Message from the President

I Just Can’t Wait For...

Networking with Colleagues
I don’t know about you, but seeing colleagues from all over the region that I see once a year is pretty exciting. Social networking has really helped staying in touch, but sometimes it is always more fun to talk in person. Take advantage of the time you have together and how you can keep in contact throughout the year.

Consistent projection in every room
Another great partnership that NETA has put together this year is with a projector manufacturer. For all presenters and participants, the projection should be consistent and bright in every breakout session.

Introducing a new NETA app
It is an electronic world that we live in. All around us are devices that connect to anywhere we want. It is time for NETA to join the app world. Both an iOS app and a droid app are now available for download. Please see inside the newsletter for more information and let us know your thoughts.

Time for reflection and sharing
John Dewey said, “We do not learn from experience...we learn from reflecting on experience.” How do you set time to make reflection a priority? Make a commitment to implement one thing after leaving the conference. Finally, make it a priority to schedule a time to share your findings with your colleagues back at home. Even better share your information immediately while learning at the conference.

P. S. After all, it is important to bring your openness, your knowledge, and the need to meet new people and make the most of it. See you very soon.

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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 2013 Spring Conference T-shirt.

Contact Julie Moore, 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.

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April 2013

http://netasite.org
President Elect’s Message

Sessons, Sessons, Sessons!

Below are some commonly used terms we use at the NETA conference that may help you decide which sessions to attend.

**BYOD—Bring Your Own Device**
BYODs feature hands-on exploration of resources or practice with technology skills and programs using participants’ own devices.

**Concurrent/Demonstration Session**
A group of sessions presented simultaneously. Attendees choose one session per time slot.

**Poster Sessions**
Informal learning stations focused on the sharing of classroom projects, curriculum, staff development, or administrative ed tech ideas. Attendees stroll through the Poster sessions freely and presenters are available for questions.

**Playgrounds**
Stations that provide educators opportunities to “play” with interactive technologies for creativity and learning. Attendees stroll through at their own pace.

**Session Strands**
Session strands are concurrent sessions aligned with a particular theme and set in the same room for either Thursday, Friday, or both days. This years strands include 1:1, Assistive Technology, Conversation, Digital Citizenship, Distance Learning, and Technical. There are also other listed strands not organized by room. See the online search tool for more.

With over 200 sessions to choose from at the NETA Conference, it can be difficult to sort through the myriad sessions and find the right fit for you. You will receive a conference program in your bag when you arrive at the conference, but please be sure to utilize the online session search tool. This will help you organize your days and make the best use of your time at the conference before you get there. Also note, the session presenters have the opportunity to upload session resources in the website session search. You will find the session search tool on NETA’s website at [http://netasite.org](http://netasite.org).

See what’s new at our booth!

Please join us at
NETA 2013

CCS Presentation Systems provides superior audio video products, services, and solutions to meet the unique needs of every child.

Visit us online at [www.ccsmidwest.com](http://www.ccsmidwest.com)
NETA Conference 2013
Network Challenges!
A revised message from Dennis McIntyre, Retired NETA Site Coordinator

Please don’t get caught having all of your devices powered on!

Here are a few network courtesy rules that 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. We have contracted for a big Internet pipe and an outside vendor to provide high density wireless and a backbone between the access points for added help.

2. Along with some upgrading of the facility and management of the network equipment, the conference participants (yes, YOU) also need to do their job—everyone needs to be careful and thoughtful about WiFi dependent usage. Try and stay with one device for doing all of your research, note taking, and communication. The cooperation and collaboration of those in attendance does make a big difference!

3. This year we have some continuing challenges and required commitments. Smartphone technology allows users to set up a wireless hot spot using their phone. Any such use of wireless hot spots during the conference creates another threat to the reliability of the conference network system. Please...don’t!

4. Together, we can do this!
We can keep the network at the Embassy Suites stable and functioning during this year’s NETA conference. We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you.

Please don’t get caught having all of your devices powered on!

We can work together to help assure network capacity and reliability. Remember only you can prevent network storms!

Pre-registration
Open Through April 5th!

We hope to see you at NETA on April 25–26, at La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center. Please make sure you have registered for NETA by April 5th. Your registration needs to be done online by that date, faxed, or postmarked April 5th if sent via mail. After April 5th, please plan to register onsite.

