Bob Goeman
University of Nebraska Omaha

The last couple of newsletter articles I have written focused on the last 25 years of NETA. This is the last article before our 25th Anniversary celebration at our annual spring conference. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading about the history of NETA through years of minutes and newsletters as well as writing about how many great things have created the strong organization we currently have. It is a tribute to you (the members), continuing to want more, that keeps us coming back year after year.

Past Themes
So how have the themes and content of NETA changed over the last 25 years? Looking back through notes and conference programs, it wasn’t until 1991 that the spring conference actually had a written theme attached to it. Prior to this, it simply stated, NETA Spring Conference.

The first written theme I could find was in 1991, Educational Technology for the Information Age. This was very forward thinking based on the World Wide Web really in the process of being invented and introduced to the public. In 1994 NETA discovered that programs could be printed in color. The theme was Bridging Today to Tomorrow. Since this time, we have seen:

- Charting New Directions in Learning
- Filling our Technology Toolbox
- Teaching Tomorrow Today
- Discovering Pathways of Learning
- Discovering Digital Treasure
- Exploring New Territories
- Empowering, Encouraging, Engaging (E³)
- Designing Digital Dimensions
- Linking Technology to the Curriculum
- Learning Together for Our Future
- Creating Journeys to Learning
- Goin’ Global
- Technology Pioneers for the Next Century
- Technology in Motion: Imagining and Developing
- Technology—A Winning Ticket, Prepare, Dare, Share
- Curriculum Challenges—Making the Connections
- Portraits, Perspectives & Paradigms: The Excitement of Technology in Education

And finally this year: 25 Years of Innovation. Get registered today!

Past Session Topics
Not only have there been some great themes over the last 25 years, some of the session descriptions are rememberable. As I peruse the conference programs, I find that Linda Dickeson presented Beginners’ Approach to Using a Scanner. Do you think that would make today’s cut? How about Bill Menousek presenting, Multimedia on the Apple IIGS. I didn’t know the Apple IIGS could do multimedia! The first real signs of the word Internet began appearing in the conference program of 1993. Joann Wilson presented: Accessing Internet With Your Dusty, Trusty, Ile.

(Continued on page 19)
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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 2012 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

Lynn Behounek ............................... Site Coordinator
Lynn_Behounek@ralstonschools.org

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

Lynne Herr ..................... Contest Coordinator
ESU 6
lherr@esu6.org

Mike Burns ............................... Exhibitor Coordinator
mikeburns2@gmail.com

Lucas Bingham .............................. Web Coordinator
Louisville Public Schools
lbingham@esu3.org

NETA Newsletter
Published four times yearly, Contributions are welcome.
PO Box 27, Waverly, NE 68462
Phone (402) 540-1904
e-mail: executivedirector@netasite.org
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NETA Officers and Board of Directors
William Bolen............... Past President
ESU 10
wbolen@esu10.org

Renee Kopf ........ President
Falls City Public Schools
rkopf@fallscityps.org

Bob Goeman ............ President-Elect
University of Nebraska Omaha
bgoeman@mail.unomaha.edu

Nicole Badgley .......... Secretary
Arnold Public Schools
nbadgley@esu10.org

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

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

Lynn Behounek .......... Board 2012
Ralston Public Schools
Lynn_Behounek@ralstonschools.org

Jackie Ediger .......... Board 2012
ESU9
jediger@esu9.org

Lenny VerMaas........ Board 2012
lennyvermaas@gmail.com

Jason Rushing ........ Board 2013
Lincoln Public Schools
jrusching@bps.org

Nicki Markut .......... Board 2013
Waverly Middle School
nicki.markut@dist145schools.org

Jane Davis ........... Board 2013
Hershey Public Schools
jdavis@esu16.org

Jason Everett .......... Board 2013
ESU 10
jeverett@esu10.org

Dawn Prescott .......... Board 2014
Schuyler Community Schools
dprescot@esu7.org

Gregg Robke .......... Board 2014
ESU 4
grobbie@esu4.net

Matthew Lee .......... Board 2014
Westside Community Schools
mlee@westside66.org

Darci Lindgren .......... Board 2014
Lindsay Holy Family School
dlindgren@esu7.org

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Message from the President

25 Reasons to Attend the NETA Conference

In honor of the 25th anniversary of NETA, here are 25 great reasons to attend the spring conference (not in any priority order):

25. Five BYOD sessions

24. Friday Pick your own Keynote Speaker—Travis Allen

23. Experience and learn from Hands-on Playgrounds

22. Past President’s Parade

21. $2.50 Anniversary lunch coupon

20. Friday Pick your own Keynote Speaker—Tammy Worcester

19. Daily gift card giveaways

18. Eleven 1:1 Strand Sessions for schools who are considering or have already done a 1:1 implementation

17. Distance Learning Strand

16. NETA Grant Winners, ISTE Trek Winners

15. Dan Herlihy—Keynote, and four Assistive Tech Sessions

14. Conversation strand, featuring one session with Travis Allen

13. iPad giveaways both days!

12. Vendors, vendors and more vendors

11. Eleven sessions in Tech Strand for Techies

10. Thursday Keynote—Kevin Honeycutt. Don’t miss him!

9. Kindle Fire giveaways at Friday’s Pick Your Own Keynote sessions

8. Tech Coordinators Meeting held on Thursday at 4 p.m.

7. Contest Winners and NETA 25th Anniversary Logo.

6. Learning Web and other Poster Sessions in Gatsby on Thursday!

5. Networking with your Peers

4. Over 150 informative and innovative breakout sessions

3. Magnificent Embassy Suites Conference Center

2. 25th Anniversary Bash—Dance, Karaoke and Contests held on Thursday evening in Gatsby from 7:30–10:30. Should be fun! (See page 7)

And the final terrific reason to attend the 25th Anniversary NETA Conference—

1. New format for ending session—APPS Shootout and Prizes!
NETA Conference 2012 Network
New Challenges!

Revised message from Dennis McIntyre, Retired NETA Site Coordinator (Dennis, as “Mr. WiFi” in previous years, pictured at left)

5. A New York Times article put it very well,

"Technology conferences are like revival meetings for entrepreneurs, deal makers and the digitally obsessed. Attendees compulsively blog, e-mail, text and send photos and video from their seats”...

