Message from the President—

**A Thought About “About”**

started as a pair of friends with a
crazy idea and have now grown to
now having thousands of employees.
What if the group has a great
website but when you read their
“About” you realize there is some-
thing moving this group that is not
all that they seem to be about?

**A Manifesto?**

Who we are and what we truly
believe can be simple or complex
and can sometimes defined in a
*manifesto*. That’s a word we don’t
hear much anymore and sometimes
brings up visions of a ruler plotting
to take over the world or of 1920’s
Mobsters. In a recent podcast, the
“Foolish Adventure” team talked
about how important a manifesto
can be in defining who we are and
helping others to aspire to a com-
mon goal. We have the power of
uniting others to move in the same
direction and toward the same
destination.

A manifesto is more than just
reading “about” you and what you
believe. Defining what you truly
believe will have a transformative
effect both to the person writing it
and those reading the work. How
exciting for students to realize the
power they have over their commu-
nity; that is if they take the time to
define what they truly believe and
share those thoughts with others of a
common belief.

**Power through the Web**

The power of a simple “About” or a
truly defining Manifesto is raising an
awareness of yourself and sharing
that with others. It builds your
authority and helps you connect
with people that believe in what you
believe in, thus becoming part of a
similar community. What a great
opportunity we have to help stu-
dents define who they really are.
They have a purpose in this world
and they can help others aspire to
new heights! They have the power
through the web to inspire others
like no generation before them. They
can unite with others to change their
world. What power!

As we help our students develop and
realize their dreams, it is important
that we help them see how the world
sees them in the light they are

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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 2011 Spring Conference T-shirt.

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

NETA is an affiliate of ISTE—The International Society for Technology in Education.
Message from the President Elect—

**e³: empower, encourage, engage**

**To empower, encourage** and engage our attendees at NETA 2011, we have added two new strands for this year’s conference. Reaching out to colleagues through conversation either in person or via distance learning allows us to strengthen our ties to Nebraska teachers and students and to the global community. Stop in and check out these new strands in addition to the existing strands we offer.

**Conversations Strand**
This year we are introducing “round table discussions.” Think of it as a geeky fireside chat. It’s not a stand and deliver presentation. We are not taking those types of presentations away; they will continue to be the cornerstone of the NETA Conference. But we wanted to give you the opportunity to learn from the crowd, not just the presenter! You will have the opportunity to share your experiences and learn from others on a variety of subjects. Make sure you stop in and check out the new conversation strand!

For more on this strand, see Josh Allen’s blog at [http://goo.gl/k5Acc](http://goo.gl/k5Acc)

**Distance Learning Strand**
With increased opportunities through technology, today’s classroom is no longer isolated to the walls of the classroom, district school building, or the local community. Online learning supported by learning management systems, video conferencing software such as Skype and iChat, and video conferencing hardware appliances provide classes, virtual field trips, and collaboration opportunities. NETA 2011 will feature a new distance learning strand that highlights a variety of choices that will take students, teachers, and even community to state, national, and even global connections.

**Tech Strand**
Tech coordinators and support personnel from around the state share their experiences dealing with technical issues, decision making processes, and software/hardware success within their districts. Some of the session highlights of the 2011 tech strand include sessions on Drupal, staff development and classroom design discussions, Mahara, Data Analysis, and two sessions dealing with Network Analysis Tools.

As a reminder for those interested in the technical side, there is a Tech Coordinator’s Meeting held in Grand Island or Kearney in October and February and is sponsored by the NETA organization. This group is open to those who provide technical support to Nebraska schools. The agenda for meetings focuses on technology coordinator duties that are largely platform independent. Typically the group addresses issues where technology is the object rather than the subject of the discussion. You can find more information at: [www.netasite.org](http://www.netasite.org) under “Sponsored Groups.”

**Assistive Tech Strand**
The Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership is a collaboration between private, non-profit and governmental agencies and organizations that has resulted in the establishment of a comprehensive program of technology-related services for Nebraskans with disabilities. Partnering agencies provide us with support through grants and contracts to provide public awareness, information and referral services, on-site technical assistance, a mobile assessment and evaluation service, funding coordination, training for their staff, equipment loans and equipment recycling, and funding for assistive technology devices and home modifications.

This strand highlights special education materials and resources.

(Continued on page 9)
Vote Online!
for 2011 NETA Officers and Directors

It’s time for election of officers and directors for the NETA board. Read a little information about each candidate and then cast your vote by February 25. Voting will ONLY be done online.

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

President Elect

This officer serves for one year in this position and then moves into the role of the president. The president elect is responsible for helping to plan the spring conference.