Plan now to find your way to La Vista, Exit 442, for an exciting two days to Ignite Learning at the conference!

Barcodes and QR Codes 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. In addition your name badge will have a QR code on it for exhibitors to use.

At this point we do not know how many exhibitors will participate in badge barcode or QR code scanning. We anticipate that there will be quite a few since many have suggested that we add this option.
The Election Results are In!

Announcing the New 2013 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

Gregg Robke
President-Elect
ESU 4

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 conference.

Rich Molettiere
Treasurer
Omaha Public Schools

The Treasurer is elected every two years. The treasurer receives and disburses all funds for NETA and keeps the board informed of the status of all accounts.

Congratulations to Gregg and Rich for being elected to these offices!

Directors, Three-year term

Heather Callihan
Northwest Public Schools
Director 2016

Brent Catlett
Bellevue Public Schools
Director 2016

Jason Schmidt
Bennington Public Schools
Director 2016

Angie Wassenmiller
Concordia University
Director 2016

Evi Wusk
Peru State College
Director 2014

Director—One Year Term

(remainder of Gregg Robke’s term)

Leaving the Board this Year

The following people will be leaving the board this year as their terms expire. Each retiring Board member has willingly contributed endless hours of time, thought and effort into the organization and will certainly be missed.

Renee Kopf—Falls City PS
Renee has been an active member of the NETA Board and also served as President-Elect, President, and now Past President. Renee was a great organizer of NETA’s 25th Anniversary Celebration. She was a very dedicated leader who excelled in communication and organization. She was always quick to volunteer for any task even when she wasn’t quite sure how it was going to turn out. We will all miss Renee’s presence on the NETA board as she has truly been an exemplary leader!

Nicki Markut—Waverly PS
Nicki’s willingness to serve in many different capacities has been appreciated. Nicki served on the Contest Committee, chaired individual contests, and also spent many hours behind the retail booth. Nicki’s active involvement in the middle school classroom has been a great help with keeping things in perspective both within committee work and decisions made by the entire board. We will miss Nicki on the board and her attention to detail.

Jason Rushing – Lincoln PS
Jason was very active with the Contest Committee and has annually helped judge contest entries in many different categories. Jason could be found at the retail booth assisting members purchasing books or T-shirts. With Jason working directly with students, he has been able to keep board members “in touch” with what’s happening in the classroom! We will miss Jason on the NETA Board and look forward to his contributions at future presentations.

Our sincere thanks to all of these great leaders. All of your contributions have continued to help NETA grow to what it is today. If you would like to be more active in NETA by serving on the NETA Board of Directors, consider being a nominee in 2014. 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.

http://netasite.org
NETA Conference Site 2013
Welcome to the La Vista Conference Center, Embassy Suites and so much more!

The NETA 2013 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
The Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn are full. There are a few remaining rooms left at the Marriott Courtyard. For additional options please check the NETA website: http://netasite.org/housing2013

Food accommodations
- Embassy—complimentary full breakfast & Manager’s reception afternoon/evening
- Hampton Inn—Complimentary breakfast & Manager’s reception
- Marriott—check out their Bistro area
- Thursday Advanced registration—Main entrance, turn right, in the Gatsby room
- Wednesday night registration hours are 5:00–7:00 p.m.

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

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

Registration
- Register by April 5 or plan to register onsite
- Conference Center main entrance
- 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 in the registration area, directly after the keynote. Resident tuition is $202.75 per credit hour and non-resident tuition is $383.50 per credit hour + any applicable fees.

We look forward to welcoming you to the La Vista Embassy Suites and Conference Center! ❖
Rockin’ Reference Sites!

**Word Hippo** (http://www.wordhippo.com/) is a site that will help you find the meaning of words, pronunciation, translation into different languages, find plural forms, use sentences with that word, see words that rhyme, and more! This is a great site for any student or teacher who needs more information.

**Math Words** (http://www.mathwords.com/) is a great site for any teacher or student who wants a reference for Math words. It is organized alphabetically and by subject area with the option to just search the site. What impressed me about this site is that it isn’t just terms, but also formulas. The explanations are readable for average math students and have tons of examples and illustrations.

**Wordnik** (http://www.wordnik.com/) is a site that connects words with meanings, images, synonyms, rhyming words, and word visualizations/word maps. This site also features pronunciation that is read out loud in more than one way because many words have more than one pronunciation! Wordnik has sound effects for most words. For example, the word ‘harbor’ - the first sound effect listed was seagulls and ocean waves and the second was just the sound of waves.