"The problem is that Wi-Fi was never intended for large halls and thousands of people, many of them bristling with an arsenal of laptops, iPhones and iPads"...

Wi-Fi Overload at High-Tech Meetings, December 28, 2010—By Verne G. Kopytoff

6. This year we have some added challenges and required commitments. We now have smartphone technology that allows a user to set up a wireless hot-spot using their phone. Any such use during the conference creates another threat to the reliability of the conference network system. Please...don’t!

7. Together, we can do this! We can work together to help assure network capacity and reliability. Remember only you can prevent network storms!! ❖

Pre-registration
Open Through April 6th!

We hope to see you at NETA on April 26–27, at La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center. Please make sure you have registered for NETA by April 6th. Your registration needs to be done online by that date, faxed, or postmarked April 6th if sent via mail. After April 6th, please plan to register onsite.

Plan now to find your way to La Vista, Exit 442, for an exciting two days! In honor of NETA’s 25th Anniversary, the theme this year is 25 Years of Innovation ❖

Barcodes on Name Badges

Again this year your name badges will have bar codes on them. This will allow exhibitors to easily scan your name badge and you won’t need to complete forms to give them your information. When the exhibitors scan your badge, these are the fields of information they will receive: your name, organization, address, phone, and e-mail.

At this point we do not know how many exhibitors will participate in badge barcode scanning. We anticipate that there will be quite a few since many have suggested that we add this option. ❖

Are you coming to the NETA 2012 Conference?

Here’s a few things we hope you will remember and apply while at the Conference.

1. Having 2200+ people—active technology advocates!—in one facility is more than almost any wireless (WiFi) network can handle.

2. Last year, along with some upgrading of the facility, and management of the network equipment, the conference participants also did their job—they were careful and thoughtful about WiFi dependent usage. Bravo! Thanks!

3. The cooperation and collaboration of those in attendance did make a difference!

4. Again this year, we will need everyone to be “mindful” about using WiFi based technologies during the conference, in the major conference areas.

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3. The cooperation and collaboration of those in attendance did make a difference!

4. Again this year, we will need everyone to be “mindful” about using WiFi based technologies during the conference, in the major conference areas.
The Election Results are In!

Announcing the New 2012 NETA Officers and Directors

Many thanks to all of you who voted during the online election. Thanks also to all of the candidates on the ballot for their willingness to serve. All candidates were certainly worthy and you will hopefully see some of them on the ballot again in the future! The following people were elected.

**Officers**

Jason Everett  
President-Elect  
ESU 10

The President Elect 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.

Pam Krambeck  
Secretary  
ESU 3

The Secretary 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.

Congratulations to Jason and Pam for being elected to these offices!

**Directors, Three-year term**

Josh Allen  
Papillion-La Vista  
Director 2015

Nicole Badgley  
Arnold Public Schools  
Director 2015

Craig Badura  
York Public Schools  
Director 2015

Jackie Ediger  
ESU 9  
Director 2015

Angie Wassenmiller  
Concordia University, Seward  
Director 2013

William Bolen—ESU 10  

Bill has been an active member of the NETA Board and also served as President-Elect, President, and now Past President. William has taken on many responsibilities throughout his years on the Board and always followed through with his commitments. William has been instrumental in helping other officers as they begin the review process to decide which sessions will be chosen and using the new online system for assigning conference rooms. He has done an exceptional job of supporting others in their work. Those on the Board know that when there is a challenging topic for discussion, William will think it through, addressing all sides of the issue. William has served on a variety of committees throughout his tenure, and this year chaired the Teacher and Leader Award Contests for 2012. We will all miss William’s presence on the NETA board as he has truly been an exemplary leader!

Lenny VerMaas—ESU 6  

Lenny has been willing to lend a helping hand and especially attentive to doing whatever needs to be done during conferences. Lenny has served on the Retail Committee where decisions are made as to which conference bags and books for resale are ordered. When making decisions on the NETA Board, Lenny would draw from his many years as a classroom teacher, his experiences assisting teachers through his ESU work, and from serving on various other educational boards.

William and Lenny contributed with their ideas, their energy, and they were definitely team players. Our sincere thanks to both.

If you would like to be more active in NETA by serving on the NETA Board of Directors, consider being a nominee in 2013. Four Director positions are open each year as well as the President Elect and either Secretary or Treasurer (elected every other year). Watch for the call for nominees in the November newsletter.
The NETA 2012 annual conference is proud to again use one of the newest facilities in the Metro Omaha area. This location offers easy access, state of the art facilities, adequate free parking, and more productive conference activities space.

**Location**
- I-80 Exit 442 - Giles road @ Southport Parkway
- Other landmarks @ Exit 442—Cabela’s and PayPal.

**Parking**
1700 spaces, shared (All spaces in commercial area are available—owned by city of La Vista.)

**Lodging accommodations**
Embassy Suites, Marriott Courtyard, and Hampton Inn hotels are full, but please check the NETA web site for additional options: http://netasite.org/housing2012

**Food accommodations**
- Embassy—complimentary full breakfast & Manager’s reception afternoon/evening
- Hampton Inn—Complimentary breakfast & Manager’s reception
- Marriott—check out their Bistro area

**Lunch**
- Embassy—Nines Restaurant, Caffenia’s, and Atrium (box lunch pickup & sales)
- Marriott—Bistro Area
- Giles Road—Summer Kitchen, Runza, Jimmy Johns, and Pizza Gourmet

**Services**
- Embassy—Internet & wireless, Public spaces free, Sleeping room charge
- Conference Center additional wireless facilities—free
- Marriott—Free Internet wireless in public spaces & sleeping rooms
- Hampton Inn—Wireless all areas

**BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Sessions**
- located in Wingtip
- must pre-register
- must have ticket for admittance

**Conversation Strand**
- held in Marriott Library
- come learn from the group

**Registration**
- Register by April 6 or plan to register onsite
- Conference Center main door area
- Thursday Advanced registration—Main doors, turn right, Gatsby room
- Wednesday night registration hours are 5:00–7:00 PM

**Lunch Tickets for Sale**
On both Thursday and Friday mornings, please look for a special booth where you can purchase a lunch ticket for your noon meal, then use your pre-purchased ticket to retrieve a meal. We are hoping to again eliminate the long wait time if lunch tickets are pre-purchased.