Bob Goeman, University of Nebraska at Omaha

It is both an honor as well as a pleasure to be nominated for the president-elect position of NETA. My involvement in NETA has inspired me to continue to spread the news of the importance of getting all different types technology in the hands of our young people. I have participated in several different capacities. A few things include: member for 20 years, volunteering wherever needed, conducting workshops, presenting interactive sessions, and serving as a board member. Over many years, I have gained a great deal of knowledge from people involved in NETA. I look forward to serving the needs of our ever-changing educational climate. I feel privileged to work on your behalf to improve our association. I am currently the Technology Coordinator for the College of Education at the University of Nebraska—Omaha. My position allows me to help faculty, staff, and students use technology in their teaching and learning, and has given me the opportunity to work with a wide range of professional educators from across the United States that are innovative users of technology. I believe that NETA revolves around a caring membership who share different expertise about technology in all curriculum areas. I look forward to serving the association as president-elect and participating in the advancement of our great association!

No other candidates at this time.

Treasurer

This officer 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.

Rich Molettiere
Omaha North H.S.

I have been the NETA treasurer for a number of years and would like to continue in this position. Over the last few years the Board has implemented a number of improvements in the budgeting process as well as financial operating procedures at my request that, I believe, make the organization more efficient as well as more documented. I would appreciate your vote.

No other candidates at this time.

NOTE: Contact Sandy Blanknship at executivedirector@netasite.org if your membership number is torn or unreadable on the newsletter.
Directors serve for three year terms. They attend four board meetings per year and one working retreat. Directors serve on planning committees and have special conference duties. Four positions need to be filled.

Crys Bauermeister, Pierce High School

Students need to see how technology touches their lives, no matter what career path they choose. NETA is just one way I am more effective as a technology leader. Our school is 1 to 1, and although I used to be a Language Arts teacher, I’m now a computer applications teacher. While challenging, the task is rewarding and my sharing and collaboration skills have grown. Along with students, teachers need to develop their skills with ever transforming technology. Just when I think I have an application mastered, an update is released, proving that learning is a lifelong task. Although change is constant, technology leaders need to continuously adapt to the ever-changing landscape of the educational tools at our disposal. My involvement with NETA includes presenting at three previous conferences, helping at registration for the past two years, and attendance at the conference for the past ten years. Plus, for the past 4 years, I have made sure that someone new from my district or another school district attends NETA. These newcomers have found that NETA is contagious. Attending NETA inspires technology growth within teachers! When elected to the NETA board I will strive to represent the classroom teacher as well as adapting to the changes in technology. I look forward to serving you!

Lynn Behounek, Ralston Public Schools

I became a NETA member in 1994, when I started teaching for Ralston Public Schools. Since then I have enjoyed everything I have learned and been able to share with students and staff members over the years. After 8 years, I decided to leave the classroom to become a media/technology specialist for the district. Being able to share the great things I have learned through classes, from my colleagues and the local and national conferences with more than a classroom of students is what I enjoy. Currently, I work with 550 students and 60 staff members at two elementary schools. For the past 10 years, I have attended the ISTE conference and have been able to bring back new ideas of how to incorporate technology in to the curriculum. The things I have learned from listening to the exciting advancements and ways to utilize technology in the classroom from the state and national conferences is something I value. Being part of the NETA board, I will not only be able to continue to gain more knowledge, but also share with other what I have learned.

Dustin Buggi, Johnson County Central

Over the past seven years as a science teacher, NSSRS/NeSA administrator, PowerSchool Administrator, LAN Manager and technology director I have been able to see all sides of technology—from training staff and administrating the servers and network to teaching and using technology in the classroom. I would like to use this comprehensive view of technology in education as a NETA board member. Technology in education is a fast paced, constantly changing world of high cost and high stakes. It is absolutely imperative to have an organization like NETA where all educators can share and stimulate ideas on how to improve student achievement. Technology should in fact augment the learning classroom and current teaching methods and not hinder it. There are many educational technologies in the market place today that are new, shiny and heavily marketed but if they hinder or distract the child’s learning, there is no need for it in the classroom. However with proper training and use of technology, it can open worlds beyond your students’ imagination.

Jay Cecrle, Adams Central Jr./Sr. High

I have been a science teacher for 10 years and seen much change in classroom technology. I entered my first classroom using an overhead projector with transparency, a donated PC desktop running Windows 95, and a chalkboard. Today I teach with a laptop, digital projector, a mobile computer lab, and an Angel website to accommodate the digital learner. My students are in the process of transitioning from content consumers to content creators. Many of the technology skills and ideas I have used in my classroom are the direct result of attending the annual spring NETA conference with colleagues who are equally passionate about the use of technology in education. With each technology conference I attend, I become more excited about what is possible in the classroom. The opportunities now available to our students to learn and be successful are astounding. By being on the board of directors, I can help NETA continue to be a leading source of classroom technology training and knowledge for teachers. As a practicing teacher, I am in touch with the needs and issues of using technology with students. I will work with other members to ensure that quality speakers and learning opportunities relevant to the classroom teacher are a top priority.

(Directors continued on the next page)
It is imperative we pursue new and creative means of technology instruction. NETA is a valuable resource for the Midwest. I have attended the conference for years and have been fortunate to be a presenter. I am a member of ISTE and attend the annual conference bringing new ideas and concepts back to our state. NETA is a means to bring together the best our state has to offer in educational technology for all grade levels. This allows us to foster better technology instruction for the students of our state and keep us ahead of the educational technology curve.