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**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 another Great Plains Google Summit to be held at Lincoln Southwest High School in Lincoln, Nebraska on **July 18–19, 2013**.

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 is now open and is limited to the first 500 to register, so register early! We look forward to seeing you in Lincoln this summer!

http://www.gpsummit.org
CenturyLink and NETA collaborated to provide grant opportunities to teachers in Nebraska. The purpose of the program was 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.

Twelve Nebraska schools were selected in 2012 to receive grant funds. Projects have included the use of iPads, Kindle Fires, iPod touches, Livescribe smart pens, a production system and supporting items for each grant. Each project’s full mid-term report was included in the NETA November newsletter issue. Their final reports have indicated their objectives have been met and they are continuing to move forward in a positive direction.

**iPads prevalent**

iPad purchases were prevalent in many of the grants awarded. Debbie Komenda and Stephanie Dannehl were able to purchase iPads for Holdrege Public Schools to increase student achievement in reading and differentiating instruction. Kerri Stover at La Vista West Elementary was also able to purchase iPads to be used in K-1 classrooms. Her project, *Jump Starting Literacy at Home and School*, has strengthened the school-to-home connection, as well as expanded learning opportunities.

At O’Neill Elementary Kevin Morrow used iPads in his program, *iFitness to Fight Childhood Obesity*, using them in his physical education classes. Maggie Tiller at Gothenburg High School purchased iPads for her project titled, *On the Path to Paperless*. She wrote in her final report, “While I know that my classroom is a long ways from being paper-less, this grant has allowed me to make great strides towards it, while meeting the learning needs of my students at the same time.”

Another school found success with the implementation of iPads into the classroom. Melissa Werner and Kathy Friedrich from Norfolk Public Schools followed an iREAD project in Escondido, CA. The use of the iPads helped address the achievement gap and found reading fluency was the *bridge to comprehension*. Livescribe smart pens and iPads were used at Norfolk Senior High to increase student mathematical skills and knowledge through the grant awarded to Sandy Dieckman, Angie Means, and Carrie Kopf. In another project, students at West Holt Public School used iPad’s to create responsible content, not just consume content, an objective of Sarah Vogel’s grant.

**Kindle Fires, iPod Touches and NewTek Tricaster 450**

Other grants awarded did not include iPads. Second graders at Holy Name School love their Kindle Fires utilizing them in multiple subject areas, awarded from the CenturyLink/NETA grant applied for by Jen Reents.

Laurie Maline has found many beneficial uses of the Kindle Fires she purchased through her grant funds. Her students at Lincoln Elementary in North Platte have used them for reading, research, math and spelling.

Matt Hinkel at West Point Beemer High School used his grant money awarded to put towards a NewTek Tricaster 450 portable live production system to live stream over the Internet events held at their high school.

The students at C. Ray Gates Elementary School in Grand Island were able to use iPod touches through the grant received by Sara Robinson. The goal of her project was “to incorporate technology across the curriculum in order to foster student ownership and achievement through the formative assessment process.” The project *Nifty Fifty Goes Digital*, submitted by Trish Finley used Kindle Fires for a digital learning experience at All Saints Catholic School. She wrote, “As I reflect on the experiences, the diverse population at All Saints has had in learning new things from the Kindle Fires, my heart is full of gratitude for the grant money.”

Attend their poster sessions on their projects at the 2013 NETA conference this April to find out more about each grant project!

While CenturyLink/NETA grants have not been awarded this year, be looking for exciting news coming up at the NETA spring conference!
Skitch is a remarkable app for multiple devices and platforms that allows students to annotate over images. I am currently working daily with Bree Campbell, @breeanneshay, at Bellevue East to implement iPads in her English classroom. We used Skitch in the classroom to its fullest potential in our effort to create a paperless classroom and a learning environment that is ubiquitous, not device dependent.

One of the challenges we faced was taking a character analysis chart and transforming it into the digital, cloud-based world so students can interact with the content anywhere. Since the chart contained a table, Google Docs mobile was out, because the table feature is not available yet on the iPad. We brainstormed several alternatives including Pages, Notability, and Doceri, but settled on Skitch since it allowed students to type on the image, size it easily, save to a camera roll, and can be uploaded to Google Drive and Evernote.

