



*Sue Oppliger
ESU 7, Columbus*

PROGRAMS DON'T change lives, cultures do. I read this statement in an article several years ago. Scott Smith, CUE board president, contended that programs die. It's the culture you try to create that lives. That's where lasting change happens.

This thought was brought back to mind on our way to the Nebraska vs. Arkansas State football game. On his pre-game radio program, Matt Davison spoke of the change in the culture that the coaching staff is striving to instill in the Husker football program. No longer treating football as a "business" but bringing the passion and support for your teammates back as the main focus of the program. Black-shirts and walk-ons are an important part of the Husker culture.

All of us in our roles as students, teachers or patrons have been involved in changes in an educational system—be it new leadership, new instructional curriculum or new technologies. And sometimes we have seen these reforms fail or disappear from the scene when the leader moves on or the funding runs out. The culture did not change, so the system went back its original state.

Message from the President— Bo Knows

Many feel that technology has benefited our personal and professional lives. It has helped us to be more productive, more creative, more knowledgeable, provided more opportunities to collaborate with peers and allowed us to meet and work with new people. It is difficult for us to cope with the fact that technology has not yet made the impact on learning and teaching that we feel it can. The focus remains on teaching technology literacy, not learning technology skills, as they are needed for learning curriculum and acquiring 21st Century skills.

Over the last 20 years, K–12 schools have spent millions of dollars equipping their schools with the latest technologies. It sometimes seems that we assume that technology, in and of itself, will improve our classrooms and schools. Acquiring the hardware has been the primary focus.

Planning and staff development are often afterthoughts. Schools sometimes figure out what they are going to do with technology after they've bought it—the "ready-fire-aim" approach.

To ensure that the technology supports the culture desired for learning and teaching, schools must have a technology plan in place.

Plans that help schools to use technology effectively include the following steps: (1) Create a Vision; (2) Involve All Stakeholders; (3) Gather Data; (4) Review the Research; (5) Integrate Technology into the Curriculum; (6) Commit to Professional Development; (7) Ensure a Sound Infrastructure; (8) Allocate Appropriate Funding and Budget; (9) Plan for Ongoing Monitoring and Assessment; and (10) Prepare for Tomorrow. [Barnett, Harvey]

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NETA Newsletter

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PO Box 27, Waverly, NE 68462
Phone (402) 540-1904
e-mail: executivedirector@netasite.org
<http://netasite.org>

NETA Officers and Board of Directors

Scott Plummer..... Past President
Morrill Public Schools
splummer@panesu.org

Sue Oppliger President
ESU 7
sopplig@esu7.org

William Bolen President Elect
ESU 10
wbolen@esu10.org

Nicole Badgley Secretary
Arnold Public Schools
nbadgley@esu10.org

Rich Molettiere Treasurer
Omaha Public Schools
rich.molettiere@ops.org

Jason Rushing Board 2010
Lincoln Public Schools
jrushing@lps.org

SuAnn Witt Board 2010
Nebraska Department of Education
suann.witt@nebraska.gov

Jane Davis Board 2010
Hershey Public Schools
jdavis@esu16.org

Jason Everett Board 2010
ESU 10
jeverett@esu10.org

Susan Prabulos Board 2011
Lincoln Public Schools
sprabul@lps.org

Bob Goeman Board 2011
University of Nebraska Omaha
bgoeman@mail.unomaha.edu

Dawn Prescott Board 2011
Schuyler Community Schools
dprescot@esu7.org

Gregg Robke Board 2011
ESU 4
grobke@esu4.org

Josh Allen Board 2012
Papillion-La Vista Public Schools
joshallen@paplv.esu3.org

Michelle Baldwin Board 2012
Millard Public Schools
mkbaldwin@mpsomaha.org

Jackie Ediger Board 2012
ESU9
jediger@esu9.org

Renee Kopf Board 2012
Falls City Public Schools
rkopf@fallscityps.org

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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 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.

NETA Executive Officers and Coordinators

Sandy Blankenship Executive Director
executivedirector@netasite.org

Tom Rolfes Executive Liaison
Office of the CIO-NITC
tom.rolfes@nebraska.gov

Mike Burns Exhibitor Coordinator
mikeburns2@gmail.com

Dennis McIntyre Site Coordinator
dmcintyre@westside66.org

Lynne Herr Contest Coordinator
ESU 6
lherr@esu6.org

Jason Everett .. Interim Web Coordinator
ESU10
jeverett@esu10.org



*William Bolen
ESU 10, Kearney*

SOME OF US ARE BORN with it and some of us learn how to harness it but all of us can be creative. Often we think of creativity as the ability to draw or create some form of art thus making it easy to deny that we have any creativity.

During their early years our children see themselves as very creative and we see everything they do as imaginative, inspirational and creative. Unfortunately as they progress through our educational systems much of their creativity often gives way to “the right answer” syndrome.

Share the creativity

This year help refresh some of that creativity in both yourself and your students. There are many different NETA contests going on right now that are focused on using technology in creative ways. As an educator you can renew your creativity by looking for new ways of using technology in your classroom. Even more important is the need for you to share that creativity with others. Start planning now to share your creativity at the NETA 2010 Conference, “Creative Journeys to Learning.” Look for the call for presentations in this newsletter.

And so it begins

It may seem strange to be talking about the 2010 NETA Conference while the year 2009 still has two months left but the conference preparation actually started before the dust even settled on last year’s conference. It is hard to believe how much needs to be done but it is

Message from the President Elect—

Creative Journeys to Learning

always evident, in the great speakers and way everything runs so smoothly, that someone is working behind the scenes. This year is no different; we have teams working on contests, workshops, vendor needs and others keeping track of our finances so we can continue to bring you the best conference around at the lowest possible price.

This year there is going to be a lot of great talent displayed during the NETA conference from across Nebraska. We also have some awesome national presenters stopping by our conference in April to share a little of their own creativity and inspiration.

Keynoters



Peter Reynolds of FableVision will kick off our conference on Thursday, April 29, 2010. 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. Peter, with his twin brother Paul, founded FableVision, creating innovative learning software and interactive media. FableVision and Peter have both won numerous awards and have partnered on many different projects with several different organizations including PBS, Scholastic, MIT and the National Academy of Sciences.