**Graduation Credit for NETA**
Participants who attend both days of the NETA Conference can earn one hour of graduate credit through Peru State College. Interested participants will meet briefly with Gregg Robke on Thursday morning at 9:50 near the NETA Sales Booth, directly after the keynote. Resident and non-resident tuition is $212.75 per credit hour + any applicable fees.

We look forward to welcoming you to the La Vista Embassy Suites and Conference Center! ✿
NETA 25th Birthday Bash

“G.E.E.K.s are my Idols”

Thursday, April 26, 2012
7:30-10:30 PM
Gatsby Room

Costume Contest!
Prizes for individual, couple, and teams:
e.g. “fiche and chips”, Dress in 1’s and 0’s to form 25 in Binary, Dress like you did in the 80’s or like you will in 25 years!

Cash bar and snacks provided

Music Provided By:
Jeff Rotherham-Tech Teacher
Omaha Public Schools
owner of
All-Star Productions
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
DJ * KARAOKE * MEMORY DVDS
www.allstarproductionsomaha.com
NETA Co-sponsors Disaster Recovery Planning Workshop

In the aftermath of recent disasters across the United States, and even in our own state, many school districts have evaluated their disaster recovery plans. The idea for a statewide disaster recovery planning workshop started with a discussion among state technology coordinators about what their role would be in the event of a disaster and how to best prepare for one. The outcome of this discussion was a full-day workshop focused on planning for disaster recovery.

The workshop was held February 29th, 2012 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE. The event, co-sponsored by the Office of the CIO, ESU Coordinating Council, Nebraska Educational Technology Association, Nebraska Council of School Administrators and the Nebraska Department of Education, attracted representatives from over 60 organizations from across the state of Nebraska. Organizations represented included 49 public schools districts, four non-public school districts, nine educational service units, one higher education institution and one state agency. There were over 130 participants in attendance at the event.

Keynote speaker for the event was Kirk Langer (top image), Director of Technology at Lincoln Public Schools. Kirk recounted his first-hand experience with the LPS district office fire and shared important lessons learned from disaster recovery and business continuity efforts. Participants then were split into two groups: technology coordinators and administrators.

Gary Needham, Technology Director for Kearney Public Schools, led the technology coordinators group. This session focused on preparing for a data disaster and inventorying an essential services checklist. Kirk Langer led the administrator group which focused on policies and funding in the midst of a disaster.

Over the noon hour, Dr. Steve Joel (center image), Superintendent of Lincoln Public Schools, spoke about his role as a leader in the aftermath of the LPS district office fire. He spoke from an administrator's perspective and touched on how proper reactions to the events can send important messages. The afternoon consisted of administrator and tech coordinator teams actually working on plans with materials provided. The schedule also allowed time for disaster recovery partnerships to be developed between schools.

Other workshop facilitators and organizers included SuAnn Witt from the Nebraska Dept. of Education, Tom Rolfs from the State Office of the CIO/NITC and Lucas Bingham from Louisville Public Schools. On behalf of all involved, we want to thank the sponsors for helping to play a key role in making such an event possible.
Shooting a Story
Learning with Photos, Videos and Captions

Nicki Markut, School District 145 of Waverly

Photography and video have taken a different role in education. Technology that was once used primarily for documentation purposes is now an essential part of students’ everyday lives and learning. Educators have found many ways to integrate digital storytelling in their classroom, but one that appears to be a hit with students is the Comic approach.

The following are a mix of photography, video, and caption apps that can be used to get you started in your classroom! The apps are all compatible with iPad 2, iPhone, and iPod with camera.

**Camera Plus Pro**—This app will let you capture, edit, manage and share with ease. One can also tag both photos and videos to better manage and search. Some of the other cool features are an anti-shake option, 45 different filters, a count-down timer for self-portraits, as well as fun borders and frames. The cost for this app is $1.99.

**FOTOLR**—This camera app has 50 live effect filters and is best for taking pictures that you don’t want to spend time editing. Sharing the photos is supported with Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr and Sina Weibo. This is a free app.

**Popbooth**—This app is like stepping into a true photo booth! Hit the camera button and it will snap four shots using the front facing camera. Then apply various filters such as black & white, colorz, 1985 or hipster and save your favorite. To share your photo-strip, send it to Facebook, email, and if you'd like a real copy you can even order through mail.

**PictureShow**—This app is referred to as the ‘All in One Toy Camera’ due to its stunning effects. It offers 5 lens types, 45 Preset Filters, free or ratio cropping, HDR Effect, a ‘Make Your Own Recipe’, as well as text on your photo to tell a story. To share out you can use email, Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, Tumblr and Blogger. The cost of this app is $1.99.

**Coloreffects**—This app can help create dramatic images by removing colors or changing them entirely. You can import photos from the camera or photo library and Facebook. Helpful features include the ability to fully zoom in on a photo, select various brush sizes and transparency, as well as having multiple levels of undo. This app is free, but the Pro version is only .99 if you find you are a fan of it.

**Comic Touch Lite**—Make your photos come alive or take on a personality by adding a balloon to express thoughts or words, add captions to describe a scene, or simply give a photo a title. Share your creations by email or save them to your Photo Library. This lite version is free and Comic Touch is $2.99.

**Perfect Captions**—This is another app to help add the perfect thought or word to your photos. This app allows you to take the picture within and save to camera roll or use existing picture, add text boxes and call-outs in various forms (22 different shapes), customize colors, shapes, fonts and sizes, create albums, and choose between portrait or landscape modes. This is free version of app, but there is an upgrade for .99.

http://netasite.org

April 2012
**FETC—**
*More than just a trip to Florida!*

*by Susan Prabulos & Jason Rushing, Lincoln Public Schools*

If you want to combine warm temperatures, sunny skies, palm trees, and throw in a LOT of learning about new and exciting technology tools to use in your classroom, then you need to check out the Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC). This conference is held in sunny Orlando, Florida, during the month of January (this year’s dates were January 21-23). Next year’s FETC dates are set for January 28-31, 2013.