**Step 1: Getting the image to Skitch**

First we tried to take a picture of the paper and import it into Skitch. The quality of the image was ok, but we weren’t quite satisfied. There had to be an even better solution. And we found it!

On the computer, I copied the chart from Word (Edit>Select All>Copy) to a PowerPoint slide (New Slide>Paste) and saved the slide as a JPEG image.

To save a PowerPoint slide as an image do the following:

1. File>Save As
2. Click the Arrow and select JPEG from the choices listed.

Voila! A crystal clear image is ready to go.

**Note:** Remember where you save the image. I like to save to my desktop.

Then, we e-mailed the image to all the students to save in their camera roll.

(Continued on the next page)
The Learning Web Turns Nine!

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

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

The Learning Web teams:
- attend the NETA Conference in LaVista (Omaha area) April 25–26, 2013 to gather ideas for the project.
- attend a regional two-day institute in June at an ESU to learn about instructional strategies and develop an action plan.
- work with a team facilitator who will help to answer questions and provide resources.
- align the project to a school improvement goal.
- make sure the project supports at least one proven instructional strategy.
- implement the project by second semester of the 2013–14 school year.
- share the project at the NETA conference in April, 2014.

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

The project teams from last year will be presenting the success of their projects at a poster session during the NETA conference on April 25th. Don’t miss this session! The focus of last year’s teams was improving reading. Many of the poster sessions will highlight the tools they’ve used to improve student learning.

This is the ninth year for the project, and the hope is that it will be on-going and grow in future years. Each participating ESU will recruit a district as their 2013 team.

The Learning Web is sponsored by the Nebraska Educational Service Units, NETA, & Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

(Skitch, cont. from previous page)

Step 2: Editing and Saving the Image

The kids saved the image into their camera roll on the iPad, then opened Skitch, and imported the image. Each student added information to the chart daily and saved the image to the camera roll at the end of each class period.

The classroom workflow for the week was: students open Skitch, import their edited image from the previous day, and keep adding content. On Friday, students saved it to the camera roll and e-mailed the completed chart to us for grading. Now on to paperless grading!

A sample of the completed chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Situational Characteristics</th>
<th>Comment or criticism made about contemporary society through the character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bart Simpson</td>
<td>Trouble maker</td>
<td>Young boys are only interested in what they want to do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer Simpson</td>
<td>Loves his family</td>
<td>The average dad is lazy and not very smart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ned Flanders</td>
<td>Optimistic and cheerful</td>
<td>The perfect wholesome family always trying to improve things for his kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apu Nahasapeemapetilon</td>
<td>Hard working</td>
<td>Immigrants don’t normally receive a job that matches their skill level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the last few years I have been contemplating the idea of flipping my high school Algebra 2 classrooms, and this year I finally took the dive. For those of you not versed in this concept, flipping the classroom is educational jargon for re-arranging or inverting how students work in class.

The model
Just like I tell my students, “The majority of homework will look less like worksheets and assignments, and more like going to class.”

Students are expected to spend 15–20 minutes outside of class watching videos and lectures that prepare them for the next concept we’ll be learning about. Then, instead of spending class time listening to their totally awesome teacher give totally awesome lectures, they will spend the majority of the time actively learning! The goal is to use the time we have in class together to learn as much as we possibly can!

Not like American Idol
With that said, it’s important to remind students that watching a video is like listening to a lecture. Do not watch the videos like you watch American Idol! These are educational videos that you must watch ACTIVELY. That means pausing, rewinding, jotting down notes, and even asking questions.

Questions?
One common question I come across is: “How do students ask questions in the flipped model?” There are lots of choices. They may email/text/call their classmates. Students may even choose to watch the videos together on one computer or tablet to discuss topics as they watch. As with any other lecturing method, they may also email their instructor while watching to ask questions.

Questioning is imperative to the learning process, and doesn’t always have to look the same in every class. Finding a good way to promote and provoke good questioning is key to learning. I have found that when we spend less time lecturing to a quiet room, there will be more time to explore and develop great questions.

Tips for students
Here are some tips I give my students for discussing videos and asking questions in the flipped model:

1. Use a timestamp—When discussing with your classmates (in class, on the phone, through text, on the discussion board, etc.) include the exact time when that concept occurred in the video.