Six years ago Peter was scheduled to present at NETA as a featured

speaker. When the scheduled keynote speaker canceled at the last minute, Peter graciously stepped up to the plate and gave an unbelievable keynote address! This year he returns to share more ideas, inspiration and “stories.”



Rem Jackson of Top Practices Education is the conference’s Friday keynote and this is a presentation you won’t want to

miss! He has keynoted over 45 state and national conferences and appeared on television around the world discussing technology and its appropriate uses in instruction and professional development. His ability to guide participants through challenging content in an interesting and informative style has contributed to his national reputation as an entertaining, informative, and dynamic speaker.

Rem has been guiding professional educators and business leaders as a coach and trainer for over 18 years. After his keynote address, Rem and two of his associates will be sharing more great ideas with educational leaders. Encourage your school’s administration to join you this year for a wonderful look at how to impact education and strengthen effective leadership.

Featured Speakers

Meg Ormiston is next up and are we all in for a treat! For over 24 years Meg (<http://megormiston.com>) has been involved in professional development activities, sessions and
(Continued on the next page)

(*Creative Journeys*, from page 1) workshops focused on changing instructional practice in the classroom. Meg marries her passion for technology with a deep curriculum background and over 12 years as a classroom teacher. She has served as a curriculum coach, school board member, keynote speaker, professional development specialist and grant facilitation specialist. Meg has also authored two books, written numerous articles, collaborated on professional videos and participates in many personal learning communities. Meg brings all of this to each professional development session, with a dynamic presentation style and a great sense of humor.

Judith Sweeney has worked in the field of education since 1969. She has been a secondary English and special education teacher in both public and private schools. She also taught and managed projects and grants in assistive and educational technology at the University of Connecticut for over 10 years. In 1997, Judith founded *Onion Mountain Technology, Inc.* (<http://www.onionmountaintech.com/>), 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. The company has also developed a number of assistive technology products including the *LoTTIE Kits*, a series of low and mid tech tool kits for informal assessment and evaluation. Judith is also a national speaker who presents and consults on assistive technology.

And finally, we have a tag team that is unbeatable.

Dr. Elliot Soloway & Dr. Cathleen Norris are going to challenge you to look at your classroom in an entirely new way. Their combined style of humor and dialog will help you focus your classroom in a direction that your students didn't know was possible. They are cofounders of a software revolution called *GoKnow Learning, Inc.* (<http://www.goknow.com>). Their products work on mobile devices and cell phones providing a complete solution to harness the power of mobile computing for K-12 students.

Dr. Soloway is a professor at the University of Michigan in many different departments. For the past 10 years, Elliot has been exploring

how mobile computing technologies can be effectively used in K-12 classrooms. He has been awarded numerous honors and awards. Besides his teaching responsibilities Elliot is the CEO of GoKnow Learning.

Dr. Norris is a professor at the University of North Texas in several different departments. For 14 years, Cathie taught high school math and computer science and won the distinguished Golden Apple Award. Drawing on those classroom teaching experiences, Cathie's university research focuses on helping teachers weave mobile learning technologies into the daily fabric of their classrooms. Cathie has been President of ISTE and NECA, the association behind the organization of NECC.

Don't miss it!

Combine these great speakers with:

- dozens of other great sessions presented by educators
- an exhibitor hall with all your favorite vendors
- a vast list of hands-on workshops
- lots of time for networking with your friends and colleagues

...and you won't want to miss it! ♦

Save the Date!

NETA Conference April 29-30, 2010

La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
<http://netasite.org>

Creative Journeys to Learning

NETA Board Openings

**Do you know someone who would like to be more involved with NETA?
Would you like to be more involved with NETA?**

Nomination Form

NETA has four vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you know any members who have skills and knowledge that will help our organization, please ask them if they would like to be considered for nomination. If they are interested, nominate them to run for our board of directors. Board members serve a three-year term and attend three day-long meetings each year as well as a short meeting the day prior to the spring conference. Members are also expected to attend and have significant duties during both days of the spring conference and the afternoon/evening prior to the conference. Board members also attend a two-day strategic planning retreat in the summer and provide at least one newsletter contribution during their term. Nominees should get permission from their administrators before agreeing to be nominated. NETA reimburses expenses and substitute pay for board members attending meetings. Nominees will be asked to provide a short narrative for the ballot and a digital photo of themselves.

Two officer positions are also available, Secretary and President-Elect. The duties for the two officer positions are as follows:

President-Elect

- Have been a NETA member at least one year prior to being nominated for the position.
- Serve for the President when the President is unable to serve. Shall automatically assume the office of President upon resignation of the President. Shall complete the term of office of the resigned President and shall then serve the full year to which elected.
- Be responsible for aiding in the development of NETA.
- Be responsible for developing and implementing the annual conference.
- Serve one year.

Secretary

- Keep a record of meetings of the Board of Directors and NETA.
- See that actions requiring communication with members, other individuals or groups are promptly carried out.
- Help the president-elect in the coordination of conference information and registration materials.
- Track attendance of board members to meetings and report excessive absences to the board.
- File and distribute changes in policy or rules of order adopted at NETA board meetings.
- Be re-elected on the even numbered years, and may be held by the same person for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

NETA Nomination Form—Due December 11, 2009

Name _____

Position Nominated for: ☐ President Elect ☐ Secretary ☐ Director

School/Institution _____

Phone _____ e-mail address _____

Return this form, or e-mail your nomination to: NETA Nominations
Scott Plummer
Morrill Public Schools
P. O. Box 486
Morrill, NE 69358
email: splummer@panesu.org

Reports from the NECC Trek Contest Winners



Two teachers were winners of the NECC Trek 2009 Contest, and were allowed up to \$1500 in reimbursements to attend NECC 2009 (National Educational Computing Conference) in Washington D.C. Refer to the September NETA newsletter for contest guidelines, or go to the NETA website to see how YOU might be a winner in 2010!

Gary Loftis, Lyons-Decatur

NECC 2009 – Amazing, informative, overwhelming. These adjectives describe the experience of attending NECC/ISTE 2009 in Washington D.C. this summer.

