Walk into any classroom and you might find students playing *Pop-Math* (an app from the iTunes store) or going through a set of division flashcards created using Keynote. Students are improving on their timed math facts tests and are certainly motivated during the time they get to practice their facts on the iPod Touch.

The iPod Touches have moved far beyond math content. Other apps from the iTunes store along with stories and poems from *Lit2Go* allow even the youngest students at Hillside the opportunity to use the iPod Touches. ❖

*Thanks to Nicole Badgley, Arnold Public Schools, Grant Coordinator*



# ISTE 2010 in Denver, Colorado

## NETA Registration and Housing Options

**WELCOME TO ISTE 2010!**  
Mark your calendars, and plan now to attend ISTE 2010 in neighboring Denver, Colorado! Join more than 18,000 educators from across the United States and several foreign countries to participate in the largest educational technology conference of its type in the U.S. The conference will be held June 27-30, 2010 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, CO.

The NETA Board is providing a special ISTE 2010 housing and registration offer for our membership. This offer provides Nebraska NETA members a block of reserved rooms at a reserved hotel, guaranteed super early bird registration rate of \$299 (\$207 if you are an ISTE member through July 2010), and an opportunity for a Nebraska reception while at ISTE.

The conference organizers have reserved a block of rooms for Nebraska NETA members in the Curtis Hotel, 1405 Curtis Street, Denver, CO 80202. This hotel is within three blocks of the Colorado Convention Center, with the NETA rate of \$149 per night for single or double rooms. This hotel does offer free Internet access. All accommodations are subject to 14.85% state & room taxes.

### NETA Reserved Housing

To take advantage of the Curtis Hotel housing arrangements: Go to the reservation web site: <http://tinyurl.com/y9oymf6> and find the green sidebar on the right side of the page.

- Click "View Rooms and Rates"
- Click "Book"

- Select dates needed
- Click "Book"
- Fill in details for each guest.

All unused/claimed rooms in our block will be released for general sale on April 1, 2010.

The registration process described above is new for this year. Previously you needed to FAX in your registration to reserve a room in the NETA Block. The online registration should be much better, plus you know immediately whether the room is available. Cancellations received by 5:00 EST April 2, 2010 will not be charged a fee. Any cancellations to these room reservations between April 3 and June 11, 2010 are subject to a \$150 cancellation fee. After June 11th you would need to work directly with the hotel.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Last year our NETA rooms filled early, so please register as soon as possible.

### NETA Super-earlybird Registration

Complete your conference registration separately using the ISTE 2010 Website online registration. Register by May 1, 2010 to qualify for the Early Bird Rate (if you choose the NETA affiliate as outlined below)!

Go to: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/registration> and click **Register Online**.

Begin by choosing *ISTE Member* if you are a current ISTE member (conference discounts for ISTE members offset the ISTE membership fee). **NOTE:** It is important that you select *Yes, I am a member*

*of an ISTE Affiliate* and choose **NETA: Nebraska Educational Technology Association** from the Affiliate list while registering. Identifying yourself as a NETA affiliate attendee makes it possible for us to communicate with you before ISTE with any additional up-to-the-minute information about NETA social hours or other events you won't want to miss. Registration is frozen for you at the super early bird price, \$299 (\$207 if you are an ISTE member), through May 1, 2010.

### International Networking!

National conferences, although perceived by some as a luxury, can provide an opportunity to exchange ideas with educators from other states or countries, learn from national educational technology leaders, and preview a wide array of technology solutions through the exhibitor area.

You may want to consider sharing a room or driving to reduce travel costs. Denver promises to be an interesting conference city and we do hope that you can travel to take advantage of this summer learning opportunity with other NETA members. The housing block will fill quickly so don't delay!

The NETA Board did a survey of members to see what interest there was for chartering a bus to NETA. There was not enough interest to charter a bus.