Over the course of the three-day conference we were impressed with the quality of sessions, featured speakers, and keynote addresses. Preparing our students to be productive 21st Century citizens was the resounding theme through most of the sessions.

FETC is more than just a state conference. Web 2.0 tools, tablet apps, and creative digital projects were shared by technology teachers and leaders from all over the states. See some of our favorite new finds here.

---

**Qwiki**

Qwiki is a great new research tool that combines video, pictures, infographics, and narration into a wonderful online presentation. There is also a free iPad app that can be downloaded from the iTunes store!

**Curriculum 21 Clearing House**

Heidi Hayes Jacob presented a keynote speech on Digital Literacy and Globalizing the classroom. She also shared her web site, Curriculum 21, which provides resources for teachers and digital learning. The clearing house on Curriculum 21 as a wealth of resources for teachers. Topics covered include digital storytelling, iPad/iPhone apps, and 21st Century Skills to name a few.

**Science360**

A collection of the latest science videos by scientists, colleges and universities, science and engineering centers, and more. Each video is embeddable into your own website, blog, or social networking pages. This great resource also has a free iPad app!

**NinjaWords**

A REALLY fast online dictionary—“fast like a ninja.” The best part about this site is that there are no ads!

We will be sharing more of our FETC finds and some of our own favorite Web 2.0 tools and apps at the NETA Spring Conference! Make sure you remember to add our session, *25 Terrific Technology Finds*, to your list of things to do while attending NETA 2012! ❖
CCS Presents

What’s Hot in Education Presentation Technology

April 26  Sugarloaf South
2:30-3:15

This session will explore what’s hot and new in education presentation technology. We will discuss response system trends, document camera use, ways to make the presenter mobile, new available software, and interactive technology that is available for your classroom today. We will demonstrate programs that include dance pads, interactive pens, and much, much more!

Please Join Us

Insight Learning Station

April  26 Sugarloaf North
3:30-4:15

The Insight online assessment platform makes real-time assessment and intervention a reality. Educators can quickly create assessments aligned to state standards, identify achievement gaps, and access aligned resources for remediation. Principals, curriculum officers and others can monitor student progress in real-time, benchmark successes through daily and weekly reports and address problems as they arise, not weeks or months later.

For over 20 years, CCS Presentation Systems has been serving schools, colleges and universities across the United States with the best products, knowledge and service.

NETA Booths 1, 2, 3
NETA’s Student Logo Contest

The NETA Conference Logo Contest, based on the conference theme 25 Years of Innovation, was judged by a subcommittee in December, 2011. There were numerous entries for each division, making the task of judging challenging but very enjoyable. Our thanks to Jason Rushing, Lincoln Public Schools, for his work as the NETA Logo Contest coordinator.

Winner—K-12 NETA Conference Logo Contest
Abigail Swanson, Lincoln Public Schools Information Technology Focus Program.
Sponsor: Steve Carr

The Winners!

K-12 Digital Imagery Contest

3-5 Graphic Imagery
1st: Regan Glock, Engleman Elementary, GIPS

6-8 Graphic Imagery
1st: McKenna Kaskie, Barr Middle School, GIPS

K-2 Graphic Imagery
1st: Connor Donald, Meadow Lane Elem., LPS
Technology Grants for the Classroom
The following worthy projects were chosen for this year’s technology grants for the classroom. Grant winners will submit updates on their project during the next school year to the NETA newsletter, and will participate in poster sessions at the NETA conference in April, 2013.

iPads for First Graders
Students will use iPads to experience interactive lessons in all academic areas. Each month students will learn a new app. ($1500)
Teacher: Becky Rogers
School: Tekamah-Herman

9–12 Graphic Imagery
1st: Skylar Tatreau, Tekamah Herman HS

Livescribe Pens for DL Classrooms
NTS is a consortium of 11 schools who collaborate via distance learning as part of high school curriculum. Livescribe pens will allow pencasts of classes for absent students and for review by all. ($1428.90)
Teacher: Cyndi Kersch
School: Northern Tier Schools (NTS), within ESU 8

Making Music
This grant will provide a MacBook Pro and USB microphone for the students in music department. With GarageBand and other resources students will be able to create music for movies, produce podcasts, plus enhance many other projects. ($1410.95)
Teacher: Patricia Miller
School: Neligh-Oakdale

ISTE Teacher Trek Contest
Teachers applying for the ISTE Teacher Trek Contest were to share how they use technology and how attending ISTE would strengthen what they already do in the classroom. Expenses will be paid up to $1500 to attend the conference, held in San Diego, CA, June 24–27, 2012.
- Lynn Spady, Westside Community Schools ($1500)
- Peg Coover, Grand Island Northwest High School ($1500)
- Emily Dunbar, Hastings High School ($1500)

Thanks to Nicki Markut, Waverly Middle School, for coordinating this contest.

Free NETA Registration for Teachers in First Three Years of Teaching
These teachers were selected through a drawing of entries, with each winner receiving a free registration to attend NETA.
- Molly Hunt-Spisak, Westside High School
- Alissa Koester, Laurel Elementary
- Kaylee Heitkamp, Ashland-Greenwood Elementary

Thanks to Contest Coordinator, Nicki Markut, Waverly Middle School, for coordinating this event.

K–12 Graphic Imagery Contest
For this contest, students could digitally capture, create, enhance, or draw the image themselves (no clip art). They were permitted to create their image using a digital camera, image creation program, drawing tablet, or other digital device. Winners will receive medals. First place winning images are displayed on this and the previous page.