As my school (Lyons-Decatur NE) embarked on our 1 to 1 laptop initiative, my responsibilities as a combination classroom teacher-technology coordinator suddenly became more complex and demanding. I was desperate for ideas to help teachers better implement laptop technology into the classroom. After spending a few years strictly as a classroom teacher I felt somewhat out of the current technology “loop.”

Fortunately NECC was the place to be! Literally hundreds of breakout sessions, workshops, poster sessions and three blocks of vendors were available. A few specific resources that I was able to bring back were: math applications developed in the UK specifically for use on interactive boards called ITPs (Interactive Teaching Programs at www.nationalstrategiesstandards.dcsf.gov.uk); resources and opportunities we could incorporate utilizing our mobile Polycom DL cart (visit the Lower Merion School district web site at www.lmsd.org/staff/vc/Site/Home.html or www.polycom.com).

Also on display were many specific blogs and wikispaces that have been

developed by classroom teachers across the nation. These blogs and wikispaces will be valuable resources teachers can use for collaboration projects in their classrooms. A few unique ideas that teachers hopefully will utilize include adopting and following a sea turtle or following an arctic explorer as he investigates the ice conditions in Greenland.

With several strands of workshops all going on at the same time as many outstanding speakers, every minute of each day it was a challenge to even have time to grab a cup of coffee! For great ideas on utilizing and integrating technology, and inspiration from other teachers and leaders, NECC is the place to be. The beautiful sights of our nation's capitol were an added benefit.

I would like to thank NETA for sponsoring the NECC Teacher Trek contest. This gave me an opportunity, that without their financial support, I would not have otherwise had. An added benefit was that my wife, Sharon, who is a third grade teacher at Oakland-Craig was also able to attend and come home with many resources.

I would encourage everyone to consider attending ISTE in Denver in June. I know we are looking forward to attending and seeing many of our new friends again next summer! ♦

Shelly Mowinkel Milford Public Schools

Shelly's Top 8 NECC Lessons Learned and Classroom Techniques Approved!

8. Keynote sessions challenged attendees to go beyond what we know and to bring out the best in the students we teach. The keynotes, Malcolm Gladwell and Erin Gruwell, got the audience thinking about how to challenge today's students.
 7. In the Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) session, Creating a Working Wiki in 60 Minutes, I created a wiki, for other teachers in the school district with useful websites on incorporating technology into the classroom.
 6. Networking with other teachers from across the nation to learn how they incorporate technology into their classroom.
 5. Learning Web 2.0 tools such as <http://www.xtranormal.com> where if you can type you can create an animated movie. I used this website in my classroom where students created a dialogue between two characters on basic editing tips in Pages.
 4. Utilizing Web 2.0 tools such as <http://www.wordle.net/>, <http://www.photobucket.com/>, <http://www.picnik.com/>, and <http://www.jaycut.com> to create a
- (Continued on the next page)*

(NECC Trek reports, continued)
cross-curricular autobiography
project with the junior high
English teacher.

3. The session, "Do So Much with an iPod Touch", gave ideas on using apps for flash cards, math facts, periodic tables, financial calculators and graphing calculators to advance student retention and involvement. Not only did I leave with a page of new apps on my iPod touch, but I am currently working on adding a unit on iPod touch applications to my classroom.
2. "Cell Phone Projects that Rock" incorporated Web 2.0 tools such as <http://www.polleverywhere.com>, <http://www.drop.io>, and <http://www.picassa.com> with cell phones. Combine cell phone ideas with <http://www2.voice2page.com> and the outcome is photos with sound!
1. The most important thing that I came away from NECC with was that I was excited about getting back into my classroom and showing the students everything that I learned! Just the other day a student asked me, "Do you love your job?" and I said "Yes, why?" and he replied, "Because your job seems so easy because you get to show us cool things about technology and you always have something new to show us!"

NECC was a phenomenal experience for me; prior to the conference I was overwhelmed just looking at the BYOL sessions, workshops, presentations, and technology playgrounds available. But, I left the conference excited and rejuvenated! The six classes I teach this year have had at least one technology lesson learned from NECC incorporated into it and I many more to show! ❖

Creative Journeys to Learning

NETA 2010 Session Submission Deadline—Dec. 1

NETA is looking for members and friends who are willing to share their classroom, school or district technology experiences with others from across the state by presenting at the NETA conference, April 29–30, 2010. Presenters who can address uses of technology in any discipline and at any educational level are encouraged to submit a presentation. Sessions are either lecture/demonstration style (45 minutes in length) or poster/gallery sessions.

Poster/gallery sessions

A poster/gallery session allows many presenters to set up in one large session room with poster boards or other resources. It is possible to bring a computer for the gallery showing if it is stated ahead of time on the proposal. Participants stroll through the gallery in an informal manner while presenters show projects and answer questions.

Presenter guidelines

Lead presenters will pay the

significantly reduced rate of \$25.00 and are expected to provide ample handouts or Web/email access to their information after the conference. A co-presenter may assist in the session. A co-presenter must, however, register for the conference as a regular attendee (\$115.00 full conference or \$80.00 for one day). A limit of three presenters per session will be printed in the program. Students are allowed to assist in a presentation as guests of the conference (limit of four, and must be supervised at all times).

Questions should be directed to William Bolen, President Elect/Conference Chair by email at wholen@esu10.org.

Online only

Sessions may only be submitted online, and must be entered by the **December 1, 2009 deadline**. No emailed sessions will be accepted. Click the link at the NETA home page at <http://netasite.org> to submit. Don't delay—submit your session today! ❖

NETA Web Coordinator Position Available

The NETA Board has an opening for the position of NETA Webmaster. The job description for the NETA Webmaster can be found at: http://www.netasite.org/resources/docs/NETA_Webmaster.pdf

Direct any questions you may have about this opportunity to Sandy Blankenship at executivedirector@netasite.org. Please send a cover letter, resume, and electronic portfolio to Sandy at the email address above by January 15, 2010.



*Scott Plummer
Morrill Public
Schools*

THE SCHOOL YEAR has started and a flurry of activities has ensued. Staff and students are looking forward to another great year in Nebraska schools. The new reading standards are in place and the new math standards are well on their way. The new NeSA Reading test will soon be a memory of staff and students this spring. A lot is coming our way this school year. With all of this, how can technology help us better teach our students and how can it help our students learn? Don't forget the things that you brought with you back from NETA last spring and were planning on implementing this fall!