If you have any questions about registration or housing for ISTE 2010 in Denver, please contact Sandy Blankenship at 402-540-1904 ([executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org)). We hope to see you in Denver! ❖



# CALENDAR OF TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

## February 2010

### Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)

February 8–10, 2010  
St. Charles, MO  
<http://metconference.org>

### Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)

February 8–12, 2010  
Austin, TX  
[www.tcea.org](http://www.tcea.org)

### MacWorld Expo

February 9–13, 2010  
San Francisco, CA  
[macworldexpo.com](http://macworldexpo.com)

### Nebraska Association for the Gifted (NAG) Conference

February 18–19, 2010  
Omaha, NE  
[www.negifted.org/4890.html](http://www.negifted.org/4890.html)

### CoSN's School Networking Conference

February 28–March 2, 2010  
Washington DC  
[www.cosn.org/Events/](http://www.cosn.org/Events/)

## March 2010

### International Technology Education Association (ITEA)

March 18–20, 2010  
Charlotte, NC  
[www.iteaconnect.org](http://www.iteaconnect.org)

### Photoshop World Conference & Expo

March 24–26, 2010  
Orlando, FL  
[www.photoshopworld.com](http://www.photoshopworld.com)

### SITE (Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education)

March 29–April 2, 2010  
San Diego, CA  
[site.aace.org/conf/](http://site.aace.org/conf/)

## April 2010

### NETA Spring Conference *Creative Journeys to Learning*

April 29–30, 2010  
LaVista Embassy Suites &  
Conference Center, La Vista  
[netasite.org](http://netasite.org)

## June 2010

### Nebraska Career Education (NCE) Conference

June 8–10, 2010  
Kearney, NE  
[www.nceconference.com](http://www.nceconference.com)

### ISTE Conference (formerly NECC)

June 27–30, 2010  
In cooperation with Technology  
in Education (TIE) Colorado  
Denver, CO  
[center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/](http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/)



## July 2010

### Campus Technology 2010

July 19–22, 2010  
Boston, MA  
[campustechnology.com/microsites/campus-technology-10/ct10-home.aspx](http://campustechnology.com/microsites/campus-technology-10/ct10-home.aspx)

## August 2010

### Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning

August 3–6, 2010  
Madison, Wisconsin  
[www.uwex.edu/disted/conference](http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference)

## October 2010

### ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference

October 10–12, 2010  
Des Moines, IA  
[itec-ia.org/en/conference/](http://itec-ia.org/en/conference/)

### National School Boards Association—NSBA T+L<sup>2</sup> Conference

October 19–21, 2010  
Phoenix, AZ  
[www.nsba.org/T+L/](http://www.nsba.org/T+L/)

## January 2011

### Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)

January 31–February 3, 2011  
Orlando, FL  
[fetc.org](http://fetc.org)

# NETA Spring Conference Preview—April 29-30, 2010

La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center—12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE

## Conference Highlights

- ▶ 160+ Breakout Sessions—session topics will be listed at the NETA Web site by mid-February.
- ▶ Poster Sessions—casually visit poster displays and ask questions about successful projects.
- ▶ Back by popular demand—A technical strand of breakout sessions for Technology Coordinators and Support Specialists, plus a strand for 1:1 (computer for each student) implementations.
- ▶ Optional Hands-on Workshops—enhance your conference experience with training from the experts!
- ▶ Earn Graduate Credit for attending both days of the conference
- ▶ Vendor Exhibits—your favorite exhibitors showing all the latest!
- ▶ Vendor Reception—visit the exhibit hall and enter to win prizes! Winners will be announced at Thursday's vendor reception.
- ▶ Conference T-shirts—your remembrance of this year's conference.
- ▶ Win Big Prizes—attend our prize drawings after the closing sessions on Friday!
- ▶ NETA Playgrounds—bring your laptop!
- ▶ Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) sessions (see p. 22)

## “Creative Journeys to Learning”

As a NETA member, you have the benefit of receiving advanced Spring Conference information, workshop listings and the registration form in this newsletter before the information goes out to the public. This gives you an advanced opportunity to reserve your spot(s) in the popular workshops and BYOL (Bring Your Own Laptop) sessions at the conference, which are filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

## Invited Speakers

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### Peter H. Reynolds

Keynote Thursday

#### ***Make Your Mark and See Where it Takes You***

Peter is a best-selling Author-Illustrator and advocate for “off the path” learners and is dedicated to crafting stories, media and technology that challenge children and grown-up children around the world to reach their full potential.  
<http://www.fablevisionstudios.com/about.php>



### Rem Jackson

Keynote Friday

#### ***Here and Back Again***

Rem has presented and appeared on TV around the world discussing technology and its appropriate uses in instruction and professional development. Encourage your school's administration to join you this year for a wonderful look at how to impact education and strengthen effective leadership.

## Registration Discounts

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Register with the form on a later page in this publication or online at <http://netasite.org>. Groups of ten or more participants qualify for a \$10.00 discount off each full conference registration or a \$5.00 discount off each one-day registration.