K-2 Graphic Imagery
1st—Connor Donald, Meadow Lane Elementary, LPS
Sponsor: Susan Prabulos

(More winners on the next page)
(Contest Winners, continued)
2nd—Josie Loosvelt, Madison Elementary
   Sponsor: Erin Reeves
3rd—Ariana Amezcua, Madison Elementary
   Sponsor: Jane Lafleur

Grade 3-5 Graphic Imagery
1st—Regan Glock, Engleman Elementary, GIPS
   Sponsor: Lisa Blase
2nd—Kelsey Blinston, Plattsmouth Elementary
   Sponsor: Melanie Anderson
3rd—Megan Woods, Engleman Elementary, GIPS
   Sponsor: Lisa Blase

Grade 6-8 Graphic Imagery
1st—McKenna Kaskie, Barr Middle School, GIPS
   Sponsor: Ann Buckner
2nd—Haley Miller, Plattsmouth Middle School
   Sponsor: Carol Crosland
3rd—Nicole Church, Westridge Middle School, GIPS
   Sponsor: Stacey Vogel

Grade 9-12 Graphic Imagery
1st—Skylar Tatreau, Tekamah Herman High School
   Sponsor: Linda Farrens
2nd—Sonia Nguyen & Dyna Orthengren, Northeast HS, LPS
   Sponsor: Chad Petska
3rd—Maggie Goldhammer, Thayer Central Schools, Hebron
   Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik

K-12 Open Class Contest
As NETA continually seeks to develop contests that accurately reflect classroom uses of technology, the Open Class Contest was created, and has been a very popular contest. Winning students will receive medals.

K–4: Untitled
   Kevin Fierro-Chavez, Lincoln Elementary, GIPS

K–4: Untitled
   Dax Davis, Dodge Elementary, GIPS
K–4: Make Room for Fernanda the Raccoon
   Fernanda Aldana, All Saints Catholic School, Omaha
K–4: Candy Cane
   Eli Anson, Dodge Elementary, GIPS
K–4: Black Footed Ferret
   Emilie Ziller, Newell Elementary, GIPS

5–8: Caring Cow
   Andrea Rhoads, Newell Elementary, GIPS
5–8: State Fair Movie—On a Stick
   Jacob Carter, Dodge Elementary, GIPS
5–8: Untitled
   Isaac Sanchez & Jacob Strong, Jefferson Elementary, GIPS
5–8: Mitosis
   Pammela Garcia & Connor Bywater, Schuyler Middle School

9–12: Magic Coins
   Jackson Huber, LPS Information Technology Focus Program
9–12: Maxcraft (iPhone app)
   Max Burchell, LPS Information Technology Focus Program
9–12: Cookie Chase (iPhone app)
   Nolan Cooney, LPS Information Technology Focus Program
9–12: Untitled
   Ethan Friesen, Thayer Central, Hebron

Thanks to Jason Rushing, Lincoln PS, for coordinating this contest.

Web 2.0 Tools Contests
Web 2.0 tools are characterized as online tools to encourage and foster communication, information sharing and knowledge in a user-centered design, allowing the user to navigate through the information and therefore interact with it.

Web 2.0 Student Group Winners
K–4: Animal Riddles
   Ms. Chmelka’s Class, Dodge Elementary, GIPS
5–8: Native American Artifacts
   Ms. Carter’s Class, Dodge Elementary, GIPS

Thanks to Jane Davis of Hershey Public Schools, contest coordinator.

Web 2.0 Teacher Winner
5–8: World Language Wiki
   Marlene Knobbe, Guardian Angels Elementary, West Point

Thanks to Dawn Prescott of Schuyler MS, contest coordinator.

Creative Comics
We asked for the best original digitally created comic strips!
• Students—a comic strip that highlights learning or showcases curriculum topics
• Teachers—original classroom or technology humor.

The winning comics may be published throughout the year in the NETA newsletter.

Creative Comics for Students
Science Lab Safety
   Olivia Nymann, All Saints Catholic School, Omaha
   Sponsor: Trish Finley
How to Prevent Cyber Bullying
   Jacob Weskamp & Caleb Rasmussen
   Sponsor: Susan Prabulos, Meadow Lane Elementary, LPS
Homonyms
   Jacob Carter, Dodge Elementary, GIPS
   Sponsor: Judith Benner

(Continued on the next page)
Creative Comics for Teachers
Mad Scientists in the Chemical Science Lab
Trish Finley, All Saints Catholic School, Omaha

Thanks to Lucas Bingham, Louisville Public Schools, for coordinating this contest.

NEW—Point/CounterPoint
Video: Social Media (teacher contest)
Teachers were to create a 30-second video taking a side on the issue “Should social media be allowed in the 21st Century classroom?”

K-12 Winner:
Shane Haley from Schuyler Middle School

Thanks to Matt Lee, Westside High School, for coordinating this contest. ❖

ISTE 2012 in San Diego
NETA Registration and Housing Options

PLAN NOW to attend ISTE 2012 on June 24–27, 2012 at the San Diego Convention Center! Join more than 13,000 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.

NETA is providing a special ISTE 2012 housing and registration offer for our membership. This offer provides Nebraska NETA members a block of reserved rooms at a hotel, guaranteed super early bird registration rate of $338 ($239 if you are an ISTE member through July 2012), and an opportunity for a Nebraska reception while at ISTE.

ISTE organizers have reserved a block of rooms for Nebraska NETA members in the Embassy Suites San Diego Bay, 601 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101—a short walk from the Convention Center. The rates are $273.00 (single), $293.00 (double), $313.00 (triple), and $333.00 (quad). Complimentary shuttle busses are available to and from the Convention Center. This hotel offers free breakfast and an evening manager’s reception. All accommodations are subject to state and room taxes.

To register for the ISTE Conference or to reserve rooms, please go to http://netasite.org and click on the link for ISTE Conference info. If you have any questions about registration or housing for ISTE 2012, please contact Sandy Blankenship at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org) ❖

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NETA Booth 107
NETA’s Technology Grant Program

Midterm Reports from 2011 Winners

Jenna Krambeck
Elkhorn Ridge Middle School

iPads for 21st Century Literacy

Improving 21st Century Literacy is a key classroom focus over the past five months. As many of you know, 7th graders don’t necessarily jump for joy when asked to read difficult text, decode words, and memorize Greek and Latin Roots, so the addition of the iPad into my classroom has been a starting point for many students to get excited about reading once again. One of the best FREE applications I have found is the QR Reader for iPad/iPod. Below you will find a few 7th grader approved QR code ideas and applications for your classroom.