“At 5:31, why does she get -12x when she combines 3x and -15x?”

2. Be specific—Explain in as much detail as you can what part you find confusing:

“I can follow everything until 3:24, when she says we can use cross-products to solve. What are cross products and how do they help solve proportions?”

Start small
Flipping your classroom is not a panacea for education, nor is it a one-size fits all solution. It doesn’t necessarily work for all types of class formats. My suggestion is to start small—just flip one class or a portion of a class—and see how it goes.

Prepare and test
Be sure to prepare everything in advance, and test it all out before hand to make sure students can access the materials they need. Take it one step at a time and solicit lots of feedback from your students. And let me know how it goes!
NETA’s Student Logo Contest

The NETA Conference Logo Contest, based on the conference theme, *Ignite Learning*, was judged by a subcommittee in December, 2012. 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.

**Overall Winner—K-12 NETA Conference Logo Contest**
Sydney Langley, Tekamah-Herman Schools
Sponsor: Linda Farrens

**K-5 Winner**: Jayda Andersen, C. Ray Gates Elementary, GIPS
Sponsor: Kendra Harders

**6-8 Winner**: Jaylen Knight, Westside Middle School
Sponsor: Kristeen Shabram

**Post Secondary Winner**: Kaitlyn Tibben, Concordia University
Sponsor: Ron Bork

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**K-12 Digital Imagery Contest**

**3-5 Graphic Imagery**
1st: Shanae Dutcher, Dodge Elementary, GIPS

**6-8 Graphic Imagery**
1st: Lily Foley, St. Vincent de Paul

**K-2 Graphic Imagery**
1st: Kamdyn Anderson, Madison Elementary

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Complete Judging Results of NETA Student and Teacher Contests
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 spring conference in April, 2014.

Thanks to Nicole Badgley, Arnold Public Schools, for coordinating this contest.

Stop Wasting Water
Students will use WaterMark technology to capture digital water readings to conserve water consumption at their school’s garden ($1488)
Teacher: Jonathan Anderson
School: Conestoga High School

3-D Printing
The use of a 3D printer will allow students to develop a series of cross-curricular projects in which they must engineer aspects of design and implementation. ($1500)
Teacher: Derek Babb
School: Bellevue East High

Jump Starting Literacy at Home and School
This grant project will provide iPads for kindergarten and first grade classrooms to enhance literacy experiences through technology. ($1392)
Teacher: Kim Hilbers
School: Carriage Hill Elementary

Making Books Come Alive Through QR Codes
The focus of this grant is promoting reading and books in the library by student recommendations through creating QR codes. ($1495)
Teacher: Carol Nickerson
School: Blair North Primary

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 $1800 to attend the upcoming conference, held in San Antonio, TX, June 23-26, 2013.
- Jenna Krambeck, Elkhorn Middle School ($1800)
- Jeff Paige, Grand Island Northwest High School ($1800)

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 2013.
- Shawna Beeler, Sutherland Public School
- Amanda Preister, Gates Elementary School
- Debra Smolik, Alma Public School

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

9–12 Graphic Imagery
1st: Parker Giddings, Papillion-LaVista South High School

(Continued on the next page)
3rd— Conner Schleicher, Dodge Elementary School  
Sponsor: Leah Townsend

**Grade 6-8 Graphic Imagery**  
1st— Lily Foley, St. Vincent de Paul  
Sponsor: Michael Pflaum

2nd— Mallory Grote, St. Vincent de Paul  
Sponsor: Michael Pflaum

3rd— Katie Chesson, Karen Western Elementary School  
Sponsor: Corrie Suhr

**Grade 9-12 Graphic Imagery**  
1st— Parker Giddings, Papillion-LaVista South High School  
Sponsor: Lisa Alfrey

2nd— Heath Fink, Thayer Central  
Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik

3rd— McCall Madsen, Thayer Central  
Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik

Thanks to Jackie Ediger, ESU 9, for coordinating this contest.