I would be honored to contribute my knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to the NETA board and its members.

Matthew Lee, Westside Comm. Schools
My name is Matthew Lee and I am a Social Studies team leader/teacher and data collection specialist at Westside High School in Omaha, Nebraska. My focus is on the development of technology rich lessons for use in my own and my team’s classrooms. I also work to create technology resources for use by the entire high school staff. I consider myself a lifelong learner and have received a Masters Degree from UNO in Secondary Education-Instructional Technology. I believe the drive to continue to improve one's teaching is the main characteristic of an effective teacher. I enjoy sharing what I learned and developed in the realm of technology usage and integration. I have presented at NETA and the Apple sponsored LLI events at Westside H.S.; conducted staff development workshops at Westside; and presented on technology integration at our sister school in Tianjin, China. My goals if I get the privilege of serving on the NETA board include: 1) Strive to maintain and improve the annual NETA conference. 2) Make NETA an organization that provides learning experience for all members throughout the year—not just during the conference. This could be done through the use of online seminars, wikis, enhanced listservs and more. 3) Increase the emphasis on free and open-source resources. Teachers need to know what is available and have direction on how to incorporate these resources into their teaching, especially in this age of budget cutbacks.

Darci Lindgren, Holy Family School
Mrs. Darci Lindgren has been the Computer Technology Coordinator at Holy Family School in rural Lindsay, Nebraska since 2001. She is an advocate for web literacy, digital citizenship, video games in the classroom, and open source software. Darci has presented at regional, state, and national conferences for the past eight years. Mrs. Lindgren participated in her school’s Learning Web team where they built a new community web site, and has received a NETA Technology Grant for her school’s Making History video game project. She presented the Making History project at ISTE in Washington D.C. in 2009. In addition to staff tech. support and network management, she also rebuilds donated P.C. equipment for her school, maintains five web sites, and takes care of Holy Family’s E-Rate funding. Mrs. Lindgren has been married for 21 years. Her husband, Jon, is a farmer and crew chief for the Nebraska Department of Roads. Her four kids age 8-18 and are active in cross country, yo-yo’ng, horses, and 4-H. Darci is also a Sunday school teacher; Boone County Relay for Life committee member; and 4-H dog, cat, and pocket pet judge during the summer. In her free time she enjoys gardening and crocheting lace. Thank you for taking the time to consider me for the NETA Board of Directors. See you all at NETA!

Lori Long, Gothenburg Public Schools
My name is Lori Long and I have taught in Gothenburg for six years, the last four as a media/technology integration specialist. Prior to 2005, I taught English in Gretna and North Platte High Schools and served the Gretna community as the public library director. I am passionate about information literacy and the role technology plays in education. In the last few years, I have presented at NETA and NEMA and participated as a member of a Learning Web team. Being a member of the NETA Board would give me an opportunity to share my enthusiasm for technology in all facets of education. As a media/tech integration specialist, I collaborate with teachers and students to incorporate tools that enhance the curriculum at all grade levels and subject areas. In a time of shrinking budgets, it is important that we, as a teaching community, share ideas and work to advance technology offerings to all areas and all ages. My husband, Jim, is a former educator who is now a beekeeper in central Nebraska. We have three sons who keep us very busy with their activities. In my spare time, I enjoy attending sporting events, reading, and traveling with my family.

Josh McDowell, Barr Middle School—Grand Island Public Schools
I am currently serving as Assistant Principal at Barr Middle School, a part of Grand Island Public Schools. I began my teaching career with Kearney Public Schools before moving to Grand Island where I have been for the past six years. Early in my teaching career I was able to witness the impact that meaningful and relevant technology use had on teaching and learning. With the support of every building administrator that I worked for I have been able to utilize technology in a way that has

(Directors continued on the next page)
(Director nominees, continued)

maximized student learning and my own efficacy. Serving on the NETA board would afford me the opportunity to continue to support teachers in implementing the effective use of technology and continue my own learning and growth. Whether we are talking about 21st century skills, web 2.0 tools, or the latest and greatest piece of technology, our focus must constantly remain on students and their learning. I feel that my leadership in the area of technology education and 21st century learning makes me a great candidate for the NETA board of directors. I look forward to the opportunity to serve NETA and its membership.

Mike Peterson, O’Neill High School

I am Mike Peterson and I have been involved with technology since my parents bought me an Atari gaming system in 1980 and I was hooked. I have taught “computers” since 1987; first with TRS-80 computers that loaded programs with a cassette tape-to-the present time where laptops are a part of every student’s daily activities at O’Neill High School. Throughout these past 25+ years I have seen how technology can have a positive impact on the education of a student. I have presented at NETA several times and I feel I can have a positive impact on the NETA Board or Directors. I continue to increase my knowledge in the field of technology and feel I am always a “leader” in my field.