Word Walls
By using a simple template I type in the vocabulary word that the students are focusing on for the week. Then, I create a QR code using the Kaywa QR Code Generator (http://qrcode.kaywa.com) and upload the picture file to the template. Students draw pictures to represent the meaning of each word to complete the word wall addition.

Resource Links on Classroom Handouts
If students are struggling to understand a concept a QR code link might make the difference. Place a QR code with a link to online notes or resources strategically on the handout. This allows students either at home or on a bus to activities (such as sporting events), to see notes, a quick review of the lesson, or materials from a mobile device.

More information/ideas that I have uncovered through this project can be found at this website address: http://krambecktechtips.blogspot.com

Happy Teaching!

Mike Mansour
Jesuit Academy, Omaha, NE

Green Monkey Project for Recycling and Renewable Energy

The Green Monkey Project 2011 is going very well. We started with a unit on recycling and natural resources in October and began creating the Green Monkey Homes (greenmonkeyhomes.com) website in November. Students, working in pairs, had to research a particular area related to recycling or saving energy in their homes and assemble resources for their page of the website. The 6th graders are blogging about their progress at the Green Monkey Blog (greenmonkeyschools.com/blog) and have just completed their first presentation of the site to the 5th grade class at our school.

Keeping up with the volume of blog posts has been the biggest problem. We’re using a hosted Wordpress blog and each student has writer level permissions. If I miss a couple of days, I can end up with nearly 50 posts to approve. This takes a while to get through. Along with the site domain and hosting fees we purchased a pro Weebly account, which the students are using to create their sites. Weebly allows you to set page level edit permissions for multiple users on a single site. Unfortunately, we ran into some log-in trouble when we tried this feature. After contacting Weebly, I learned that you can’t set student accounts as site editors on a shared site—only regular Weebly users can become co-editors. They hope to add this feature for students soon. To work around this, the students created pages on their student accounts then linked to their classmates’ pages.

Moni Hourt
Crawford High School

Crawford Historical Documentaries

The funding we received from NETA enabled us to buy one more double-screened computer for our computer lab. Three years ago, we had five computers with the capability of running a video editing program, today, thanks to grants like NETA’s we have ten. (Continued on the next page)
Executive Director Position

As announced in the February newsletter, the NETA Executive Director position is open for applications. In October, current NETA Executive Director Sandy Blankenship notified the board that she plans to leave the position. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. If you are interested, please contact NETA President Renee Kopf at rkopf@fallscityps.org.

The Executive Director shall:
1. Be appointed by the Board of Directors. The position shall be non-voting and compensation will be determined by the Board of Directors. The position and the pay shall be reviewed annually.
2. Attend all meetings.
3. Assist with maintaining a continuity of the organization.
   a. Act as the official documents repository.
   b. Keep copies of all official communications and/or historical records.
4. Increase management efficiency of the organization.
   a. Maintain the Post Office box of the organization.
   b. Transmit all communication between membership and the Post Office.
   c. Facilitate production of, but not be limited to:
      i. The NETA newsletter (4/year).
      ii. NETA Conference packets.
      iii. NETA web site.
      iv. Official correspondence.
      v. Mailing of all materials (Bulk mailings).
   d. Maintain current membership lists and release necessary materials to members.
   e. Manage conference and workshop registrations for NETA-supported events.
   f. Assist the Board as requested.
5. Increase visibility of the organization.
6. Secure additional funding for the organization.
7. Maintain organization’s non-profit corporate and tax exempt status.
8. Protect legal and financial interests of the organization.
9. Assure compliance of association activities with bylaws.
10. Remain current in topics of educational technology at regional and national levels.

Meeting Minutes on the Web

NETA Board, 1:1 Community & Tech Coordinator meetings
The NETA Board decided to save print publishing costs by posting the minutes from the NETA Board meetings on the NETA website only. The same will be true for the 1:1 Community group and the Tech Coordinator group.

- Find minutes from the February 2012 NETA Board meeting here: http://netasite.org/resources.html
- Minutes for the 1:1 Community meetings can be found here: http://laptop.communities.esu10.org
- Minutes for the Tech Coordinators’ meetings are available here: http://netasite.org/techcoord
The Numbers Are staggering—the information overload is immense. Every 60 seconds:

- Search engine Google serves more that 694,445 queries
- 6,600+ pictures are uploaded on Flickr
- 600 videos are uploaded on YouTube videos, amounting to 25+ hours of content
- 695,000 status updates, 79,364 wall posts and 510,040 comments are published on Social Networking site Facebook
- 70 New domains are registered
- 168,000,000+ emails are sent
- 320 new accounts and 98,000 tweets are generated on Social-Networking site Twitter
- iPhone applications are downloaded more than 13,000 times
- 20,000 new posts are published on Micro-blogging platform tumbler
- Popular web browser FireFox is downloaded more than 1700 times
- Popular blogging platform Wordpress is downloaded more than 50 times
- WordPress Plugins are downloaded more than 125 times
- 100 accounts are created on professional networking site LinkedIn
- 40 new Questions are asked on Yahoo Answers.com
- 100+ questions are asked on Answers.com
- 1 new article is published on Associated Content, the world’s largest-source of community-created content
- 1 new definition is added on UrbanDictionary.com
- 1,200+ new ads are created on Craigslist
- 370,000+ minutes of voice calls done by Skype users
- 13,000+ hours of music streaming is done by personalized Internet radio provider Pandora
- 1,600+ reads are made on Scribd, the largest social reading publishing company

Are you standing on the sidelines or are you checking out some of the incredible happenings on the Internet?

http://www.go-gulf.com/blog/60-seconds

Infographic by Shanghai Web Designers
Wow—I bet that was speedy fast! Several HyperCard and Hyperstudio presentations begin popping up next. Renee Bose did a session on Hands-on Introduction to Hyperstudio and Scott Johnson presented Hands-on Introduction to Hypercard. ClarisWorks was a big hit in the late 90’s when Janet Caughlin presented ClarisWorks Projects Created by Teachers Like YOU with Students Like Yours. I bet Palace E at the Holiday Inn was packed for that one. As the end of the century approached, the topic of students as producers of video began showing through the presentations. William Bolen presented both Happy Mac, Avid Cinema and the following year, Effective Use of Video Production In Your Classroom.