**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–2: Mikah Culler & Carley Pool, Dodge Elementary, GIPS

3–5: Karely Carreto-Olvera & Ashley Parra-Valencia, Jefferson Elementary, GIPS

3–5: Sydney Cobler, Dodge Elementary, GIPS

3–5: Luke Norvell, Dodge Elementary, GIPS

6–8: McDaid Elementary 6th Grade Class 2011-2012

6–8: Lucy Peterson & Haley Vanek, St. Vincent de Paul

9–12: Julian Marcello, Information Technology Focus Program, LPS

9–12: Grant Ostrander, Eric Clements, & Kristin Beck, Adams Central

9–12: Lincoln Ruybalid, Heartland Community Schools

9–12: Henry Sipp, Information Technology Focus Program, LPS

Thanks to Jason Rushing, Lincoln Public Schools, 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**

1st—Evernote Tutorial  
Morgan Michel, Lew Marsolek, Kaci Hiebner, Bailey Carr, Sidney Dick, Jon Larson, Brandon Boardman, Megan Boardman, Darrian Chase, Kelli Bergen, Allison Braun, Aubrey Debraal, Leah Friesen, Megan Friesen, Heartland Community Schools (Grade 9–12)

2nd—Cosmetology Documentary  
Haylee Heim, Plattsmouth Middle School (Grade 6–8)

3rd—Architecture Design  
Rachel Widick, Plattsmouth Middle School (Grade 6–8)

Thanks to Jane Davis of Hershey Public Schools, for coordinating this contest.

**Web 2.0 Teacher Winners**

K–4: Miss Crowe’s Online Classroom—Kate Crowe, Dodge Elem.

5–8: Panther Show—Jennifer Showalter, Norfolk Junior High

9–12: Gallery of Awesomeness—Emily Dunbar, Hastings Sr. High

Thanks to Dawn Prescott of Schuyler MS, for coordinating this contest.

**Creative Comics**

We asked for the best original digitally created comic strips!

- Students—a comic strip that highlights learning or showcases curriculum topics
- Teachers and Pre-service Teachers—original classroom or technology humor

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

**Creative Comics for Students**

Getting the Teacher’s Attention  
Grady Griess, West Lawn Elementary, GIPS  
Sponsor: Christina Eutsler

**Creative Comics for Teachers**

Classroom Technology  
Lacy Kinderknecht, Stapleton Elementary

Thanks to Lucas Bingham, School District 145—Waverly, for coordinating this contest.

**Point/CounterPoint Video: Cell Phones**

(Contest was open to K–12 teachers, pre-service teachers and students grades 5–12)

Participants were to create a 30-second video taking a side on the issue “Should cell phones be allowed in your classroom?”

**6-8 Winners:**

Allie Morrissey & Mallory Grote, St. Vincent de Paul  
Sponsor: Angie Palmer

Lucy Myers, Barr Middle School  
Sponsor: Lori Toepfer

(Continued on the next page)
The purpose of the 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 year's winner is Chris Ericson.

Chris Ericson, Technology Manager for York Public Schools, is NETA's 2013 Excellence in Leading with Technology Award winner. Dr. Mike Lucas, Superintendent at York, says “Chris inherited a district with very little infrastructure, minimal handheld technology, outdated labs, and non-existent technology plans. Now, just three years later and due to his vibrant leadership, we are a district with updated infrastructure, ipods and ipads, new labs, and a vibrant technology plan that is overseen by a committee of educators, parents and community members.” Dr. Lucas also notes that Chris provides outstanding professional development opportunities for the York staff, and says Chris has even gone above and beyond to offer free evening technology workshops for parents and patrons.

Mitch Bartholomew, York High School Principal, commends Chris for his use of social media tools, such as the Twitter hashtag #yorkdukes, to create a positive digital footprint for York. His work “has made other schools and teachers aware of the opportunities York and their respective schools can bring to the classroom through the use of technology and media.”

Stephen Sautter, who nominated Chris for this award, commends Chris for his re-design a logo for their school or district, create an original logo for a local area business or design an original logo for a school-based business. He describes Chris as a powerful leader whose “power comes from staff and administration being able to watch him roll up his sleeves and work hard to make learning engaging and meaningful.”

Kris Friesen, York Elementary School Principal, says, “Mr. Ericson's enthusiasm and excitement for technology and how it can help teaching and learning is contagious. He does an excellent job of staying current with trends and is always willing to help staff and administration find ways that new technology ideas can be implemented. She describes Chris as a powerful leader whose “power comes from staff and administration being able to watch him roll up his sleeves and work hard to make learning engaging and meaningful.”

