Message from the President
Jason Everett—ESU 10, Kearney, NE

Ed Tech Leadership—C.A.R.E
You have a passion for education. You have a passion for using technology in your classroom or district. To be more effective and efficient with the students you serve. To grow and use the skills, knowledge, and understanding you have to give students the best opportunities possible. You are the ed tech leaders not only in your classroom but in your district. You are the one others come to for advice, tips, help and support. You have a responsibility to your students and others in the district and community. So many hats, so little time! How do you manage all of this? Let me propose a framework of C.A.R.E.

C—Community
Help build community through communication and collaboration. Be intentional about setting aside time at staff meetings and providing opportunities for building community outside the school day. Find hashtags in Twitter to support your curricular area and/or areas of professional passion (Google search “educational hashtags”). Seek out Google Plus communities or build one of your own. “Like” ISTE, ASCD, or Edutopia on Facebook. Share with your classroom, colleagues, and others in your community. As Henry Ford said, “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” Start building and using your communities today!

A—Assessment
We all enter into education and especially technology at differing levels. Assessing where you are and focusing on goals for your professional growth is key. There are many roads to travel and trails to blaze in the ed tech world. Don’t be overwhelmed by the many paths you may take—just pick one area to focus on and go! There are many tools to help you and others in your district self assess and set priorities for growth. ISTE has NETS for students, teachers, administrators, and coaches (www.iste.org/standards). Atomic Learning has free and paid resources you can use. Krista Moroder has the EdTechChallenge.com that you could use as a framework to help you focus. Find out what is important to you in your classroom and/or district and assess your level of skill for future growth.

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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 2014 Spring Conference T-shirt.

Contact Julie Moore, phone (402) 540-1904 or email 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 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.

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Message from the President Elect

The Maker Movement

Makey Makey, Arduino, and Raspberry Pi to name a few. Are you familiar with these? Do you know what they represent? If not, you might be interested in this new form of technology. It is known as the maker movement or the maker culture. According to Wikipedia, the maker culture is a “contemporary culture or subculture representing a technology-based extension of the DIY culture. Typical interests enjoyed by the maker culture include pursuits such as electronics, robotics, 3-D printing, and much more.” So, what is the big deal? And, why does it matter?

Create and manipulate

If you Google Makey Makey, Arduino, and Raspberry Pi, you will find that these small devices allow you to create things, make programs, and see the results on your screen. They offer great opportunities for students to be able to program these small devices so that they can manipulate something on the screen. The neat part is that each of these devices is relatively inexpensive. You can find them for under $100 each.

Arduino

The Arduino (http://www.arduino.cc) can sense the environment by receiving input from a variety of sensors and can affect its surroundings by controlling, lights, motors, and other things. The price of this device depends on which kit you decide to purchase.

Raspberry Pi

The Raspberry Pi (http://www.raspberrypi.org) is a credit-card sized computer that can plug into a keyboard and monitor. It does many things that a desktop PC can do. The developers of this device want it to be “used by kids all over the world to learn programming.”

Google developers have partnered with the creators of the Raspberry Pi to launch the DevArt project (https://devart.withgoogle.com). This is an open platform (art made with code) that allows artists to share their digital art with the world.

Makey Makey

The Makey Makey (http://www.makeymakey.com) is an “invention kit for everyone.” It comes with banana clips that you clip to a board to create different inputs. You can create a Dance Dance Revolution game out of buckets filled with water, or a piano made out of bananas. You can make a joystick out of play dough or a four-stringed guitar out of lead on a piece of paper.

What’s the idea?

The whole idea behind this movement is to help students understand the importance of programming languages. I was reading in the Omaha World Herald the other day that a dad wanted his kids to know how to program. So, he created a Tuesday night programming club in his neighborhood so he could teach programming skills to local kids. According to the article, the informal club was created because there is a shortage of programmers in the Omaha area. “Omaha and the region’s shortage of software developers is on the minds of Omaha startup founders and corporate CEOs alike, and independent code schools like the recently launched Interface and Omaha Code School aim to help fill that gap by jump-starting new careers for adults.” For more information, check out the article at http://goo.gl/9pcZbA.

You don’t even have to buy a kit to get started with programming. Many have been taking some time out of the school day for students to learn coding through the hour of code movement (http://code.org). The article mentioned above talks about CoderDojo, free workshops for kids ages 8-17 (http://coderdojo.com). Through these websites, kids can start to see how programming can be a way to interact with what you see and do on your computer screen.