Starting in the new century, sessions on Microsoft products began appearing for productivity. Scott Plummer did an entire workshop on Excel and Access. In the description he wrote, “...use these programs as time saving productivity tools.” Handheld devices were a big theme throughout the early and mid 2000’s. Many presentations and keynoters presented on the use of them in the learning environment. This was evident when Tony Vincent and his students presented Using Handhelds in the Classroom. More than a half a decade ago, iPods began appearing in the learning process. They were more than a music player. Sue Burch presented The iPod, More Than a Music Player and the description said, “...as a versatile productivity and professional development tool.” I also need to mention the ongoing sessions that have referred to the iLife suite. There have been many instructional strategies that attendees have received from multiple sessions offered. In fact, podcasting was (and still continues) to be a way for students and teachers to show off their creativity. Dan Schmidt presented: Podcasting with Purpose—25 models to Energize Research and Learning. So many great topics and sessions have been presented over the last twenty-five years. With some quick math, close to 4,000 breakout sessions have been presented at NETA conferences. As we look to the future, can we continue to sustain the momentum? I know we can! Keep up the awesome work!

Past Presidents
Whether you noticed it or not, I gave several “Shout Outs” to many of our past-presidents that have given so much time and dedication to NETA. I apologize for not being able to list all of their presentations throughout the last 25 years. Their contribution continues to create positive change throughout our association and classrooms throughout the world.

Great Plains Google Apps for Education Summit
Nebraska Educational Service Units (ESUs), in partnership with the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA), the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA) and Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) are excited to bring you the first Great Plains Google Summit to be held at Lincoln Southwest High School in Lincoln, Nebraska on July 19–20, 2012.

The Summit has strands for technology directors, school administrators and classroom teachers! All presenters are either Google staff or invited Google Apps for Education Certified Trainers from across the country.

Registration opened on February 14 and is limited to the first 500 to register, so register early! We look forward to seeing you in Lincoln this summer!

http://www.greatplainssummit.org
Excellence in Leading with Technology Awards

Dr. Kent Steen, Assistant Principal at Lincoln Public School's Kooser Elementary, is one of NETAs two recipients of the 2012 Excellence in Leading with Technology. Kent has been with LPS since 1995 when he was hired as a classroom teacher.

The principal at his school noted, “Kent’s name in Lincoln Public Schools is synonymous with technology. He is always a willing partner and responds in a helping, non-threatening manner, demonstrating that he is a leader who sees the big picture for our school district...”

Kent demonstrates leadership by finding ways of helping students throughout the district. He promotes the use of assistive technology for students with special needs while assisting gifted students express creativity through the use technology. Students, teachers and administrators look to Dr. Steen for leadership in technology use.

Professional Affiliations include the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Nebraska Education Technology Association, Global Association of Teachers of Economics

Kent’s Local Leadership includes experience as a Trainer, Facilitator, Committee Chair, Website Editor and these LPS Committees: Technology at all grade levels; School Improvement, Curriculum; Safety, Wellness; Math, Social Studies; Literacy, Music; Special Needs, Gifted, Behavior; Drug Free Nebraska; & Student Council.


Kent has received numerous Outstanding Educator awards from various groups, several Trainer awards and Educational Scholarships. He has been a Leader & Sponsor for many team and individual NETA contest winners. He has published articles for the Journal of Computers in Math & Science Teaching, Thinkfinity.org and Hypernexus.

Kirk Langer, the Director of Technology at the Lincoln Public Schools, has been a tireless advocate for seeking out and implementing the best and most appropriate technology tools for educators, students, administrators and staff. Since becoming the Director of Technology in 2003, he successfully merged the LPS Instructional Technology and Information Systems departments, creating a unified Computing Systems department with over 40 employees.

Mr. Langer was also the first responder to the catastrophic fire on May 30, 2011, that completely destroyed the LPS District Offices. With Kirk’s exemplary organization and planning skills, the Computing Services teams built from scratch a temporary data center at UNL, and within days had critical systems up and running. Under Kirk’s leadership, teams of specialists in Computing Services had all systems running for an on-time start of the 2011-12 school year for over 36,000 students despite the fact that the original 250+ employees of the office building were scattered throughout several remote temporary locations.

For the Lincoln Public Schools, Kirk has guided the implementation of Enterprise Content Management for all staff and students, Pinnacle Gradebook and Scheduling, Time and Attendance System, School Board paperless eMeetings, Distance Learning program, and the Teacher 1:1 laptop implementation.

Kirk’s District Leadership roles include the Business Affairs Leadership Team, Instructional Directors Council, Human Resources Leadership Team, ESU Accreditation—Technology Services, Community Technology Advisory Committee (Chair), Strategic Planning Committee and the Technology Strategic Planning Committee (Chair). Locally he serves on the City of Lincoln Cable Advisory Board (Chair).

Kirk is involved with many statewide groups, including the Nebraska Information Technology Commission, Learning Management System Workgroup (chair), NETA (presenter several years), Network Nebraska Advisory Group, ESU Network Operations Committee (NOC), Nebraska Distance Learning Assoc. (presenter).

Presentations regionally & nationally: EdWeek National Webinar, Technology and Learning National Webinar, Gartner Print and Imaging Summit (best of show), NETA/NCSA K–12 Disaster Recovery Workshop (Keynote), Great Plains Google Apps for Education Summit (Steering Committee), GovTech.Com—Nebraska Digital Government Summit, CoSN and ISTE presentations in various years.

Congratulations to Kirk and Kent, and thanks to William Bolen, the contest coordinator.
Recommended Bylaw Changes

By the NETA Board Governance Committee, submitted by Tom Rolfes

Pursuant to Article XI, Section B of the NETA Constitution and Bylaws, I, Tom Rolfes, Chair of the NETA Board Governance Committee, do hereby submit the following Bylaw changes for consideration by the NETA membership at their April 2012 General Meeting.

Article III. Membership (itemize student member privileges)
C. 3. Student members must be full-time undergraduate students, and will have all the rights and privileges of regular members, with the exception of voting rights and receipt of printed publications.