New—The “Brand It” Contest
For this contest students could re-design a logo for their school or district, create an original logo for a local area business or design an original logo for a school-based business.

5-8 Winner: Danielle Barton, Westside Middle School
Sponsor: Kristeen Shabram

9-12 Winners:
1st—Gregory Brozek, Thayer Central High School
Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik

2nd—Taylor Penton, Papillion-LaVista South High School
Sponsor: Lisa Alfrey

3rd—Ashley Petersen, Thayer Central High School
Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik

Thanks to Pam Krambeck, ESU 3, for coordinating this contest.

Also thanks to everyone who gave their free time and braved bad weather to judge all the contests.
Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award

The purpose of the 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 year’s winner is Shelly Mowinkel.

Shelly Mowinkel, Business & Technology Teacher at Milford Junior Senior High, is the 2013 NETA Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award winner. At Milford since 2006, Shelly has also taught at Centennial Public Schools and Heartland Public Schools. “Innovative, inspiring and integral are all adjectives that immediately come to mind when thinking about Shelly Mowinkel as a teacher,” says colleague Megan Seibel. She continues, “I know without question that I am a better teacher because of her.”

Fellow Milford teacher Julie Ann Eckman describes Shelly as “a tireless advocate of getting technology into the teachers’ hands,” and notes that Shelly provided constant encouragement and confidence as Julie worked to add 21st century skills to her business communications unit. Shelly encourages teachers to take technology home over the summer to become more comfortable using it, which helped Julie become “more enthusiastic to bring that same technology into the classroom.”

Shelly is a tireless instructional technology advocate who has presented at that national, regional, state and local levels. She has presented extensively on the use of iPads in the classroom, including sessions at the Iowa Business Educational Association conference, as well as two national National Business Teacher Association conferences. She helps moderate the weekly #nebedchat on Twitter, worked on the technology standards writing team for the Nebraska Department of Education and has written curriculum for the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. She is always willing to share her expertise at the local level as well, offering school and community focused workshops, as well as assisting with workshops offered through the Educational Service Unit 6 in Milford.

Mark Olson, Milford Public Schools Curriculum Director, describes Shelly’s work as a model for other teachers and districts, noting that through her efforts other teachers “learn that it is possible for one teacher to impact the students in an entire district by reshaping the pedagogical contours of that district. That is what Shelly Mowinkel has done for Milford Public Schools.”

Thanks to Jackie Ediger for coordinating this contest.

ISTE 2013 in San Antonio

NETA Registration and Housing Options

Plan now to attend ISTE 2013 on June 23–26, 2013 at the San Antonio 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 2013 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 $344 ($239 if you are an ISTE member through May 1, 2013), and an opportunity for a Nebraska reception while at ISTE.

ISTE organizers have reserved a block of rooms for Nebraska NETA members in the Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk, 105 St Mary’s Street, San Antonio, TX 78205—a short walk from the Convention Center. The rates are $164 for a single or double room. 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 2013 ISTE Conference. If you have any questions about registration or housing for ISTE 2013, please contact Julie Moore at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org).
Everyone worries about their accounts getting hacked. Twitter is a site that seems to get hit a lot and “Have you seen this picture of you?” is a message many people have received from time to time. This type of message is an example of spam. The account belonging to the person who sent the message has been hacked—just delete the email! If your Twitter account has been hacked, simply change your password and report it here: https://support.twitter.com/forms/general

How secure are your passwords? Visit http://www.howsecureismypassword.net to see how long it would take a desktop PC to hack your account. For my favorite password this site stated “It would take a desktop PC about 39 days to crack your password.” I don’t think anyone is going to concentrate on my accounts that long to crack it so I felt pretty good. A simple password (a common word with all lowercase letters and only one number) that I tried resulted in the message, “It would take a desktop PC .555 seconds to crack your password.” Note to self... don’t use that password anymore!

Another site - http://www.passwordmeter.com/ - tells you how strong your password is, by rating it according to caps, lowercase, numbers, symbols, and length of password. My favorite password received a score of 87% on this site. The other password (a common word with all lowercase letters and only one number) received a 20%.

Refer to one of these sites if you are worried about how secure your password is or if you are thinking about changing your password in the near future.

Conversations at NETA

“We are all smarter together!”

By Josh Allen, Papillion La Vista Schools

NETA has a long history of bringing educators together from across our great state to learn from each other. Taking that a step further, we’ve lined up another great conversation strand so that you can participate in the sharing.