The programming occupation

The Occupational Outlook Handbook from the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the growth rate of computer programmers through 2022 is expected to be 8%, almost as fast as the average growth rate for other occupations. The average growth rate for all occupations is 11%. (http://1.usa.gov/LrOfyE)

So, back to my original questions — why does this matter and what is the big deal? For me, we have an opportunity to share with students how things work, how to learn programming techniques, how to problem solve, and much more. Plus, in coming years, there will be a need for these skills in the work force. ❖
NETA Spring Conference 2014
Network Challenges!

A revised message from Dennis McIntyre, Retired NETA Site Coordinator

Here are a few network courtesy rules that we hope you will remember and apply while at the Conference.

1. Having 2500+ 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 spring conference. We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you.

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

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

Pre-registration Open Through April 4th!

We hope to see you at NETA on April 24–25, at La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center. Please make sure you have registered for NETA by April 4th. Your registration needs to be done online by that date, faxed, or post-marked April 4th if sent via mail. After April 4th, please plan to register onsite.

Plan now to find your way to La Vista, Exit 442, for an exciting two days to explore the Mission: Possible 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 2014 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

Josh Allen
President-Elect
Papillion-La Vista School District

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.

Darci Lindgren
Secretary
Lindsay Holy Family School

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

Congratulations to Josh and Darci for being elected to these offices!

Directors, Three-year term

Matthew Lee
Westside Community Schools
Director 2017

Kristina Peters
Nebraska Department of Education
Director 2017

Pam Krambeck, Educational Service Unit 3—Pam has been a NETA mainstay and an anchor for the organization. Over the years Pam has participated in all aspects of NETA and provided the board with insight and direction that is unparalleled. I know Pam will continue to support the organization and its members in any way she can. She is driven by the membership and the impact educators using technology have on our students in the state. We’ll miss Pam in her latest role as NETA secretary and wish her the best. Thank you Pam!

Dawn Prescott, Schuyler Community Schools—Dawn has been key in many aspects of our working NETA board. She has stepped up to any challenge and provided insight benefiting all members. She not only works within the board but also has built partnerships and relationships outside the board that will only help the organization grow. She has been a great resource for your Digital Citizenship track as well as bolstering NETA contests. Being a classroom teacher can pose challenges in being on the board, but her role and vision have been invaluable to the board and educators in Nebraska. Thank you Dawn!

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 2015. 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 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 be missed.

Bob Goeman, University of Nebraska Omaha—In his term, Bob provided the board with much leadership and growth. Bob’s passion for education and technology shines through in his many roles on the board. Not only does Bob provide leadership and direction in the president roles, but he is also an integral part of the logistics of the conferences, as well as vendor partnerships and support. Under Bob’s leadership, NETA has added the Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference as well as the decision for the big move to the CenturyLink in 2015. These two factors alone will be a legacy that will endure well into the future in terms of partnership and growth of the organization. Thank you for all you do for NETA Bob!

Leaving the Board this Year

Pam Krambeck, Educational Service Unit 3—Pam has been a NETA mainstay and an anchor for the organization. Over the years Pam has participated in all aspects of NETA and provided the board with insight and direction that is unparalleled. I know Pam will continue to support the organization and its members in any way she can. She is driven by the membership and the impact educators using technology have on our students in the state. We’ll miss Pam in her latest role as NETA secretary and wish her the best. Thank you Pam!

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http://netasite.org
The NETA 2014 annual spring 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/neta2014hotelregistration

**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 PizzaWest

**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 4 or plan to register onsite

**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. Tuition is $275/credit hour plus any applicable fees.

We look forward to welcoming you to the La Vista Embassy Suites and Conference Center!
Twitter in Five Minutes a Day

True confessions...I’m a reluctant Tweeter. While I am jazzed about technology, it took me a LONG time to move beyond just lurking on Twitter. Is this you? Have you had it with hashtags (#) on TV or tweets on the news reminding you that you’re out of the loop? This was me, so my class of pre-service teachers and I dedicated just five minutes a day to Twitter over the last semester—just five tiny minutes—and the results have me and my students sitting up, paying attention, and (as you can imagine) tweeting about it. Before we dive into seven simple steps to get started, let’s debunk any roadblocks that might be to blame for you dragging your tail-feathers.

Twitterblock 1: I don’t need another social media “thing” to manage.
You can engage with Twitter without “keeping up.” Don’t worry about seeing every tweet. Don’t think of it as another task on your to-do drudgery list; it can be designed for LEARNING (and true learning is FUN!)

Twitterblock 2: It is just people talking about what they ate for supper.
Yes, some tweets aren’t educational, but if you design it as a Professional Learning Network (PLN), you will see that, as Craig Badura says, “Twitter is the most positive teacher work room in the world.”