**All qualifying registrations must be on the same check, charge card or purchase order and mailed together or entered under the same group name online. Register online at <http://netasite.org>.**

**Direct questions about the processing of registrations to:**

1.800.280.6218 toll free

541.346.3537 direct (M–F, 8am–5pm PT)

NETAreg@continue.oregon.edu

**For non-registration questions, contact:**

Sandy Blankenship, [executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org), phone 402.540.1904

## Featured Speakers

*Meg  
Ormiston*



### **Meg Ormiston**

For over twenty-four years Meg has been involved in professional development activities focused on changing instructional practice in the classroom. She has authored two books, written numerous articles, collaborated on professional videos and participates in many personal learning communities.

*Judith  
Sweeney*



### **Judith Sweeney**

Judith founded Onion Mountain Technology, Inc., a firm devoted to providing evaluation, consulting, training, and presentation services to children, their parents, and school systems interested in increasing their knowledge of and access to assistive technology.



*Dr. Elliot  
Soloway*



*Dr. Cathleen  
Norris*

### **Dr. Elliot Soloway & Dr. Cathleen Norris**

Dr. Elliot Soloway & Dr. Cathleen Norris are going to challenge you to look at your classroom in an entirely new way. They are co-founders of a software revolution called GoKnow Learning, Inc. Their products work on mobile devices and cell phones providing a complete solution to harness the power of mobile computing for K-12 students.

## Gallery of Poster Sessions

On Thursday afternoon, watch for the gallery of Poster Sessions. The first session will highlight the state-wide Learning Web grants and teachers who received NETA grants last year, with additional rounds of poster sessions addressing a wide variety of topics. Stroll freely through the gallery of poster sessions where all presenters will informally display projects in one session room and be on hand for questions. The poster session room is much bigger at Embassy Suites, so the space will allow attendees to easily move from one poster session to another.

## Student Attendance

Full-time college students must submit proof of full-time enrollment at check-in to be eligible for a student pass. High school students must meet the following guidelines in order to attend: students must be directly involved in a presentation and supervised at all times by an adult. Student presenters are considered guests of the conference and their names must be submitted to Sandy Blankenship [executivedirector@netasite.org] by April 8th.

## New This Year!

Lunch tickets will be available for purchase during check-in Thursday morning, Gatsby Room. Purchase your ticket in advance so that later at lunch time you can quickly pick up your lunch without having to wait in line to pay.

# NETA 2010 Workshops

These optional workshops will really help you make the most of your conference experience. All workshops are hands-on experiences (unless otherwise noted) and will provide plenty of interaction and discussion time. The presenters are specially invited experts in each topic. Enter your selections on the registration form (or when you register online) and add \$50.00 for each workshop (Exception: the iTouch workshop is extended length, and is \$100). Include your payment with your conference registration. Workshop participants must also be registered for the conference.

<b>Wednesday, April 28—7:00-9:15 PM</b>					
<b>Code</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Workshop</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Platform</b>
W31	Mac Lab	Going Beyond the Traditional Use of Keynote	Shelly Mowinkel	Keynote isn't just for presentations anymore! This workshop will go beyond the traditional use of Keynote by incorporating sound, movie clips, graphics, and text to create dynamic multimedia presentations. Software to be used in the workshop includes Keynote, Garageband, and iMovie. Participants will view student projects and leave the workshop with a completed Quicktime movie, plus many ideas on how to incorporate Keynote projects into the classroom.	Macintosh
W32	Sarpy/ Washington Mixed Lab	Easy Interactive PDF forms with Acrobat Pro	Linda Dickeson	With Acrobat Pro, see how easy it is to create interactive forms to be filled in and saved using free Adobe Reader, and even compile the returned form data into a spreadsheet. Topics will include using automatic field recognition, creating different types of fields, enabling the form for Reader, distributing the form, compiling form information and exporting the data to Excel.	Cross Platform
W33	Windows Lab	Using Wikis in the Classroom	Eric Bell	So you think you're brave enough to finally create your own wiki? Join us as we look at the components of a wiki, where on the web we may create one, and what uses you may have for one in the classroom. You will begin making your own classroom wiki by the end of the workshop, so bring your ideas, pictures, and files so we can get started!	Cross Platform

## LOCATION:

The workshops will be held at ESU#3, 6949 South 110th Street, Omaha, NE 68128. Workshop participants can either drive the short distance to ESU#3 or ride a shuttle bus provided by NETA.

**PLEASE NOTE:** For Wednesday night workshops, there will be no shuttle bus. Wednesday night participants will go directly to ESU#3 and conference bags etc. will be there.