Unlike standard presentations, where one person is at the front of the room, the conversation strand takes place in the relaxed environment of the Marriott Library. Those who facilitate conversations are expected to pose a question and, like you, learn from those in the audience. It’s a great opportunity to listen to everyone’s experiences. We are all smarter together!

Search for Conversation!

For more information, use the “Advanced Search” feature on the NETA session search to filter your strand by “Conversation.”

http://netasite.org
NETA 2013 Conference App

New! This year NETA will have a conference app to provide you with information highlighting our 2013 conference and NETA organization! Crescerance is the company that has created the conference app for NETA members. Please scan the QR code pictured on the right to download the conference app (available for iOS and Android devices) and find more information out about the NETA conference.

The new NETA app will highlight the featured speakers, conference schedule, exhibitors, contest winners and much more! Downloading the app will also allow NETA to provide you with the most up to date information regarding the conference.

Enjoy planning for the conference with this app and the easy-to-use interface, and we look forward to seeing you in April as we Ignite Learning!

Certiport Testing for Adobe Certified Associate Exams

Steve Carr, instructor at the Information Technology Focus Program at the Lincoln Public Schools, has set up the district’s first testing center for Adobe Certified Associate Exams. The Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) certification allows teachers and students to demonstrate proficiency in Adobe digital communications tools.

Adobe has created these Certified Associate (ACA) exams:
- Visual Communication with Adobe Photoshop
- Rich Media Communication with Adobe Flash
- Web Communication with Adobe Dreamweaver
- Video Communication with Adobe Premiere

There is a wealth of exam preparation resources available online, including a listing of exam objectives and free Adobe curriculum for teachers to use in the classroom. New exams are being added and will be announced at NETA.

Learn more about the ACA testing program at the Lincoln Public Schools at the Friday NETA conference session entitled Adobe Curriculum, Certification & Classroom Resources, presented by Steve Carr and Linda Dickeson from the Lincoln Public Schools.

The session will include information on a study in Florida that showed that high school students who took at least one technology course, and at least one industry certification exam, had better attendance and higher grade point averages (GPAs) compared to students of similar demographics who took no technology courses or exams in this same period.

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 Technology Coordinator group.

- Find minutes from NETA Board meetings 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
### Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

#### April 2013

**National School Boards Association (NSBA)**
- April 13–15, 2013
- San Diego, CA
  - [annualconference.nsba.org](http://annualconference.nsba.org)

**Infotec (by the AIM Inst.)**
- April 16–17, 2013
- CenturyLink Center
- Omaha, NE
  - [infotec.org](http://infotec.org)

**NETA Spring Conference Ignite Learning!**
- April 25–26, 2013
- La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
- La Vista, NE
  - [netasite.org](http://netasite.org)

#### June 2013

**Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)**
- June 4–6, 2013
- Kearney, NE
  - [nceconference.com](http://nceconference.com)

**Technology in Education (TIE)**
- June 18–20, 2013
- Copper Mountain, Colorado
  - [tiecolorado.org](http://tiecolorado.org)

**ISTE Conference Forging the Learning Frontier**
- June 23–26, 2013
- San Antonio, TX
  - [www.isteconference.org/2013/](http://www.isteconference.org/2013/)

#### October 2013

**ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference**
- October 13–15, 2013
- Iowa Events Center
- Des Moines, IA

#### January 2014

**Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)**
- January 28–31, 2014
- Orange County Convention Ctr, Orlando, FL
  - [fetc.org](http://fetc.org)

#### February 2014

**MacWorld/iWorld**
- February 1–3, 2014
- The Moscone Center
- San Francisco, CA
  - [www.macworldiworld.com/](http://www.macworldiworld.com/)

**Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)**
- February 3–7, 2014
- Austin, TX
  - [www.tcea.org](http://www.tcea.org)

#### July 2013

**Great Plains Google Apps for Education Summit**
- July 18–19, 2013
- Lincoln, NE
  - [www.greatplainssummit.org](http://www.greatplainssummit.org)

#### August 2013

**Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning**
- August 7–9, 2013
- Madison, Wisconsin
  - [www.uwex.edu/disted/conference](http://www.uwex.edu/disted/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, 2012, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but can not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April, 2014. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

- [ ] 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