Twitterblock 3: I don’t have time.
Twitter time = magic time. My experience has been that the five minutes I spent each day exponentially impacted my productivity and jazzed me up for teaching. Just five minutes—set a timer—is enough to plug into the energy.

Twitterblock 4: It’s confusing.
A few key vocabulary terms will have you tweeting like a pro in just a week.

# = Hashtag, a label that helps you filter conversations. Think of these like labels on grocery store aisles that can direct you to what you’re looking for.

@name = At Mention, a way of talking directly to someone publicly. Think of these as talking to a colleague in the hallway, for everyone to see.

DM = Direct Message, talking to someone privately. Think of sharing lesson plans in the privacy of an empty classroom.

RT = Re-Tweet, sharing a tweet from another user. This is like study help or the best kind of gossip: I heard from the smartest kid in class, and I want to share with my friends.

Get Started
Day 1 (a.k.a. today): Now that your road blocks are out of the way, take the simple plunge and create an account. Do it in the next five minutes. Quit making excuses and tap into this learning fire-hydrant! Really. Do it.

Day 2: Google search “educational hashtags,” and choose one that piques your interest. Type it into the magnifying glass search bar at the top of Twitter. If you’re stuck, try #nebedchat or #edchat. Scroll and read.

Day 3: Search the hashtag you used yesterday, or try a new one. Make a point of clicking on a few links today.

Day 4: If you’re feeling lost, Google “Anatomy of a Tweet” and refresh your memory on those key vocab. Search another hashtag and see where it leads you!

Day 5: Follow a few people or organizations. I learn a lot from following Edutopia, keynoters from conferences, and members of the NETA board. Don’t stress, but be thoughtful in building your Professional Learning Network (PLN).

Day 6: Re-tweet something you find interesting.

Day 7: If you’re feeling adventurous, download TweetDeck and see how this opens opportunities for engaging with Twitter at a higher level.

Find a buddy
I often learned just as much as my students in that first five minutes of class, and I sometimes implemented my new learning that day. Our keynote speaker at the NETA fall conference, Patrick Larkin, shared that he uses Twitter with his teachers as a form of professional development. He simply leads the group in sharing out something from their PLN during the first part of each staff meeting. But don’t make that another roadblock. Administration doesn’t have to lead this type of learning. Classroom culture starts with you—find a Twitter buddy in real life and share your learning. All it takes is five minutes a day.
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.

Seven Nebraska schools were selected in 2013 to receive grant funds. Projects have included the use of iPads, iPad minis, Apple TVs, tablet stages, LabQuest2s, sensors 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. Miranda Hellbusch and Melinn Young were able to purchase iPads for Humphrey St. Francis to enhance student knowledge. Both goals of their project were met; students will use iPads to increase test scores in writing by creating digital stories and daily journaling and students will use the iPad technology to design informational graphs or presentations about a nonfiction article related to language arts lessons. Ann Darling at Sidney High School was also able to purchase iPads to be used in the art classroom. Students documented their art projects on the iPads, reflected on their success and shared with others.

At Loup City Public Schools Kim Henry had her students use iPad minis to research and create a Veteran’s Memorial Wall strengthening student’s history knowledge and connection with the Sherman County area. Maureen Hoy at Mary Our Queen purchased iPads for her project titled, “iTell Storytellers.” Students used the iPads to create story maps and character webs and presented their “story” to a school audience.

Another school found success with the implementation of iPad Minis into the classroom. Shauna Roberson at Garden County Schools had her students use iPad minis to create a digital science fair, collaborating with alumni from Garden County. To view their digital science fair please visit Roberson’s Science lab at http://sites.google.com/a/ gceagles.org/robersonsclab/. Once at the site the student sites are listed under Class 2018, 2019, and 2020 Science Pages.

**LabQuest2s, Apple TVs, and Tablet Stages**

Other grants awarded did not include iPads. Middle school students at Wayne Junior Senior High School used LabQuest2s and sensors to collect and analyze data in the science classroom awarded from the CenturyLink/NETA grant applied for by Lee Brogie.

Debora Willis purchased Apple TVs and Tablet Stages for her project at St. Columbkille Catholic School. She writes in her final report, “through the purchase of the Apple TVs and Tablet Stages, the ability for teachers to integrate their classroom iPads into their classroom lessons has been greatly improved.”

Attend their poster sessions on their projects at the 2014 NETA spring conference this April to find out more about each grant project!