More workshops on the next page ⇒

**Thursday, April 29—10:15 AM-12:30 PM**

Code	Lab	Workshop	Presenter	Description	Platform
T11	Mac Lab	Productive Photography!	Chris Pultz	It's great to have a digital camera, but in 2010 it's not about taking pictures, it's about sharing and creating products from the pictures you took! In this workshop we'll look at a variety of online tools for storing and sharing your images, powerful slideshow-movie tools, and custom printed products you can download or order for your classroom. We are living in the midst of a photography Renaissance, take advantage of the free and low cost tools available to you!	Cross Platform
T12	Sarpy/ Washington Mixed Lab	Social Networking for Educators	Jason Everett	Educators face many challenges. One of which is finding opportunities to network with other professionals and share ideas, frustrations, websites, or just have an ear to bend. With the advancement of Internet communication tools, we now have ways to build professional social networks online. This workshop will introduce you to several social networking tools that can help you build a network of professionals to help you with lesson ideas, research, tech support, professional development or just moral support.	Cross Platform
T13	Windows Lab	Google Docs for Beginners	Gregg Robke	If you have never used Google docs in your classroom, now is the time to start. Come to this workshop and learn how you can provide a "Creative Journey to Learning" in the 21st century using google docs in the classroom. Most of the time will be spent getting started with Google docs as well as sharing examples of using Google docs in the classroom.	Cross Platform

**Thursday, April 29—1:30-3:45 PM**

Code	Lab	Workshop	Presenter	Description	Platform
T21	Mac Lab	Using Garageband in Your Classroom	Jeff Ingraham	This workshop will go through the basics of using GarageBand from Apple computer for desktop music creation, Movie soundtrack scoring, and podcasting. Whether you have music in your soul and play every instrument, or if you have a tin ear and can't keep a beat, GarageBand allows you to be successful and make beautiful music!	Macintosh
T22	Sarpy/ Washington Mixed Lab	Where are you going? Integrate Google Applications and GPS into your Classroom!	Bob Goeman and Paul Clark	This workshop is designed for people who are looking to see how they can use Google Earth, Google Maps, and GPS technology to view, create and share geo-everything. Get hands-on experience with creating curriculum for your classroom. Participants will learn how to integrate gps data into Google Applications as well as infuse these technology tools into multidisciplinary curriculum at all grade levels. Come and explore the world with us!	Cross Platform
T23	Windows Lab	Beyond the Basics with Google Apps	Kris Connor	Setting up an educational google domain provides great opportunities for administrators and staff. In this advanced session of Google Apps, learn how to manage and share your docs and calendars with staff, collect and manipulate form information, set up your web site, participate in a google video chat, and explore many other FREE apps such as Picasa, Sketchup, Reader, and Blogger.	Cross Platform

**Thursday, April 29—4:30-9:00 PM** (this extended length workshop is \$100—meal included)

Code	Lab	Workshop	Presenter	Description	Platform
T31	Mac Lab	iTouch Technology	Jan Tell and Maura Hendrickson	During this workshop you will take an iPod Touch on "Creative Journeys to Learning." You will be able to explore applications and rate them for uses in your classroom. We'll branch off with the rest of the iPod family and engage you in a variety of ways you can use them with students' learning.	Cross Platform

**Thursday, April 29—7:00-9:15 PM**

Code	Lab	Workshop	Presenter	Description	Platform
T32	Sarpy/ Washington Mixed Lab	Using Online Website Builders in Education	Lucas Bingham	Web 2.0 includes the ability to develop content, publish it online and receive feedback from an online community. Achieve this easily by developing websites with one of the many free & easy online tools. Learn website basics, the different ways to create a website or publish content online, and how a website can be used in the classroom. We will use tools that are strictly online so you can edit and maintain the site from any browser. We will explore common website builders, such as Weebly and Google Sites and more in our quest to publish online!	Cross Platform
T33	Windows Lab	Movie Making Crash Course with Adobe Premiere Elements	Linda Dickeson	Tell a story, do a documentary, record a public service announcement and much more! Learn the basics of making movies with Adobe Premiere Elements, starting with a simple movie organized "storyboard fashion" on the Sceneline with a soundtrack. Move into adding multiple video tracks in the Timeline, learning how to animate clips using keyframes, and adding text for rolling credits. Premiere Elements will open new doors to creativity!	Windows