Dawn Prescott, Schuyler Middle School

In serving as a Board member for the past three years, I am constantly amazed and in awe of the knowledge, expertise and commitment that my colleagues on the Board possess, as well as their willingness to share their wide range of talents to make NETA even better for the organization’s members. I have learned that the real strength of NETA’s leadership comes from people who 1) represent a variety of educational technology backgrounds and vocations, and 2) come from different geographic and demographic areas of Nebraska. It’s in our diversity that we can accomplish great things! For the past eleven years, I have taught 7th and 8th grade Computer Literacy in Schuyler, and I believe my classroom teacher experience brings a unique and essential “real-world” perspective to the NETA Board. As a technology educator, I know that we need to be intentional in teaching digital ethics and citizenship to our students. It is only when our students make responsible choices in the use of technology that these remarkable tools can benefit society and positively impact the world around us. Frequently a NETA conference presenter, I am also a member of ISTE and ISTE’s SIG-CT (Special Interest Group for Computing Teachers). I attend the national ISTE conference each summer and actively participate as an ISTE volunteer. If re-elected, I would again be honored to serve on the NETA Board.

Gregg Robke, ESU 4

I am just finishing up my first term on the NETA board. I have enjoyed serving on the NETA board and I look forward to continue to serve another term. I have actively been involved in NETA for many years. I have annually served as the NETA college credit course instructor. This is a valuable service as it allows educators to receive graduate credit for attending the NETA conference. I have presented and co-presented on several occasions at the conference and enjoy listening to the many valuable conversations that result because of NETA. I am currently serving as the technology director at Educational Service Unit 4. ESU 4 is located in the southeast part of Nebraska which serves a five-county area. My job responsibilities include training and teaching teachers effective uses of technology in the classroom. I believe strongly that technology can serve as a tool to motivate students to use critical thinking skills. NETA allows educators to learn and use some of these tools on a daily basis.

Tanya Windham, Adams Middle School

Who am I? It depends! I am a wife, mother, teacher, student, gadget geek, and assume a variety of other roles as the situation demands. Currently, I teach 8th grade social studies at Adams Middle School in North Platte. After several years serving in the US Army and teaching for the US Air force, it was time to stay home for a few years. My husband and I have six children, so day care was a bit much. Educational experiences include a BS in Computer Science from the University of Southern Mississippi; a BA in Education from UNK; an MA in Curriculum & Instruction from Doane; and I am nearing the end of my Ed Specialist with UNK. My endorsements are K–8; Middle school math, science, and social science; PK–12 Administration; and Assessment. I am an avid technology user as I am constantly learning more and more ways to incorporate technology into my classroom/curriculum and my hope is to assist other teachers in doing the same. We must be prepared in order to prepare our students for the future. I have attended and presented at NETA and had the wonderful opportunity to attend ISTE this past summer. I am also a member of NAG, ISTE, NAMLE and other professional educational organizations, and currently serve as the secretary for NAMLE and have presented at their Professional Development Institute as well as their Midwest Regional conferences. I follow several technology leaders on Facebook and Twitter as well as following several Educational Technology Blogs. It is my hope to be accepted into a Educational Technology doctoral program next year.

VOTE!

Choose the link at the NETA web site at http://netasite.org and use your unique membership ID# from the mailing label on this newsletter.
In our continuous quest to find the top Apps for all various mobile devices, one thing is obvious: the ever-growing selection will soon be mostly produced and developed by the students themselves. Students’ interest along with their “dive in and do” mentality will be leading the Application market to an entirely new level.

If you haven’t explored Apple’s Application development site it is highly recommended (http://developer.apple.com/devcenter/ios/index.action). Not only to see what you think yourself, but to pass on the link to those students who will take the information and run with it! Let them know what unit you’ll be doing next!

The focus of this article will be in the area of reading. The Apps provided in this list are stand-alone Apps, meaning you don’t need to download them through an eReader (iBooks, Kindle, etc.). They are more interactive, animated, and engaging.

Dr. Seuss Books
Includes professional narrations, background audio and enlarged artwork. Individual words are highlighted as the story is read and when words and pictures are touched. Three ways to read these e-books: “Read to Me”—listen to the narrated story with words highlighted as they are read; “Read it Myself”—read the book in its traditional form; and “Auto Play”—plays like a movie, automatically reading and turning pages.

The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round
Sing along and read with your children. Books developed by Duck Duck Moose (i.e. Old MacDonald) allows you to listen to song book in English, Spanish, French, German, and Italian as well as record their own voice to playback. Children are encouraged to touch, explore, and discover fun surprises in the captivating, interactive illustrations.

The Three Little Pigs
Karaoke like text scroll (highlights red as you read); page indexing to access your favorite parts; bookmarking to pick up where you left off; read at your own pace w/out audio and scroll text; large page turn area; 3D page turn provides a tactile “feel”; great music accompanies each story.

MeeGenius!
Beautifully illustrated and enhanced books featuring many favorite titles. Some of the features include word highlighting, audio playback, and automatic playback. Free version comes with six titles.