We will recognize the 2014 CenturyLink/NETA grant winners at the 2014 Spring conference as well!
ISTE 2014 in Atlanta
NETA Registration and Housing Options

PLAN NOW to attend ISTE 2014 on June 28–July 1, 2014 at the Atlanta 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 2014 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 conference registration rate of $378 ($269 if you are an ISTE member through May 1, 2014), 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 Hotel, 267 Marietta Street, Atlanta, GA 30313—a short walk from the Convention Center. The rates are $209 for a single or double room. 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 2014. If you have any questions about registration or housing for ISTE 2014, please contact Julie Moore at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org)

Great Plains Summit
Featuring Google for Education

Join us for a two-day summer conference focused on the use of Google Apps for Education in K-12 environments. Topics range from productivity apps like Google Docs and Forms to exploration and research apps such as Google Earth to creative tools like YouTube and Picasa. Learn how to become a Google Apps master and discover what makes Chromebooks such a great option for anybody that finds themselves living in the cloud. The Great Plains Summit returns to Southwest High School in Lincoln, Nebraska for its third year July 17–18, 2014!

The Summit has specific sessions 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 NOW! http://www.gpsummit.org

We look forward to seeing you in Lincoln this summer!

The Great Plains Summit is sponsored by Nebraska’s Educational Service Units (ESUs) in partnership with the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, Lincoln Public Schools and NETA
In January we had the opportunity to attend the national educational technology conference FETC (Florida Educational Technology Conference). When we told colleagues we were headed to Orlando in late January when temperatures at home were in the low teens, of course they had to give us a hard time. We will get this out of the way first though—it rained the entire time we were there! It was even colder than Nebraska one of the days!

Several Nebraskans were in attendance at the conference and it was nice to spend time with fellow colleagues from around the state. Often the quality time with colleagues is the best part of conferences because you learn so much from each other, which we know is what many thrive off at NETA events. Beyond the time with fellow Nebraskans, we had a great experience at the conference attending events, presentations and keynote speakers.

Here are some of the things we picked up on at the conference that we thought would be worth sharing with you!

- Leslie Fisher (@lesliefisher) has been a featured and keynote speaker at the NETA spring conference many times. She was also at FETC and had great tech gadgets and tools to share. A great session was the tech share with Leslie, Adam Bellow (@adambellow), Hall Davidson (@HallDavidson) and Kathy Schrock (@kathyschrock). Many great tools were shared! Watch it here! http://netasite.org/techshare

- Always wanting to make your smart phone do more for you? Like to read tips and tricks about your smart phone? Looking for a specific accessory? Head on over to http://drippler.com to find the latest tips, great apps, updates and accessories for your smart phone device. Simply subscribe to your device and the app will filter updates for you. It also gives updates on other devices like tablets, game consoles, and eReaders. They have an iOS and Android app.

- A cool new feature of Wikipedia is the ability to create books from one or more articles. When you are viewing a Wikipedia article, under the Print/export menu tree, there is a link to “Create a book” where you or your students can actually choose pages/articles, title, etc. for a book. Once a few pages are added, the creator tool actually helps suggest pages that may be relevant to the topics you are looking for. Once finished, you can purchase a physical printed copy of the book, which is mailed to you, or download in various formats (PDF, EPUB, etc.). Pretty neat! Wikipedia has a great post on how to use this tool: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Books

- The Hour of Code (http://www.code.org) initiative has really taken off and is a great way to encourage computer science interest. Some may find it hard to provide a computing environment to allow students the opportunity to explore coding and computer science. The Kano Computer Kit is a great solution for this. For around $100 you get all the necessary pieces to build a functioning computer, except a monitor. You can use essentially any TV as a display though. The computer is a Raspberry Pi board, which is inexpensive and has lots of potential! http://www.kano.me/kit

- Jason Rushing and Susan Prabulos (past NETA board members) presented a packed session on 50 great tools for teachers, and one we love is Google Docs Storybuilder, a great tool to build a story video that shows what you would see as (continued on the next page)
if you created it using Google Docs. Visit https://docsstorybuilder.appspot.com/builder to start by adding your characters and build a story! See the great example they have posted on the home page https://docsstorybuilder.appspot.com/. What a cool tool for students to use while writing!

- Infographics are huge right now; a great way to share information and do so in a visually appealing way. The census bureau is a great data source and this website was shared in a session which has a lot of great resources and infographic creation tools http://www.infographics-edkit.com/.