Speaking of the spring, the NETA Board is also off and running getting ready for another NETA conference in April. It seems like a long time until April is here, but in reality it will be here in a flash. Each year seems to go more quickly.

As Past President, this is my last year on the board. I get to write the articles of reflection of the past and vision for the future. Theodore M. Hesburgh, President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame once said, "The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision." Fortunately for NETA, this has not been a problem. Thanks to the great members of NETA past and present, we have always been able to solicit great leaders to serve on the board to help guide NETA into the future.

Past President Reflections

Leadership Needs

Leaders needed

It is that time of year again. We must have leaders from the NETA membership, step up and be willing to run for office on the board of NETA. Several positions are up for election. There are four board of director positions, the secretary, and President Elect. Board of Director positions serve a three year term, the secretary serves for two years, and the President Elect is on the board for three.

If you would like to nominate someone for any of these positions or nominate yourself, please contact me so that I can get them placed on the ticket. You can e-mail me at splummer@panesu.org.

Volunteers

Another duty of the Past President is to solicit volunteers to help at the conference. Pam Krambeck did an awesome job of soliciting a large group of wonderful volunteers for the "Ask Me" crew. They were such a pleasure to work with. Attendees really enjoyed their smiling faces and quick responses to the all-important questions of "Where is registration?" "Where are the vendors?" "Where is the food?" and many, many more. With the new venue they filled a very important void that the board could not have done without them. Thanks to all the volunteers at the NETA conference last spring!

Once again, we will need volunteers. We will need "Ask Me" crew volunteers, and SueAnn Witt will need volunteers for the room hosts again. She did a great job of lining up all of those last spring. If you are

interested in volunteering again this year, please contact me at splummer@panesu.org.

Vision

As leaders in our schools, we all need to be asking ourselves an important "visioning" question. What is our next step in this school towards the implementation of technology to improve student learning?

Each district and school is at a different place on the continuum of technology use, so the answers will widely vary. Maybe it is time for Web 2.0 tools in your school. Maybe it is time to consider a 1 to 1 initiative. Maybe it is beginning to use online course tools to extend student learning. It doesn't matter where you are at on the continuum, what matters is that you continue to seek higher levels of teaching and learning, using technology as a tool and vehicle to propel your district and school into the 21st century. Have a great school year! ♦



NETA Conference Venue Expands

By Dennis McIntrye, Site Coordinator

THE 2010 NETA SPRING Conference will again be located at the La Vista Conference Center, which is served and managed by the Embassy Suites La Vista Hotel. This past summer, June of 2009, the Marriott Courtyard unit was opened. The Marriott Courtyard addition brings several opportunities for attendees to the NETA Conference.

The Marriott Courtyard is physically attached to the La Vista Conference center and the Embassy Hotel. This new presence creates additional food options, overnight lodging options, and spaces for sessions. All of this is within a few hundred yards of the

main Conference Center. Just an “indoor step away”!

There are close to 150 sleeping rooms offered at a rate that competes well with the Embassy Suites and other surrounding facilities. The basic room rate for 2010 is \$114. Add Free Internet service in all areas of the building, including sleeping rooms, and the facility does provide a competitive alternative to Embassy Suites, where the rate is \$134 and Internet is \$9.99 for the sleeping rooms.

The foyer, atrium, and social areas of the Marriott Courtyard are pleasantly appealing and functional. The decor and architecture are

very similar to the Embassy Suites. In some ways the Marriott décor is even more “vibrant” and soothing. Technology and facilities for technology use are provided in a number of ways, including cozy booths with built in LCD TV’s. With an open “library” seating area, and an outside atrium, there is plenty of space for gathering friends and colleagues.

The addition of the Marriott Courtyard to the conference facilities is a significant value-add for the NETA Spring event. We look forward to having 2010 participants use this great new part of the La Vista Conference venue. ♦





Pam Krambeck,
Educational
Service Unit 3

Web 2.0 Tool Highlight—*Bitstrips*

Web Site: <http://www.bitstrips.com>

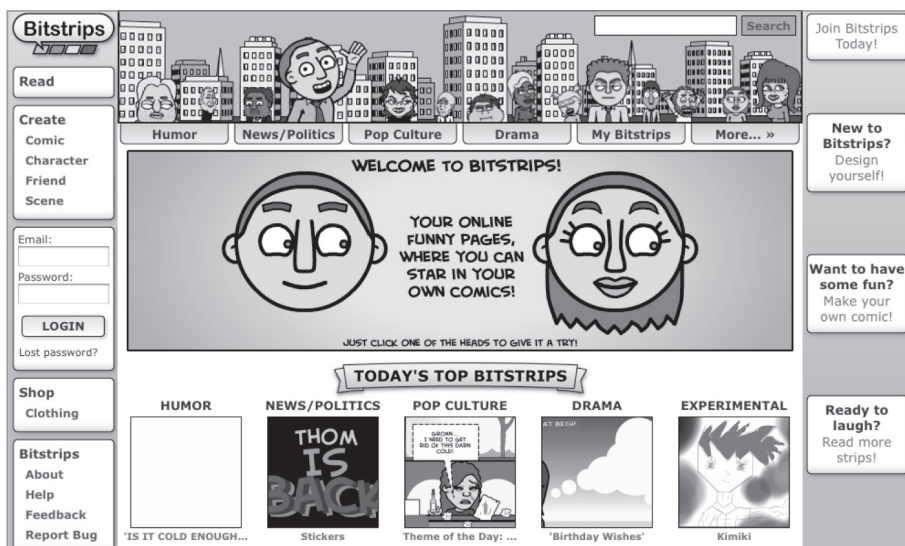
Overview:

Bitstrips is a FREE on-line comic creator program. There are others on-line (I have tried Pixton—<http://www.pixton.com>, & Comiqs—<http://comiqs.com/>) but Bitstrips remains my favorite.