Journals: Middle School Love and War
An inspiring book—Journals: Middle School Love and War. Inside are thousands of questions & answers about boys, girls, love, dating, parents, and complicated topics in life. It has a personal diary with prompting questions to help you gather and compose your daily thoughts, and a weekly podcast called Journals Out Loud where students can listen to a panel of teens tackling tough questions.

Melvin Says There’s Monsters! Lite
Digital Storybook! Fully animated pages with background music. Character narration that will engage students as well as drop down thumbnail navigation and read along controls.

(Continued on the next page)
(iPad Apps, continued)

**Story Kit**
Create an electronic storybook! Students can rewrite and rearrange four public domain children’s books. Students can add text, illustrate, record and input sound, as well as add, reorder, or delete pages from your book. The new story is saved to iPad and can be uploaded to StoryKit web server.

**K12 Timed Reading Practice (free version is K-4)**
Students can practice fluency reading timed short stories. More than 250 short, engaging fiction and non-fiction stories with the ability to track one or multiple readers. Also, has the ability to track stories read, WPM, percentage above or below reading rates and next step recommendations.

**Fairy Tales!**
App is equipped with auto-scroll technology to make for an easy and enjoyable reading experience. Students can choose from several works by Hans Christian Andersen including *The Emperors New Clothes, The Snow Queen, or The Red Shoes.*

**Ladybug’s Bookshelf**
This app features cleverly animated and illustrated read-along stories for 2–6 year olds. In addition there are hidden surprises such as fun, challenging games; creative activities; music; and more.

**Marvel Comics**
A new way to experience the most popular super heroes! Your choice of a guided view (an animated panel by panel path) or just pan your way through the excitement of your hero brought to life.

**Toy Story Read-Along**
A fully interactive reading experience! This App has an interactive Read-Along feature including the ability to Record your own voice narrative. Students can also explore animations and be creative with finger painting. Included is a Visual Page Index, which allows students to jump to a favorite part of the story, or resume where they left off.

(A Thought “About,” from page 1)
portraying. Their “about” page may not be in print and may or may not be formalized in a web page or even on Facebook. Even so, it will be evident in the comments they write, the pictures they post and the friends they accept. Our role as educators is to encourage our students to find those items they are passionate about and show the world the strength that lies within them. As we help them see this power within, we need to help them not damage their future through misplaced words or actions.

Today’s students are creative and have many different pathways to express themselves to the world with which they are involved. How they do that and what their stories tell is as important as any lessons they may learn from the curriculum. What’s it all “about?”

(Strands, from page 3)
Speaker this year will be Scott Marfilius, an assistive/educational technology consultant from Milton, Wisconsin. He will be presenting four sessions on Thursday, April 28. His session topics include:

1. Teaching Digital Natives - Using Technology with Classroom Instruction that Works
2. Achievement for All! Strategies for Implementing UDL in Your Classroom
3. Office Products: Creative Educational Uses of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
4. The Price is Right

Come join us at NETA 2011! We’ll still have the “regular” demonstration sessions, poster sessions, and playgrounds. But don’t miss some of these strands if they are of interest to you!
You’ve Got Text!

by Gregg Robke, ESU #4

Remember that movie, You’ve Got Mail! with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who get connected via email? Email has become a natural way of communication. We can easily send messages to many people and communicate to them our concerns, questions, or comments on whatever topic interests us. Have you ever thought of how adults use email vs. how students use email? Is email losing its ability to be an avenue for communication? Is it more about using cell phones and text messaging? Or, what about smart phones and the ability to video chat with others through software? I know that my own children would rather text than send an email. They get immediate feedback from a text message vs. an email that may take days to get a response.

Cell phones—relevant?
There are many positive ways to use cell phones in the classroom. But, as we think about using them for education, we must consider their relevance for the curriculum. In order to be effective, there has to be an outcome. Cell phones can be engaging and fun if used effectively. And, if we can take time to teach appropriate uses of the technology.

Inappropriate use
There are also ways in which students use cell phones negatively. Students are using cell phones to bully other students. They do this by sending obscene texts or obscene photos to other students they may not like. They also use their social networks to take more “jabs” at each other. As parents, teachers, and administrators, we need to watch out for this kind of behavior. The bully is no longer the big kid on the playground. There have been several recent stories relating to this very issue. Ones that really disturb me are the adolescents who end up taking their own lives. One example is the story of a 13-year-old girl in Florida who committed suicide after an explicit cell phone photo she had texted to a boy was forwarded to several other students. Read the full version of this story at http://on.today.com/fXlmX7.

Each year, the Nebraska ESU’s sponsor a contest for “Internet Safety.” The contest is sponsored by the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office and concludes in April. Our goal is to get the word out and help students understand the “risk” of rude behavior online. There are numerous organizational web sites whose goal is to help students understand these risks. In fact, Anderson Cooper has interviewed students regarding the very issue of Cyberbullying. You can see the episodes on AC360°. One of his episodes is titled, In a Wired World, Children Unable to Escape Cyberbullying. Access the episode at: http://bit.ly/dJcWMB

“[I believe that we (parents, teachers, administrators) have a responsibility to teach appropriate uses of these technologies—cell phones, online social networks, and Internet behavior.”