- iCoach is a new tool that easily complements efforts of area schools to record classroom teaching segments for review and feedback. With iCoach, teachers use their smartphones to record a lesson and then invite private, detailed feedback from colleagues, school administrators or instructional coaches. We hope to run a pilot of iCoach with ESU 6 schools soon. http://www.media-x.com/www/pages/products/iCoach.html

- Rushton Hurley (past NETA conference featured speaker) gave an inspiring closing keynote focused on bringing your passion to the classroom every day. Students need us to inspire them and each other. Rushton shared a great video from Michael, a student in his summer tech program, to show both the power of student technology projects and the impact of teachers and students on students with special needs. http://www.nextvista.org/my-name-is-michael/

- FETC hosted a first-ever conference Photo Walk in an attempt to set a world record for the most participants in an outdoor photo walk. While the rainy weather moved the event inside the conference center and prevented a run for the outdoor record, the group set a new record for indoor photo walks and had a great time networking with each other. With #nebedfit linking Nebraska educators on Twitter who are working to improve health and wellness, maybe it’s time for NETA to implement a photo walk! http://fetc.org/events/educational-technology-conference/information/fetc-photo-walk.aspx

- Lynne and NETA board member Jackie Ediger co-led a workshop, Educators on the Go with Evernote, which featured a scavenger hunt through the conference center to highlight the capability of Evernote to capture information on mobile devices. Past NETA board members, Jason Rushing and Susan Prabulos, also assisted Lynne and Jackie with their workshop. FETC is a great opportunity to present to a worldwide audience as 2014 participants represented all 50 states and 40 countries. FETC also reports that 91 of the nation’s top 100 school districts were represented at the conference. ❖
The Winners! Complete Judging Results of NETA Student and Teacher Contests

NETA’s Student Logo Contest
The NETA Conference Logo Contest, based on the conference theme, Mission: Possible, was judged by a subcommittee in December, 2013. There were numerous entries for each division, making the task of judging challenging but very enjoyable. Our thanks to Evi Wusk, Peru State College, for her work as the NETA Logo Contest coordinator.

K-5 Winner: Jacob Walker, Gates Elementary School—Sponsor: Heather Gearhart
6-8 Winner: Shelby Laird, Thayer Central Community Schools—Sponsor: Andy Long
9–12 Winner: Sierra Hearn, Lincoln PS Information Technology Focus Program—Sponsor: Steve Carr

K-12 Digital Imagery Contest

K-2 Graphic Imagery
1st: Mexictli Arroyo, Madison Elementary

3-5 Graphic Imagery
1st: Myleigh Lawver, Gates Elementary School

6-8 Graphic Imagery
1st: Shannon McSweeney, St. Vincent de Paul
9–12 Graphic Imagery
1st: Cambrie Cottam, Thayer Central Community Schools

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, 2015.

Thanks to Lynne Herr, ESU 6, for coordinating this contest.

Making the Future: Using a 3D Printer in High School to Engage Learners Across the Curriculum
The use of a 3D printer will allow students to “develop an object from concept to reality inexpensively and quickly.” ($1500)
Teacher: Douglas Bertelsen
School: Gretna High School

iPad Mini’s
iPad minis will be purchased through this project. Students will be taught how to search for apps to use to increase knowledge in phonics, math and research. ($1495)
Teacher: Becky Hall
School: District OR1—Bennet Elem.

TIGERS: Technology Integration for Growth, Engagement and Response for Students
This grant project will use MimioTeach, MimioPad and MimioView to recreate learning to be more interactive. ($150)
Teacher: Amanda Hansen
School: Tekamah-Herman

Authentic Assessment
The focus of this grant is combining “tablet computing, graphic design, research, composition and presentation skills for authentic assessment” through the purchase of tablets and apps. ($1499.90)
Teacher: Steve McCarville
School: Holy Name School

Using iPads for Research
This grant project will provide iPads for Katie’s third grade students. The goals of the project include to increase individual and independent learning and increase test scores. The students will be using the iPads to research and present their findings. ($1596)
Teacher: Katie Stone
School: Boone Central

Promote Reading Through the Use of iPads
This project will use iPads to “create audio, video, or written book reviews, and then share them with their peers through the use of QR Codes or an App like Aurasama.” ($1494.96)
Teacher: Kelly Thienen
School: Kiewit Middle School

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 Atlanta, GA, June 28–July 1, 2014.

• Abby Fitzgerald, Bennington Elementary ($1800)
• James Reed, Southern Valley Jr/Sr High ($1800)
• Beth Wolfe, Humphrey St. Francis ($1800)

Thanks to Lynne Herr, ESU 6, 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’s 2014 spring conference.

• Gretchen Antholz-Meyerson, Hamlow Elementary School
• Misty Graham, Alliance High School
• Ashley Hellige, Eagle Elementary

Thanks to Lynne Herr, ESU 6, for coordinating this contest.