Article VI. Officers and their duties
A.2. Nominating Nominations Committee (grammatical change)
D. The Secretary shall: (modify Secretary's duties and term)
D.1. Keep a record of Record and archive the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and the NETA annual meeting.
D.2. See that actions requiring communication with members, other individuals or groups are promptly carried out. Make available a copy of the minutes to be made public within ten (10) working days of such meetings.
D.3. Help the president elect in the coordination of conference information and registration materials.
D.6. The position may be held by the same person for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

E. The Treasurer shall: (clarify annual review requirements)
E.5. Be prepared to submit records for an annual internal and/or external audit review to by a committee composed of the Executive Director, the President, the President Elect and one board member.

Article VII. Board of Directors (clarify and harmonize language)
A. The Board of Directors of NETA shall be composed of the elected officers and twelve (12) directors elected by the membership as voting members.

E. Whenever a board member or officer changes employment, the member or officer submits a resignation for discussion by the board.

Article VIII. Duties of the Board of Directors (clarify and harmonize language)
E. The Board of Directors will establish operational policies and procedures consistent with existing policies set by the voting membership.
G. The Board of Directors will recommend policy and policy Bylaw changes to the voting membership.
M. The Board of Directors may establish and abolish appointive officer positions, as necessary, to carry out its function, consistent with these Articles.
O. The Board of Directors has the power to impeach any elected official–officer or member of the Board of Directors for reasons that the Board would deem necessary just cause.
P. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Executive Liaison, Executive Director and Exhibitor Coordinator, other appointive positions with each the executive officers, Executive Director’s and each appointive position’s duties being prescribed by the Board.
S. The Board of Directors will maintain a financial reserve with a value no less than one year’s operational expenses of the organization.

(Bylaw changes continued on the next page)
Article X. Executive Positions

Director (relocate two appointive positions to Policies and Procedures)

A. The Exhibitor Coordinator shall:
   1. Be appointed by the officers of the NETA Board and approved by the Board. The position shall be non-voting and compensation will be determined by the Board of Directors. The position shall be reviewed annually.
   2. Attend all board meetings.
   3. Coordinate relations between NETA and interested vendors.
   4. Assist the officers in coordinating the annual conference.
   5. Explore commercial funding sources for NETA activities.
   6. Remain current in topics of educational technology at regional and national levels.

B. The Executive Liaison shall:
   1. Be appointed by the Board. The position shall be non-voting and compensation will be determined by the Board of Directors. This person shall be appointed every three years.
   2. Assure a continuity of the organization:
      a. Act as the official contact with the national organization (ISTE).
      b. Share all information received by ISTE with the NETA Board.
      c. Attend all meetings.
      d. Advise the Board on historical issues facing the organization.
   3. Facilitate communication on educational technology issues at local, state, and national levels:
      a. Make available the results of nonpartisan analysis, study, or research.
      b. Provide technical advice or assistance to a governmental body or to a committee or other subdivision thereof in response to a written request by such body or subdivision, as the case may be.
      c. Appear before, or communicate to, any legislative body with respect to a possible decision of such body which might affect the existence of the organization, its powers and duties, tax-exempt status, or the deduction of contributions to the organization.
      d. Communicate between the organization and its bona fide members with respect to legislation or proposed legislation of direct interest to the organization and such members.
   4. Remain current in topics of educational technology at regional and national levels.

A. The Executive Director shall: (modify Executive Director duties)
   2. Attend all meetings.
   3. Assist with maintaining a continuity of the organization:
      a. Act as the official documents repository.
      b. Keep copies of all official communications and/or historical records.
      c. Attend all meetings.
      d. Advise the Board on policy and membership issues facing the organization.
   8. Assure compliance of association activities with the Constitution and Bylaws and operational policies and procedures.

Article XI. Amending the Constitutions and Bylaws (clarify procedures and capitalization)

B.2. Any regular member may submit in writing a proposed amendment that shall be in written form. This must come to be received by the Board of Directors at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting.

B.4.5.6. Constitution and Bylaws

Article XII. Fiscal Year (clarify audit procedures)

B. An external or internal review of financial statements will occur annually in accordance with standard accounting practices, concurrent with the election of the treasurer, and include all accounts controlled by the treasurer or other special projects.

B. An audit will occur within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year, including all accounts controlled by the treasurer or other special projects.

**NOTE** Explanatory notes are italicized. Additions are underlined. Deletions are strikethrough.
**Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars**

*Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators*

### April 2012

**Infotec (by the AIM Inst.)**
April 17–18, 2012
CenturyLink Center
Omaha, NE
infotec.org

**National School Boards Association (NSBA)**
(No more T+L events—NSBA has stronger tech strands!)
April 21–23, 2012
Boston, MA
annualconference.nsba.org

**NETA Spring Conference 25 Years of Innovation!**
April 26–27, 2012
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
La Vista, NE
netasite.org

### June 2012

**Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)**
June 5–7, 2012
Kearney, NE
ncconference.com

**Technology in Education (TIE)**
June 19–21, 2012
Copper Mountain, Colorado
tiecolorado.org/conference/

**ISTE Conference Expanding Horizons**
June 24–27, 2012
San Diego, CA
www.isteconference.org/2012/

### July 2012

**Great Plains Google Apps for Education Summit**
July 19–20, 2012
Lincoln, NE
www.greatplainssummit.org

### August 2012

**Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning**
August 8–10, 2012
Madison, Wisconsin
www.uwex.edu/disted/conference

### October 2012

**ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference**
October 14–16, 2012
Des Moines, IA
itec-ia.org/en/conference/

**Nebraska Distance Learning Association (NDLA) Conference**
Durham Museum
Omaha, NE
October 26, 2012
ndla.org

### January 2013

**MacWorld Expo**
The Moscone Center
San Francisco, CA
macworldexpo.com

**Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)**
January 28–31, 2013
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
fetc.org

### February 2013

**Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)**
February 11–13, 2013
St. Charles, MO
metcconference.org

**Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)**
February 4–8, 2013
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

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**United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)**
April 29–May 2, 2012
St. Louis, MO
www.usdla.org/2012-usdla-national-conference
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, 2011, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but can not attend the Spring Conference 2012, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April, 2013. 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