**Friday, April 30—10:15 AM-12:30 PM**

Code	Lab	Workshop	Presenter	Description	Platform
F11	Mac Lab	How to be a 2.0 Teacher	Jamey Boelhower	The workshop will equip teachers with fresh ideas, guidelines, and tools to connect with students in our technological society. Participants should have a unit of study they want to update with ideas and tools learned in the workshop. Topics will include: 1) The integration of technology into lesson plans—with applications like iPhoto or web based tools like Tokbox, and 2) How to teach beyond the classroom—expanding the role of the teacher and the idea of learning. Tools and guidelines to teach beyond the school day will be shared.	Cross Platform
F12	Sarpy/ Washington Mixed Lab	Advanced Uses for Angel in the classroom	Joel Fritz	See how to incorporate Angel in your class for online learning. Learn how to set up question banks (example: how to create a test or quiz with 20 questions out of the bank of 100), and see new features of Angel from the past updates. Bring your questions! You need to have an Angel account to attend this workshop.	Cross Platform
F13	Windows Lab	Creative Presentation Solutions for Student Projects	Deanna Stall	Feeling like you have exhausted PowerPoint with your students? Do students complain about doing yet another PowerPoint project? This workshop is for you! See other tools (FREE on the web with accounts) for student projects and the project-based learning that you love. We will look at rubrics, the best places to build rubrics and the best ways to score projects. PowerPoints and movies are great, but sometimes you just want to do something different. Topics will include Prezi, Animoto, Glogster, and VoiceThread. Please bring some digital photos and materials for a presentation project.	Cross Platform

## Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) Sessions

Bring your own laptop to these sessions. The sessions are **FREE**, but you **must register to attend** (a ticket will be required). Put the BYOL session number in the appropriate place on the registration form or online.

Code	Title	Description	Date	Time	Presenter
BT10	Your Class and VoiceThread—Comments Coming Alive!	Allows group conversations, shared in one place from anywhere in the world, via the web! VoiceThread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds images, documents, and videos and lets you leave comments in five ways—using voice (w/mic, telephone), text, audio-file, or video. Share w/friends, students, and colleagues for them to record comments too. Students hear, see or read comments from anyone anywhere.	Thurs, April 29	10:30 AM	Jackie Ediger, ESU 9
BT11	Join the Picnik...It's a Walk in the 21st Century of Photo Editing!	FREE, FUN, and EASY photo editing! Picnik will inspire student creativity and bring life back to the classroom. Picnik is a free online photo editing site that students can access and edit at school or at home. Students can bring in photos from a website, webcam, computer file, social networking sites and more. Finished products can quickly be published for various audiences.	Thurs, April 29	11:30 AM	Nicki Noordhoek, Waverly Middle School
BT12	Engaging 21st Century Learners Through Communication	This session will help classroom teachers harness the power of online communication and collaboration tools such as Twitter to develop a classroom of engaged global learners. Using these tools, students and teachers alike have access to real-time information, field experts, and data trends providing an invaluable cross-curricular classroom resource.	Thurs, April 29	12:30 PM	Matt Heusman, Nebraska Dept. of Education
BT1	GarageBand and Beyond!	If you're ready to move beyond the basics in GarageBand, join us in this fun session. We'll explore some of the GarageBand extras and share projects you can use with your students. We'll also share tips on gear and extras. Participation a beginning session is not required to attend.	Thurs, April 29	1:30 PM	Therese Laux, Omaha North High Magnet
BF10	Make Student Presentations Come Alive Using Keynote	Do you want your students to utilize their creativity and take ownership of their classroom presentations? Go beyond the traditional use of Keynote and get your students actively engaged in their projects. In this session, participants will learn how Keynote can be used as a tool to create dynamic multimedia movies. Participants will learn how to incorporate sound, movies, graphics, and text to create a dynamic final presentation.	Fri., April 30	10:30 AM	Shelly Mowinkel, Milford Jr/Sr High School
BF11	Virtual Legos, "Real Brain-Stretcher"	Are you struggling to get your middle-school students engaged in a learning activity that stimulates their BRAINS? Learn about a FREE download that serves as a catalyst for problem-solving, cooperative learning, and strengthening important brain pathways. Students focus on the direction, orientation and perspectives of objects in space, important in developing Math Skills! Students are challenged and engaged while stretching their brains! Project samples and lesson plans will be provided.	Fri., April 30	11:30 AM	Carol Armstrong, King Science/Technology Magnet Center
BF12	Using Technology to Inspire Individuals & Build Community	How does a classroom teacher differentiate curriculum? inspire reluctant learners? challenge high ability learners? share the joy of learning with friends and family? build community in the classroom? stretch that community via social networking? An online classroom newsletter/blog site! Participants will engage our blog site as students articulate the steps in the process and share their passion for summarizing classroom activities and initiating participation with the social networking community.	Fri., April 30	12:30 AM	Kathryn Decker, Dodge Elementary School, GIPS
BF1	Bring Your Own Digital Camera and Learn to Use It	Have you had a digital camera for a while, but don't know how to use it? This session will teach you to use the features of your camera. Bring the manual or download one from the Internet to help you learn. Learn to use the icons & buttons on the camera, how to use the menu, choose which features you want to use, and more. NOTE: For this session—"Bring Your Own Camera!"	Fri., April 30	1:30 AM	Janet Caughlin, Douglas County West Public Schools