(Continued on the next page)
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 the previous pages.

Grade K-2 Graphic Imagery
1st—Mexictli Arroyo, Madison Elementary
Sponsor: Teryn Rother
2nd—Kayli Nickerson, Doniphan-Trumbull
Sponsor: Trisha Shafer
3rd (tie)—Nevaeh Chamul, Dodge Elementary School
Sponsor: Valerie Chmelka
3rd (tie)—Brooks Loosvelt, Madison Elementary School
Sponsor: Erin Reeves

Grade 3-5 Graphic Imagery
1st—Myleigh Lawver, Gates Elementary School
Sponsor: Kendra Harders
2nd—Emma Tennant, Gates Elementary School
Sponsor: Deanna Hirschman
3rd—Lance Morton, Plattsmouth Elementary School
Sponsor: Melanie Anderson

Grade 6-8 Graphic Imagery
1st—Shannon McSweeney, St. Vincent de Paul
Sponsor: Michael Pflaum
2nd—Kristin Goertz, St. Vincent de Paul
Sponsor: Michael Pflaum
3rd—Kayla Classen, St. Vincent de Paul
Sponsor: Michael Pflaum

Grade 9-12 Graphic Imagery
1st—Cambrie Cottam, Thayer Central Community Schools
Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik
2nd—Hope Rademacher, Sandy Creek High School
Sponsor: Crystal Hassenstab
3rd—Natasha Anderson, Sandy Creek High School
Sponsor: Crystal Hassenstab

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 Winners:
1st—Alex King, Stolley Park Elem.
2nd—Mrs. Meyer’s Third Grade Class, Dodge Elementary
3rd—Madison Kindergarten, Madison Elementary

5-8 Winners:
1st—Kaden McMahan, Dodge Elementary School
2nd—Akel Matthiessen, Juan Sanchez, Ivan Palma Vargas, Dax Davis; Dodge Elementary
3rd—Drake Belville & Emma Kraft; Doniphan-Trumbull

9-12 Winners:
1st—Liam Quade, LPS Information Technology Focus Program
2nd—Brandon Huettner, Humphrey Public Schools
3rd—Jay Cottam, Thayer Central Community Schools

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

Apptivity Contest for Students
Jadyn Lauritsen, Centura Elementary School
Sponsor: Donna Young
Thanks to Heather Callihan of Northwest Public Schools, for coordinating this contest.

Apptivity Contest for Teachers
Laura Goracke, Seward Middle School
Thanks to Dawn Prescott of Schuyler Middle School, 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
Paige Bishop, Skutt Catholic High School
Sponsor: Jennie Wilson
Be Healthy Exercise!!
Broannah Kutschkau, Dodge Elementary School
Sponsor: Valerie Chmelka

Creative Comics for Teachers
First World Problems Mac Lab Edition
Jennie Wilson, Skutt Catholic High School
Sponsor: Jennie Wilson

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

(Continued on the next page)
Point/CounterPoint Video: Web Filters

The 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 web filters in schools be as strict as possible?”

Point Winners:
1st—Hunter Pursley & Aaron VinKenberg, Aurora High School
Sponsor: Julie Jensen
2nd—Logan Ohlson & Caleb Oswald, Aurora High School
Sponsor: Julie Jensen

CounterPoint Winners:
1st—Calvin Taylor, LPS Information Technology Focus Program
Sponsor: Brent Jarosz
2nd—Kendry Arrazcaeta, Kolby Johnson, Daymond Segura & Elizabeth Garcia, Madison Elementary School
Sponsor: Audrey Loosvelt

Teacher Winner:
Sarah Kroenke, Westside Middle School

Thanks to Matt Lee, Westside Community Schools, for coordinating this contest.

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 Winners:
1st—Jennifer Aguilar, Dodge Elem.
Sponsor: Michelle Carter
2nd—Haily Grandon, C. Ray Gates Elementary
Sponsor: Whitney Martin
3rd- Cassidy Spiehs, C. Ray Gates Elementary
Sponsor: Whitney Martin

9-12 Winners:
1st—Alondra Ciprian, Minden H.S.
Sponsor: Jane Blum
2nd—Megan Miller, Skutt Catholic High School
Sponsor: Jennie Wilson
3rd—Anna Korensky, Skutt Catholic High School
Sponsor: Jennie Wilson

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

New—Use This Lesson Tomorrow Contest

For this contest, teachers and pre-service teachers submitted a great lesson integrating technology into their curriculum.

1st—Rachel Haider, Exeter-Milligan High School
2nd—Clint Simmons, Dodge Elementary
3rd—Kimberly Terry, UNK

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

Also thanks to everyone who gave their free time to judge all the contests.