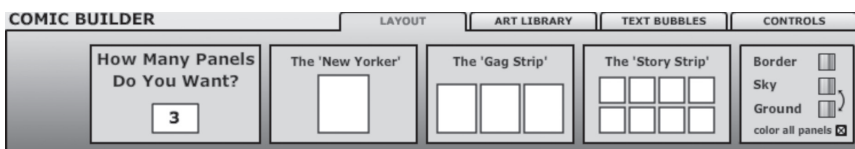
I demonstrated *Bitstrips* at a NETA breakout session last year and I have had a number of people who attended share their comics. I continue to be amazed at their creativity.

The following steps will help you get started with Bitstrips. It's so easy and can be used at many grade levels.

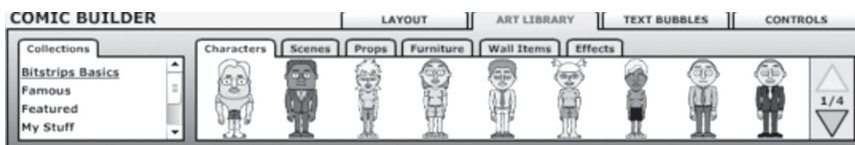
1. Navigate to the web site <http://www.bitstrips.com> and set up a FREE account by clicking the link "JOIN BITSTRIPS TODAY!" in the top right corner and completing a very straight-forward registration where you can set your logon and password.



2. Once you have established an account, you are ready to get started. My suggestion would be to set-up your profile and avatar first under the "MY PROFILE" link but others prefer to skip this step and jump right to creating a comic strip. Know that if you create your avatar you can use it in your comics and add your own personal flair to your finished product.
3. Click the "CREATE" link along the left site and you will notice that the tabs across the top of the window change to LAYOUT, ART LIBRARY, TEXT BUBBLES, AND CONTROLS. The starting point is LAYOUT where you can select the number of panels you want in your comic. There is an 8 panel limit per comic strip. (see below)



4. Once you select your layout and the number of panels, you are ready to click on the ART LIBRARY tab and begin adding characters, scenes, props, furniture, wall items and effects to your comic strip. Know that you can also make edits to the characters by simply clicking on them and making the desired selections from those given. (see below)



(Bitstrips, continued)

5. Continue adding to your panels. Make sure that you check out all the options available such as copying and pasting panels, characters, etc. As you “mouse over” the controls a prompt window will open indicating the name of the tool and what it does. (a great feature that helps learn about the site!)
6. Add text bubbles to your characters using the TEXT BUBBLE tab. The text bubbles will expand as you type. I have found that I like to control the size by using the return key to control the width of the text bubble—otherwise it will expand out of the frame.
7. Add a Name for your Bitstrip by double clicking the “NAME” and notice that your logon name has been added in the author area.
8. SAVE your Bitstrip and when you are ready to share it with the world you can PUBLISH it for others to see.
9. At this point, you can PRINT, PUBLISH and share your BitStrip with others. Everything that you create and save is filed under: My Strips, My Characters, or My Scenes. Your Avatar is saved under My Profile. (see below)



Below is an example of a pretty simple BitStrip that I have created with teachers in a math workshop to encourage innovative ideas for writing and communicating in the content area. ♦



Thanks to Pam Krambeck at Educational Service Unit #3 for highlighting this Web 2.0 tool.

(Bo Knows, continued from page 1)

Programs do not change lives, cultures do. Bo knows what type of culture he and his staff are trying to build for the Husker football program. Does your technology plan match the learning culture your school wishes to maintain or create?

As you determine the role technology will play in the culture of your classroom or school, here are some questions to consider [Phelan, Rick]:

1. How is technology supporting learners in doing things they couldn't do in any other way?
2. How does technology make learning more efficient?
3. How does technology make learning experiences more memorable?
4. How does technology improve access to ideas and information?
5. How does technology enhance and extend an individual's abilities to express themselves?

Resources:

Barnett, Harvey. "Successful K-12 Technology Planning: Ten Essential Elements. Eric Digest." *ERIC Clearinghouse on Information and Technology* Syracuse NY (2001-10-00): n. pag. Web. 5 Oct 2009. <<http://www.ericdigests.org/2002-2/ten.htm>>.

Phelan, Rick. "Roles of Technology in Education." *Computer Uses in Education*. Sonoma State University, Web. 5 Oct 2009. <<http://www.sonoma.edu/users/p/phelan/404/roles.htm>>.

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2010 Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship

Poster and PSA Contest Guidelines

Sponsored by the Nebraska Attorney General and Educational Service Units

The ESUs of Nebraska in partnership with the Nebraska Attorney General's Office are sponsoring an Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship Poster and Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest for students in K-12 Schools in Nebraska.

Eligibility

Any public or private school/district within an ESU may participate.

Categories

Each school or district may submit one entry in each category from each grade grouping: K-4, 5-8, 9-12, i.e. three entries per school for each of the five categories.

Entry Formats

- Poster** high quality computer generated (pdf, tiff, jpg, or png);
- Poster** hand drawn
- Audio PSA** submit on labeled CD (mp3, aiff, or wav format).
- Video PSA** submit on labeled VHS, DVD, or CD (QT, WMV, or RM format).
- Open** a submission which does not fit a poster or PSA category above—could be a brochure, video documentary, etc.

Rules

- No real names used on posters or in audio or video PSAs.
- Copyright laws must be followed, i.e. images, sound, etc.
- 29 second target time on PSAs (audio and video).
- Label CDs and DVDs with ESU Internet Safety Entry Form info (see next page.).
- Put ESU Contest Entry Form on back of posters
- Poster Size: minimum – 8.5" X 11", maximum – 16" X 22" (recommended delivery in protected mailer, such as tube or flat box. Do not bend.)

Deadline

Entries must be submitted to local ESU by **March 12, 2010**.

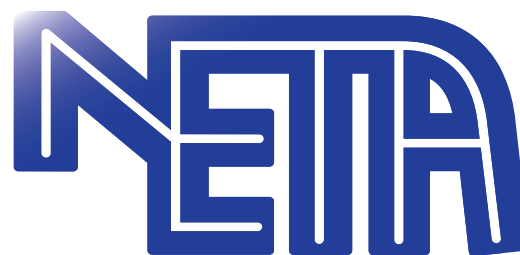
Send entries to your local ESU, attention Technology Specialist. Email executivedirector@netasite.org if you have questions regarding who or which ESU to contact.