Our responsibility
I believe we (parents, teachers, administrators) have a responsibility to teach appropriate uses of these technologies—cell phones, online social networks, and Internet behavior. They can be effectively integrated into our curriculum if done appropriately. Many futurists predict that every student will have a digital device (a phone) to carry with them to school in five years. Are we prepared for this as educators? Instead of “You’ve got mail,” perhaps we should start saying, “You’ve Got Text!”

Reprinted by permission, Gregg Robke, ESU #4 (http://grobke.blogspot.com)

NOTE: See the November Issue of the NETA newsletter for the entry form and guidelines of the Internet Safety contest referenced in this article. The interactive form can be downloaded from the NETA website at http://netasite.org/resources.html

Deadline for Internet Safety Contest entries:
March 10, 2011 ❖
Are We Running on Empty?

by Dawn Prescott, Schuyler Community Schools

This past fall, I attended the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. As a member of the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA), I participated in the “K-12 Computing Teachers” part of the conference.

One conference speaker, Dr. Eric Roberts, Professor of Computer Science at Stanford University, spoke on the current state of Computer Science in the United States, and he identified what we as a country must address to remain competitive in the current and future global economy. Here are his thoughts:

“Demand for strong computer science skills has remained high throughout the history of the field, even during times of recession.”

The new global economy puts more pressure on technology innovation. Our challenge: The U.S. needs to increase K-12 math and science education, including computer science. We need to recruit and retain the top students and scientists, and our country needs to lead the world in innovation.

“Producing more highly skilled science and technology students is essential for economic growth in the U.S.”

Right now computing opportunities are skyrocketing. The number of jobs are at an all-time high, salaries are high, and recruiting highly-skilled talent is in demand. For every two college graduates with a B.S. in Computer Science there are seven job openings! Globalization has actually increased the number of jobs in the United States. Our challenge: Attract students to computing fields early—in middle school—and provide challenging technology coursework at the high school level.

“Demand for U.S. Computer Science graduates remains high despite offshoring.”

Contrary to popular belief, demand for U.S. students graduating with Computer Science degrees remains high. Our challenge: Computer Science is often considered “vocational”, not academic. Technology skills are not assessed at the state level, and administrators often don’t understand the need for Computer Science curriculum.

In conclusion, Dr. Roberts emphasized that we must focus on Computer Science in K-12 education if we, as a nation, hope to continue to lead the world in technology and innovation. He acknowledged that it will take a team approach—leaders from education, our government and industry—to make it happen. The facts are clear. It’s imperative that we, as educators, make a serious commitment now to providing our students with every possible opportunity to succeed in a future we can only imagine.

For further reading:


Tech Coordinators’ Group—Interested?

This group is open to those who provide technical support to Nebraska schools. The agenda for meetings focuses on technology coordinator duties that are largely platform independent. Typically the group addresses issues where technology is the object rather than the subject of the discussion.

The spring meeting will be held February 16, 2011 in Grand Island.

For more information, contact Lucas Bingham at lbingham@esu3.org.
GPS—Use in the Classroom

by Bob Goeman,
University of Nebraska at Omaha

The use of a GPS receiver in today’s world is becoming commonplace. Many cars have them built-in for navigation, trucking companies use them for tracking, and farmers use them to track and monitor crop yields. They can also be used in the classroom as educational tools. GPS receivers can be utilized with any aged student. It can be used for engaging cooperative learning activities, problem solving, exercise, spatial movement, using innovative technology, and just plain learning outside the four walls while having fun.

Below are some things you must keep in mind while using GPS receivers:

1. GPS receivers do not work inside buildings. It is best to use them outside.

2. It is fine to use a GPS receiver for 1 to 1 teaching, but best practices allows students to work in groups with two or three students per receiver. The screen is very small, so it is difficult to have more than three per group.

3. Don’t let the intimidation factor get the best of you. Your students will catch on very quickly and you will need to get out of the way.

4. Always have a spare set of batteries with you. If someone’s GPS receiver goes dead, you will want it back on the learning track as soon as possible.

Ideas for using GPS receivers for classroom activities

Treasure Hunt:
This category can cover just about all subject areas. First, locate hiding spots around the school campus. You will want to mark them with a GPS receiver so you distribute the coordinates on other GPSs. Place containers in each of the locations with questions that accompany your curriculum. The questions can be trivial or match future assessment questions. They can also be written in such away that there is a prize at the final location if the student has answered all of the questions correctly. If it is not obvious, the GPS receiver will guide the student to each hidden location.