R - Resources

You have run across hundreds if not thousands of resources to help you and your students be more efficient and effective with technology. Building your resource library can seem daunting but there are many tools to help you organize your digital resources. First, find out what your district supports. Are you using an LMS such as Moodle or Schoology? Does your district use Google Apps for Education or eBackpack? Next, lean on your ESU and find out what they have to support your resource library. Safari Montage is a great media library at your disposal. And then, if you must, create your own site of resources for yourself and your students using Wordpress, Google Sites, or Wikispaces. More and more educators are also turning to social media to create Facebook or Google Plus pages and communities. Start collecting and organizing your digital resources - you won’t regret spending the time to be more effective and efficient.

E - Education

Keep growing yourself and learning new things! Education and technology are changing at break-neck speeds and the only way to stay on top of it is to participate in professional development opportunities. PD is changing and there are so many new opportunities to fit your busy life. There are still the traditional inservices that your district or ESU’s provide. NETA is also a great resource and is growing to reach more and more educators by providing not only the spring conference but the fall conference as well as membership benefits throughout the year. You’ll also find websites, webinars, online courses, MOOCS and more. The key is to find out where you are and align PD opportunities with what works best in your life.

I couldn’t be in a better place. I love the ed tech field for all it’s challenges and even more, the educational leaders who are passionate about providing our students with the best learning environments so they may flourish when they spread their wings and make their mark on the world.

You make it happen! #YouMatter
Excellence in Leading with Technology Award

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 Eliu Paopao.

Eliu Paopao is the 2014 NETA Excellence in Leading with Technology Award winner. Eliu is currently the Director of Technology for Chadron Public Schools. Nick Dressel, Chadron’s Middle School Principal, describes Mr. Paopao as, “an exceptional leader.” He goes on to say, “he always keeps student learning at the center of the conversation when talking about how to improve technology in the district.” Nick gives Eliu credit as a positive change agent saying, “it is through his leadership and expertise that Chadron Public Schools has expanded how we teach and communicate with technology, not only within the walls of our schools, but also within the larger community of Chadron.”

Willie Uhing, a teacher at Chadron High School, wrote, “Eliu ‘Uati’ Paopao is the single most important individual to Chadron Public Schools. He personifies every positive educational virtue, modeling daily that no task is more important than a person in need. Uati’s common sense approach and timeless dedication to staff and students is equally as imperative to the districts’ success as his progressive and innovative approach to technology...nobody does it better!”

Eliu Paopao led a successful 1:1 iPad initiative in 2012–2013 and has been instrumental in helping to plan the Chadron Tech Conference for the past three years. He has presented at many conferences, including a NETA conference. Eliu’s commitment to education and technology has been recognized by Jill Bramlet, Lead Evaluator for AdvancED, BJ Peters, Technology Director for ESU 13, and by Sandy Roes, Chadron Public Schools Board of Education President, all who wrote letters for Eliu’s nomination packet for this award.

Nick Dressel closed his letter of recommendation with, “His work on the development and implementation of the Chadron Tech Conference, his leadership on the Chadron High School iPad initiative, his willingness to share his expertise with others, and his efforts to expand the knowledge of the faculty and staff at Chadron Public Schools are just a few examples of the positive impact that Mr. Paopao has on the students, faculty, staff, and administration in the district.”

Congratulations Eliu!

Thanks to Jason Schmidt, Bennington Public Schools, for coordinating this contest.

Spring Conference Highlights and Information

- Mission: Possible
- April 24-25, 2014
- La Vista Embassy Suites Conference Ctr.

Keynote Thursday—
Angela Maiers, Liberating Genius

Pick your Keynote Friday—
Erin Klein, Sharing Student Voice
Or
Dean Shareski, Whatever Happened to Joy and Other Stuff that Really Matters

Featured Speaker Thursday
Dave Edyburn, sponsored by Assistive Technology Partnership/Education.

Make sure you utilize the online session search tool to search the great sessions of NETA’s 2014 spring conference as well as plan out your conference schedule! Visit http://center.uoregon.edu/NETA/2014/program/program_search.php or the NETA website at http://netasite.org to click on the session search button.

There are numerous session types to choose from including, lecture/demonstration, conversation, poster/playground and BYOD sessions.

For more information regarding the Spring Conference or NETA please visit http://netasite.org.

Please join us April 24-25th!
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 Jeff Bernadt.