Award

One entry in each grade grouping from each ESU will be selected and given state ESU recognition. Winning posters and PSAs, audio and video, will then be eligible for awards and/or use by the ESUs and the Nebraska Attorney General's Office. A winning entry in each category will be selected and sent on to the Attorney General's office for special recognition.

Entry Form

The entry form can be downloaded from the NETA website at <http://netasite.org/resources.html> ❖



QWEST and NETA Collaborate to Provide Teacher Grants

Applications for Qwest Foundation Grants are Due January 25, 2010

THE QWEST FOUNDATION and the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) have announced that the Qwest Foundation will provide \$50,000 to support a grant program for teachers. The purpose of the program is to recognize Nebraska public and private school teachers who use technology in the classroom in new and innovative ways, with an emphasis on improving student performance.

January 25, 2010, is the deadline for Nebraska public and private school teachers to apply for the grants of up to \$5,000 each. Applicants will be asked to detail the goals of their project, as well as identify the hardware and software needed. Application information will be available on NETA's Web site by December 1, 2009, with applications due January 25, 2010. Access the NETA Web site at <http://netasite.org/awards.html>

Winning grant applicants will be notified prior to April 1, 2010, and will be recognized at the NETA Conference April 29, 2010.

NETA and the Qwest Foundation are excited to offer this opportunity to teachers across Nebraska. With school budgets tight, this provides an opportunity for teachers to implement a new, creative project into their classroom. The opportunity also matches well with NETA's 2010 Conference theme: *Creative Journeys to Learning!*

"Qwest is committed to making a positive difference in the communities where customers live and work, and we are proud to invest in Nebraska teachers and children," said Rex Fisher, Qwest President—Nebraska. "We're excited to partner with NETA and create additional resources for teachers who are using technology to provide meaningful learning experiences for their students."

Teachers serving in private or public school districts within the Qwest local service area are eligible to apply. Eligible communities are listed at the end of this article. If you have any questions about eligibility please contact Gayland Alukonis for clarification (see contact info below).

Teachers who are awarded a Qwest Foundation grant will be asked to present at the NETA Conference in 2011 and share details regarding their grant project. Winners will also be asked to submit a 6-month and 1-year report on their grant to NETA.

About the Qwest Foundation

The Qwest Foundation's core principle is that investing in people and communities provides lasting value for the future. The Qwest Foundation awards grants to community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on K-12 education and economic development.

The Qwest Foundation's philosophy is to help build strong communities through investing in people and the places where they live and work. For more information, please contact www.qwest.com/foundation.

Contacts:

NETA Contact (application details)
Lynne Herr, NETA Contest Chair
402 641-5161
lherr@esu6.org

Qwest Contact (Qwest territory info)
Gayland Alukonis
402 422-7337
Gayland.Alukonis@qwest.com

(Continued...Eligible school districts listed on page 18)

Student Contests and Teacher Opportunities

Find all contest guidelines and entry forms at <http://netasite.org/awards.html>

A mission of NETA is to provide recognition to outstanding Nebraska students and teachers, in part by providing contests, scholarships, and grants. The forms and guidelines for these opportunities were printed in the September newsletter, but are also available at the NETA website at <http://netasite.org>. Click on **Opportunities**. Look for information and entry forms for the following student contests and teacher opportunities:

For Students:

Student contests are open to all Nebraska K-12 public and private school students, unless otherwise noted.

K-12 Graphic Imagery Contest

Entries in the graphic imagery contest could include digital photographs, images that have been digitally enhanced, hand drawn images and others—be creative. All entries should be original work created by the individual submitting the entry—clip art should not be used. See web site listed above for detailed information and submission form. Contact Jackie Ediger with questions jediger@esu9.org.

K-12 NETA Conference Logo Contest—NOTE: Earlier deadline this year of December 1, 2009!

Create a design for the NETA Spring Conference 2010—*Creative Journeys to Learning*. Encourage students' creativity by entering artwork created with computers in the NETA Conference Logo Contest. Deadline: December 1, 2009. See web site listed above for detailed information and submission form. Contact Jason Rushing with questions at jrrushing@lps.org.

NEW! Web 2.0 Tools Student Collaboration Contest

Examples of interactive entries: classroom blogs, wikis, web pages, online interactive classroom newsletters, or educational social networking sites. Student divisions: K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Deadline January 25, 2010. See website listed above for detailed information and submission form. Contact Jane Davis with questions at jdavis@esu16.org.

K-12 Open Class Contest!

As we continually seek to support contests that accurately reflect classroom uses of technology, we are continuing the Open Class Contest. Write a great computer app? An awesome desktop publishing file? Digital story? Podcast? Original music composition? We want them all! Deadline January 25, 2010. See web site listed above for detailed information and submission form. Contact Jason Rushing with questions at jrrushing@lps.org.

For Teachers:

Teacher contests are open to Nebraska public/private teachers, unless otherwise noted.

Opportunity to Attend NETA 2010!

Nebraska public/private teachers who are in their first three years of teaching—put your name “in the hat” to possibly win a free NETA registration. If you can answer “yes” to all of the following, please submit your name for the drawing 1) 3 years or less teaching experience, 2) have not attended NETA Conference, 3) knows that the school or district does not have the means to pay registration costs, 4) has strong interest in use of technology in the classroom, and 5) has principal/supervisor support. Deadline is January 25, 2010. See web site listed above for detailed information and submission form. Contact Lynne Herr with questions at lherr@esu6.org.

ISTE Teacher Trek Contest

Win a trip to ISTE 2010 (formerly the National Educational Computing Conference) in Denver next summer! Explain how you use technology to enhance student learning and how attending the ISTE conference would strengthen what you already do. Include what are you hoping to learn or gain by attending sessions at ISTE 2010. (Maximum 150 words.) Trips will be awarded with a maximum of \$1500 each (total in awards not to exceed \$9000). Deadline January 25, 2010. Contact Nicole Badgley with questions at nbadgley@esu10.org.

(Continued on the next page)

(Teacher contests, continued)

Excellence in Leading with Technology Award

The purpose of the Nebraska Excellence in Leading with Technology Award is to recognize and honor an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in implementing technology to improve teaching, learning or administration. This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school administrators and technology coordinators whose primary job role does not include teaching students. Deadline January 25, 2010. Contact Scott Plummer with questions at splummer@panesu.org.

Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award

The purpose of the Nebraska Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award is to recognize and honor an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in implementing technology to improve teaching and learning. This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school teachers. Deadline January 25, 2010. Contact Scott Plummer with questions at splummer@panesu.org.

NEW! Web 2.0 Tools Teacher Collaboration Contest

Examples of entries: classroom blogs, wikis, web pages, online interactive classroom newsletters or educational social networking sites e.g. ning. Teacher Divisions are for teachers of grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Deadline January 25, 2010. Contact Dawn Prescott with questions at dprescot@esu7.org.

Technology Grant Program

To further encourage the linking of technology to the curriculum, NETA is proud to continue the Technology Grant Program. Grants will be awarded with a maximum of \$1500 each (total in awards not to exceed \$9000). Deadline January 25, 2010. See the website listed above for detailed information and submission form. Contact Nicole Badgley with questions at nbadgley@esu10.org.

Special Note about the NETA Grants and ISTE Teacher Trek Contest

(ISTE Teacher Trek contest described above and online at the NETA website.)

- The total amount of money allotted for BOTH the Grant Awards and the ISTE Teacher Trek awards is \$9000.
- There will be up to six winners of up to \$1500 from Grants and ISTE Teacher Trek contests combined. The six chosen winners can be in any combination from the two opportunities, depending on the number and quality of entries. Contest questions should be directed to Nicole Badgley at nbadgley@esu10.org.

Most contest deadlines are January 25, 2010. However, please check individual contest guidelines.

Wanted! Judges for all contests!

We are looking for people willing to assist with the contest judging. This will take place on Saturday, February 6th in Waverly. If interested, please contact Lynne Herr at lherr@esu6.org. Lunch is provided, along with a terrific learning experience and great company. Please join us for a fun day!

NOTE: If you have students entered in any of the contests, you will not be able to judge that particular contest. ❖

Please print legibly on entry forms or download interactive PDF form from <http://netasite.org/awards.html>



*Beth Still
Scottsbluff, NE
Skype: beth.still
Twitter: bethstill*

HOW OFTEN DO YOU think about your social networking profile? If you are like most busy educators your answer to that question is probably “never.” Whether we care to admit it or not, most of us have profiles that could be improved in one way or another. If you are just starting out in the world of social networking and have yet to create a profile anywhere then the following tips will help you get off on the right foot. This article will help you determine what information you should include in your profile as well as what you should absolutely not include.

Your social networking profile might possibly be the most important part of your online identity. It gives the world a snapshot of who you are and what you are about. Fair or not, people will make snap judgments about you based on what they read on your profile. Your profile will also give people a sense of whether they can trust you or not. Think of your social networking profile as the digital equivalent of that all-important first handshake. You have one chance to get it right so it is imperative to get it right from the start. Your goal should be to reveal as much as you can without making yourself feel uncomfortable. But how do you know what you should or should not share? Let's take a look at some guidelines.

A great profile needs to have the following items:

A photograph of yourself. There are some who argue that an avatar (cartoon picture) is just as good as a real picture, but I could not disagree more. Sharing what you look like is

Creating the Perfect Social Networking Profile

not only a huge piece of establishing a terrific profile; it is an important step in establishing online connections.

A consistent user name. Put some thought into selecting your user name because it will be with you for a long time. Try to use the same user name each time you sign up for a new social networking site. This will help eliminate some of the confusion that goes along with managing your online profile.

Your real name. Most social networking profiles allow you to include your real name in addition to your user name. While it is not necessary to include your last name, sharing your first name will definitely help people make a deeper connection with you.

A concise biography. Your biography should include professional information such as your position, number of years teaching, and any other information that people might find interesting.

Your location. It is always nice to know the location of people with whom you are communicating.

Optional things you might want to add to your profile:

Contact information. If you are comfortable sharing your information such as your email address, office phone number or Skype name then do so.

Personal information. Simply by sharing information about your interests, hobbies, and family life you are giving people more opportunities to connect to you. There might even be people outside of education who

discover you based on this information. Remain open to the idea of allowing people into your network who are not educators. These people will help add some variety to your network.

Links to your other networks. If you have a blog or belong to multiple social networks then tell people. If you are a member of a Ning you can add your Twitter feed. You can also add badges from Nings to your blog. The idea is to overlap your networks as much as possible.

Some things to NEVER include on your profile:

Your home phone number. It is just a rule to not share this.

Your address. Another thing that is common sense, but you might be broadcasting your exact location without even realizing it. Some social networking applications that are used on mobile devices will automatically include your location to within a few thousand feet. It is a good idea to shut this feature off to make it harder for someone to pinpoint your location.

Names of people in your family.

These tips should help you get started on the right foot when creating your social networking profiles. Remember that these are just guidelines and that there are no hard and fast rules in the world of social networking. Look for more articles soon regarding where you can begin your social networking journey as well as how to start building and growing your personal learning network.

Blog: <http://bethstill.edublogs.org> ❖

NETA'S TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM

FINAL REPORTS FROM 2008 WINNERS



Making History—Video Game Brings World War II to Life

**Travis Friesen & Darci Lindgren,
Lindsay Holy Family**

Grades Involved: Junior Modern History Class, 8 students

Mr. Friesen introduced this project as a follow up and review upon completing the Modern History's unit on World War II. "Making History—the calm and the storm" is split into several scenarios that take place during different times of the war. It is a RTS—Real Time Strategy game. Each scenario has different countries involved and different numbers of turns. A turn represents one week during the war. The beginning of each scenario is historically accurate, but as the game progresses, the students make their own history. For example, our German team convinced the British team to become their ally.

There were some issues with getting our four teams of two students working on the same video game. Details of how we solved those problems are on the web site [http://captain.esu7.org/dlindgren/stories/storyReader\\$134](http://captain.esu7.org/dlindgren/stories/storyReader$134). Muzzy Lane (the publisher) is planning on having an 'on line' version available this fall that will solve the multi player/firewall problems and be cross platform. The version we used was only for the Windows platform.