GPS Drawings:
This category is when a GPS logs a path, or route while students walk in a specified path. This is similar to dropping a popcorn trail behind them. Many activities start in a large grassy area and the student begins by walking a square. The GPS receiver needs to be adjusted to make “marks” more frequently so the pathway is more defined when saved and taken back in the classroom. Google Earth (free) is a great application to bring in the art and see how it compares to what students thought they were drawing in the field. The art can then become much more complicated and diverse to meet your curriculum. Again, this activity is best done in groups with one GPS receiver per group.

Science:
One example is plant and tree identification. Students are sent outside with a GPS receiver, a notebook, a plastic bag, and an optional digital camera. Each group will be asked to find and identify five different plants and trees and bring back the latitude and longitude and a physical sample of a leaf. When back in the classroom, the students can exchange information and GPS receiver and then send them back out to match the data created by the first group. Another way is to already have markers with information on certain plants and trees, which the students will need to find and identify. If no mark on the tree, then they are at the wrong location.

Math:
“Where am I?” becomes a great question for Math. Maybe it is a search and rescue scenario, or a fishing expedition, a plot of land for farming and the greatest growth potential, a simple hide-and-seek in the schoolyard, or even tracking a fleet of trucks. A GPS receiver can calculate latitude, longitude, altitude, speed, and direction of travel. These thoughts can be done first on paper in the classroom with a

(Continued on the next page)
ruler, protractor, and pencil then taken out in the field to better understand all of the calculations.

**History:**
Every town in America has some history locations that need to be identified. Send a GPS receiver home with students to record the latitude and longitude of the location and find five facts about the history of the location. Create a Wiki site (or similar) for students to post their findings for others to read and post comments.

**Geography:**
Students can monitor traffic at specified waypoints at safe locations. Students record latitude and longitude and collect data on seat belt usage, cell phone usage, red light runners, etc. Bring data back to classroom and combine all points on Google Earth by adding pushpins inputting data. Find distance apart from each other as well as traffic counts. Share information with the community.

Use your own creativity to find additional ways to use GPS receivers in your classroom. What we have found is the only real downside is getting your students back in the classroom! Enjoy.

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**Other GPS resources:**

**geocachingkids.com**

**The Science Spot: GPS & GIS Lesson Plans & Links**
[http://sciencespot.net/Pages/classgpslsn.html](http://sciencespot.net/Pages/classgpslsn.html)

**GPS Activities and Lesson Plans**
[http://lovinfifth.com/gps/GPS-activities.htm](http://lovinfifth.com/gps/GPS-activities.htm)

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**The Learning Web Turns Seven!**

**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 28–29, 2011 to gather ideas for the project.
- attend a regional two-day institute in June at an ESU to learn about instructional strategies and develop an action plan.
- work with a team facilitator who will help to answer questions and provide resources.
- align the project to a school improvement goal.
- make sure the project supports at least one proven instructional strategy.
- implement the project during second semester of the 2011–12 school year.
- share the project at the NETA conference in April, 2012.

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 28th. Don’t miss this session! The focus of last year’s teams was creativity and many of them have been using Animationish. Many of the poster sessions will highlight how this creative tool was used to improve student learning.

This is the seventh 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 2011 team. If you are interested, please contact the technology professional development person at your local ESU.

**The Learning Web is sponsored by the Nebraska Educational Service Units, NETA, Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education & the Nebraska Department of Education.**
ISTE Conference 2010 Report—
Karen Cator & the New National Technology Plan

“Everybody in this room understands that our nation’s success depends on strengthening America’s role as the world’s engine of discovery and innovation…”

—President Barack Obama, STEM Presentation, September 2010

It was an honor to have attended a presentation made by Karen Cator, Director of the U.S. Office of Educational Technology. This was a session for sharing both information and background about the new National Educational Technology Plan—Transforming American Education: Learning Powered by Technology. At the time of the ISTE Conference in Denver last summer, the Technology plan was in the final stages of development. The new plan was released in November, 2010.

Dedication and expertise
Karen shared the highlights of the new plan in a vibrant presentation in which she focused our attention on learning and the learners. Karen comes to the Office of Educational Technology after many years of serving education, including Apple leadership and advocacy roles. As part of this session, one could sense the dedication and expertise that Karen has brought to education and the role technology can have in the teaching and learning enterprise.

One could also sense the intensity of Karen’s mission in the Educational Technology Office, and her background in working as past chair of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. Her ISTE presentation created not only a sense of awareness about the newly released plan, but an energized rationale for the new efforts.

Five goals
The new technology plan, as she outlined, contains five goals. The key words in the focus of each of the goals include:

1. Learning—change the learning processes to achieve more engaging and individualized components;
2. Assessment—develop a new generation of assessment tools and techniques;
3. Teaching—increase empowerment of teachers through access and connection to resources;
4. Infrastructure—provide vehicles for access in and out of the classroom;
5. Productivity—increase school district productivity and thus student achievement.