Jeff Bernadt is the 2014 NETA Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award winner. Jeff is currently a history teacher at Bellevue East High School. He is “a lifelong learner, recognizes the importance of technology in today’s classrooms, is a connected educator, and has a desire to create a dream classroom,” says colleague Ann Feldmann. She goes on to say, “he understands the value of a global, collaborative, learner-centered classroom and strives to deliver the best instruction to meet the learning modalities of all his students. Jeff works tirelessly to create and deliver personal learning opportunities for his students using iPads in a 1:1 setting.”

Curriculum Director for the Bellevue Public Schools District, Julee Sauer, remarks, “Jeff is one of our very best educators.” She continues, “Jeff is also held in the highest esteem by students, their parents, his colleagues, and by administrative staff in Bellevue. He is regarded as intelligent, organized, light-hearted, industrious, extremely positive, and a total team player.”

Jeff was one of six teachers chosen in the spring of 2013 by Bellevue Public Schools to participate in the iPad Academy, a pilot of assessing the impact of iPads in the classroom. He attended 40 hours of training on iPads and currently attends monthly collaboration days. This spring he will be presenting “How to Create a Dream Classroom” at the NAG conference.

Lance Raabe, Social Studies Department Chair at Bellevue East High School, states in his nomination letter for Jeff, “He has worked tirelessly to reinvent and reinvigorate the American History curriculum through the incorporation of 1:1 technology.” He goes on to say, “Jeff creates activity days in his classroom that allow for student exploration and self-initiative. He is giving his students the freedom to use technology to drive their own learning as he is always at their side to support them along the way. He is the type of teacher that others in the profession strive to be.” Congratulations Jeff!

Thanks to Jason Schmidt, Bennington Public Schools, for coordinating this contest.

The NETA App

Visit the NETA App to provide you with information highlighting the 2014 conference and NETA organization! Crescerance is the company that has created the conference app for NETA members. Please scan the QR code pictured below to download the conference app (available for iOS and Android devices) and find more information about NETA and our conferences.

The 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 explore the Mission: Possible.

http://netasite.org

April 2014

17
Save the Dates!

Please save the dates for future NETA Events:

Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference
October 9-10, 2014
Younes Conference Center
in Kearney, NE

NETA 2015 Spring Conference
April 23-24, 2015
CenturyLink Center
in Omaha, NE
## Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

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

### April 2014

**National School Boards Association (NSBA)**  
April 5–7, 2014  
New Orleans, LA  
[annualconference.nsba.org](http://annualconference.nsba.org)

**Infotec (by the AIM Inst.)**  
April 15–16, 2014  
CenturyLink Center  
Omaha, NE  
[infotec.org](http://infotec.org)

**NETA Spring Conference Mission: Possible**  
April 24–25, 2014  
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center, La Vista, NE  
[netasite.org](http://netasite.org)

**United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)**  
May 4–7, 2014  
St. Louis, MO  
[http://www.usdla.org](http://www.usdla.org)

### June 2014

**Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)**  
June 3–5, 2014  
Younes Conference Ctr, Kearney, NE  
[nceconference.com](http://nceconference.com)

**Innovative Education Colorado (InnEdCO)**  
(Formerly Technology in Education T.I.E)  
June 17–19, 2014  
Copper Mountain, CO  
[innedco.org](http://innedco.org)

**ISTE Conference**  
*Connected Learning. Connected World.*  
June 28–July 1, 2014  
Atlanta, GA  

**ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference**  
October 12–14, 2014  
Iowa Events Center  
Des Moines, IA  

### July 2014

**Great Plains Google Apps for Education Summit**  
July 17–18, 2014  
Lincoln, NE  
[www.greatplainssummit.org](http://www.greatplainssummit.org)

### October 2014

**Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference**  
October 9–10, 2014  
Younes Conference Center  
Kearney, NE  
[fall.netasite.org](http://fall.netasite.org)

### January 2015

**Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)**  
January 20–23, 2015  
Orange County Convention Ctr, Orlando, FL  
[fetc.org](http://fetc.org)

### February 2015

**Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)**  
February 2–6, 2015  
Austin, TX  
[www.tcea.org](http://www.tcea.org)

### April 2015

**2015 NETA Spring Conference**  
April 23–24, 2015  
CenturyLink Center  
Omaha, NE  
[netasite.org](http://netasite.org)

### April 2016

**2016 NETA Spring Conference**  
April 21–22, 2016  
CenturyLink Center  
Omaha, NE  
[netasite.org](http://netasite.org)
NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

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 __________________________ Email ______________________________

If you attended the Spring Conference in April 2013, 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 2015. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

NETA Membership
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

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

Address changes should be sent to the above address or emailed to: executivedirector@netasite.org