# Conference Registration

La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center, LaVista, NE (Omaha area)—April 29–30, 2010

Register with this form or online at <http://netasite.org>

If paying by check, use this form and mail to the address below, or register online at <http://netasite.org> with PO or charge card.

- Early registration discount ends March 25, 2010. There is a \$5.00 per person late fee after that date (postmarked).
- Pre-registration deadline closes April 8 (Both online or mailing postmarks). After April 8, please plan to register onsite.
- NETA does not support shared registrations. Each registrant must have their own name badge and packet.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY TO AID IN PROCESSING

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

School/Organization \_\_\_\_\_ District (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the mailing address listed below at school (work) or home?  school (work)  home

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Wk Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Ph \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your name and address released to vendors? (No response indicates permission.)  Yes  No

**NOTE:** One-year NETA membership included for each participant (except student pass and vendor pass). Registrations may be paid by check, purchase order, MasterCard, American Express or VISA. **There is \$5.00 late fee for all mailed or online registrations after March 25.**

Conference Registration Amount (Please check the appropriate box below.) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Full conference, both days.....\$115.00  
(includes all sessions, exhibits and Thursday Vendor Reception)
- Thursday ONLY..... \$80.00  
(includes all Thursday sessions, exhibits and Vendor Reception)
- Friday ONLY ..... \$80.00  
(includes all Friday sessions and exhibits)
- Lead Presenter ..... \$25.00  
(one per session—additional presenters must pay full registration)
- Student conference pass (for Higher Education students—not for K–12)..... \$25.00  
(Includes full conference and inclusion on NETA listserv. Full-time student ID Required.)
- Vendor Exhibits ONLY ..... \$15.00

Register for OPTIONAL workshops on the lines below (described on previous pages or on the NETA web site).  
Add \$50.00 for each workshop (exception: T31 iTouch is \$100). Workshop participants must also be registered for the conference.

**Refund Policy:** Conference registration refunds will be made only if notification is made to the registration office listed below **by April 8, 2010**. A \$15.00 handling fee will be subtracted from the refund.

WKSP#	Title	Fee
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
Workshop total.....		\$ _____

Late Fee (Add \$5.00 for registrations postmarked after March 25, 2010, and for on-site registrations) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Group Discount (Subtract \$10 for a full registration or \$5.00 for one-day) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be in groups of 10 or more registrations paid with the same check, PO, or charge card)

**Total Amount Enclosed** (conference registration + workshops + late fee - discount) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Check  Purchase Order (enclosed)  MasterCard  VISA  American Express

(Visa or MasterCard only) Charge Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

3-4 digit CV2 code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (for charge cards only) \_\_\_\_\_

Any free BYOL sessions? (See previous page) List their codes here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** NETA10 Conference Registration  
1277 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1277  
or 541.346.3545 fax

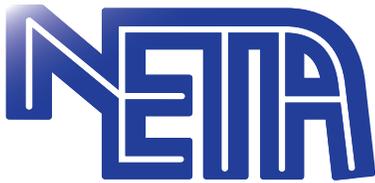
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# NETA

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## Membership Form

*NETA Statement of Purpose: The Nebraska Educational Technology Association exists for the purpose of providing leadership and promoting the application of technology to the educational process. Its span of interest includes all levels and aspects of education.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School/Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you attended the Spring Conference in April, 2009, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but could not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are \$25 .00 and are good through April, 2010. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

NETA Membership  
P.O. Box 27  
Waverly, NE 68462

- I am a new member  
 I was recruited by this current NETA member

Address changes should be sent to the above address or e-mailed to: [executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org)