Mr. Friesen chose the "World at War" scenario because he hoped it had the most action. Unfortunately, it also had 200 turns which meant much more class time was

needed to complete the game. There is a setting at the beginning of the scenario to choose to end turns automatically after a few minutes, and if we had it to do over we would have set the "end turn" for about five minutes to get through the game more quickly. We also could have chosen a shorter scenario based earlier in the war with only 30 turns for a three day project. It took us a little over a month to complete the World at War scenario, but they did not play the game every day. Mr. Friesen used it as a reward for working well on other curriculum during the week.

A review of our multi player gaming experience is summarized in a short video on Teacher Tube. http://www.teachertube.com/viewVideo.php?video_id=113630&title=Making_History. Comparing and contrasting what happened in the game to the 'real' war encouraged higher level

thinking. Review questions, maps, and other useful materials were provided with the teacher documentation that came with our lab pack.

After concluding the multi player classroom experience, Mr. Friesen allowed the students involved to check out the laptops during free time. While observing them playing in single player mode, he discovered that they actually got more involved with the diplomatic and economic nuances of the war than when against each other as teams. We also found out that they REALLY liked the game! Mrs. Lindgren found one student gaming at 5:30 one evening after school, and another student purchased his own copy for home use.

To share this project with other educators, Mr. Friesen and Mrs. (Continued on the next page)



Darci Lindgren at NECC 2009 in Washington D.C.

(Grant report continued)

Lindgren gave a break out session during NETA. There they shared the summary video and had a lively question and answer session with other social studies teachers.

Muzzy Lane provided us with 40 free copies of Making History to share. Everyone who attended our break out session got a copy, and the rest were given away during the NETA Friday drawings. Mrs. Lindgren also got the opportunity to present a poster session at NECC in Washington D.C. on June 29. The poster session was very well received, and a young attendee volunteered to work through the tutorial and gamed live for 40 minutes during the session while she talked with educators from all over the country. Thank you NETA for helping to fund this wonderful project! ❖

Internet Safety Podcasts

Lori Toepfer & Kelley Ward, Barr Middle School—Grand Island Public Schools

Through the funding of our 2008 NETA Teacher Technology Grant we were able to purchase 20 *Video Cue Pro* licenses. Video Cue is software that can be used for student recording of video podcasts. With the software, we were able to implement our Internet Safety Podcast project into our seventh grade Instructional Technology classes in the spring of 2008, as well as in the fall.

Over the past two years, over 750 students have utilized the Video Cue software that was provided through the NETA grant funds.

The completed projects have provided students with a better understanding and awareness of Internet safety.

The Internet safety podcasts were posted on our school website for viewing by the general public. We absolutely achieved the results that we wanted with this project. It does take time to implement, but the lessons learned were well worth the time.

The students enjoyed the opportunity to express themselves in a unique way. It is our goal to continue the project on a yearly basis with our 7th grade Instructional Technology students.

Watch for the mid-term reports from the 2009 NETA grant winners in the next newsletter. ❖

(Quest Grants, continued from page 13)

Eligible districts

Eligible school districts for the Qwest grants are in the following Nebraska communities:

Ainsworth, Alda, Alliance, Ames, Angora, Antioch, Atkinson, Atlanta, Axtell, Bellevue, Bennington, Big Springs, Boys Town, Bridgeport, Broken Bow, Cairo, Central City, Chadron, Clarkson, Cornlea, Crawford, Creston, Cushing, Dakota City, Elkhorn, Ellsworth, Elm Creek, Elwood, Emerson, Emmet, Farwell, Fremont, Fullerton, Gothenburg, Grand Island, Gretna, Hadar, Harrison, Holdrege, Homer, Howells, Humphrey, Inglewood, Lakeside, Laurel, La Vista, Leshara, Lexington, Loup City, Lyons, McCook, Marsland, McCook, McLean, Minden, Nickerson, Norfolk, North Platte, Oakland, Ogallala, Omaha, O'Neill, Oxford, Papillion, Pender, Pilger, Ralston, Randolph, Richfield, Rogers, Roscoe, Saint Libory, Saint Paul, Schuyler, Sholes, Sidney, Silver Creek, Smithfield, South Sioux City, Sparks, Springfield, Tekamah, Thurston, Valentine, Valley, Venice, Wakefield, Washington, Waterloo, Wayne, Weissert, West Point, Whitney, Wood River ❖



Where are they? Meeting Minutes on the Web

During the October NETA Board meeting it was decided to save print publishing costs by posting the minutes from the NETA Board meetings on the NETA website only.

You will find the minutes from the October 9, 2009 NETA Board of directors meeting at the following location:
<http://netasite.org/resources.html>



CALENDAR OF TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

December 2009

Elementary Keyboarding Workshop

December 2, 2009
Nebraska Department of
Education, Lincoln, NE
[www.nde.state.ne.us/
TECHCEN/training.html](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/TECHCEN/training.html)

January 2010

Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)

January 12–15, 2010
Orlando, FL
fetc.org

Laptop Schools Community Meeting

January 13, 2010
ESU 10, Kearney, NE
<http://odie.esu10.org>

EDUCAUSE

January 13–15, 2010
Baltimore, MD
net.educause.edu/marc10

February 2010

Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)

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

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)

February 8–12, 2010
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

MacWorld Expo

February 9–13, 2010
San Francisco, CA
macworldexpo.com

CoSN's School Networking Conference

February 28–March 2, 2010
Washington DC
www.cosn.org/Events/

March 2010

International Technology Education Association (ITEA)

March 26–28, 2009
Louisville, KY
www.iteaconnect.org

April 2010

NETA Spring Conference *Creative Journeys to Learning*

April 29–30, 2010
LaVista Embassy Suites &
Conference Center, LaVista
netasite.org

June 2010

Nebraska Career Education (NCE) Conference

June 8–10, 2010
Kearney, NE
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/

August 2010

Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning

August 3–6, 2010
Madison, Wisconsin
www.uwex.edu/disted/conference

THE ISTE CONFERENCE

(formerly NECC Conference)
will be held in Denver June 27–30, 2010. Since this is a closer location for Nebraskans, NETA did a survey of members to see who might be attending and whether there is enough interest to charter a bus. If you missed the opportunity to take the survey, email Sandy Blankenship at executivedirector@netasite.org. A decision will be made soon regarding bus availability.



NETA

Nebraska Educational Technology Association

P.O. Box 27

Waverly, NE 68462

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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