Key Phrases
Some of the more important phrases that shared the potential and the power of what might be done included:

• continue to pursue the Universal Design for Learning initiatives;
• learn more about “how people learn;”
• measure what matters;
• seek to attain persistent learning records and continuous improvement models;
• enhance both the formal and the informal;
• provide the necessary support;
• redesign, readjust, reapply;
• find the efficiencies.

Rewarding, invigorating, and refreshing
It was rewarding to listen to such a quality, dedicated educator speaking about the national plan to focus the future technology efforts even more on learning and the learner! It was invigorating to hear about a plan, at the national level, that appears to be leading an effort to make the technology efforts make sense and be accountable. It was refreshing to have the plan unfolding in a succinct and focused form.

Where to get it
The full technology plan can be accessed at the U.S. Department of Education website: http://www.ed.gov/technology/netp-2010

NETA will have the honor of hearing Karen Cator as one of its Keynote speakers on Friday morning of the spring conference, April 29, 2011 in the new “Pick Your Own Keynote Speaker” format. Detailed bios were printed about all of NETA’s invited speakers in the November 2010 newsletter.

See more information in the conference preview section, located later in this issue. ❖
The ISTE Conference 2010 brought out many great websites that I couldn’t wait to share! I am always looking for ways to hook students with images, and interactive learning, help them organize their research, and to connect with students when they are not in the classroom.

**Tagxedo**
http://www.tagxedo.com
is a website like Wordle where you can enter a paragraph, poem, or paper you have written, and then pick the picture shape you want the word cloud to display it in.

**Vocaroo**
http://vocaroo.com
—Click one button—“click to record” and it starts immediately. You then have two options, a) Send it to someone, or b) post it on your website and it gives you the embed code. It’s slick, fast, and no signing in before you begin recording.

**Bibme.org**
http://www.bibme.org/
Automated bibliography maker that auto-fills. It’s easy to build a citation page. Did I mention it is free?

Search for a book, article or website, and enter the information you have. Click ‘add it to your bibliography list’ and it automatically will put it in the right MLA, APA, or Chicago format, ready for you to download.

**Google Alerts**
http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en
After setting up a Google account, look into Google Alerts (under the more button)! Find out the latest information on websites, blogs, and discussion boards. Put your name into a google alert to see whenever your name comes across the Internet. Put in your school name to see whenever your school is mentioned. Put in a news story topic and you can monitor developing details. Decide how often you want to be sent an alert email—everyday, once an hour or once a week. It’s a great way to keep updated on information of interest.

**Bit.ly**
Bit.ly allows you to shorten long hyperlinks, share your links with anyone, and get real time data to see how many people have clicked on your new bit.ly link in the last 24 hours, the last seven days or the last 30 days. It is a great way to see if your link is getting used by your students or from links on your website. Twitter, Yahoo and Facebook all use bit.ly to shorten URL addresses on their sites.

*by Jackie Ediger, ESU 9, Hastings*
I’ve had the pleasure of working with NETA over the years for various events and have been able to attend the spring conference for several years. Last year, I was thrilled to be accepted onto the board as the Web Coordinator and thoroughly enjoy working with this great group of leaders. It is amazing what we accomplish and the new NETA site is something we would like to showcase to you!

If you visited the NETA site near the end of 2010, you might have noticed our banner “turning the page in technology” giving a little hint that we were undergoing a site re-design. As you probably have noticed, it is now live and has many features that we plan to use to keep in touch with our members.

This new design is not just my creation however, the entire board had a part in giving suggestions, reviewing content and coming up with creative and innovative ideas on how we might use the new site. Inspired and guided by these ideas and suggestions, we have the result you see every time you load our web presence in your browser! The back end of the site runs off of Joomla, which is a content management system that will help us create a great experience for you when visiting the site.

But we didn’t stop at making it look better and work more efficiently, there are many features in the works also that are not quite ready to roll out yet.

Features in the works include:

- A mobile version of our website supporting various mobile browsing experiences
- Exclusive member-only area with access to content and other specialized web-applications
- Newsletter content continued on the web—a place to view digital excerpts of our great newsletter articles.
- Member collaboration, commenting and more—a great way to get involved in the conversation.

Furthermore, we plan to use social networking/media and web 2.0 tools in many upcoming features. Integrating these items right into the site will help create a great experience for all of our members and site visitors!

What’s new?

Here are some great new items that you can see right now at http://netasite.org

- Quick and direct access to our social networking sites
- E-Mail articles directly to those who might be interested in reading them
- Dedicated areas of the site with specialized content based on if you are an attendee, exhibitor or presenting at the conference. Also easy registration access from the top of every page!

We will have much more in the works leading up to our 2011 spring conference. Check back often for new features and articles. I am excited to have the opportunity to showcase the new site design to you and want to thank you all for the continued support of NETA and our mission!
Permanent Records

This article is reprinted by permission from Tech & Learning magazine, from the October 2010 issue (page 20).
http://www.techlearning.com/article/33300

‘own’ their history and evidence of their achievement,” says Carol Andringa, curriculum specialist for career and technical education. “A portfolio helps them collect, organize, and manage important information for further learning, college and scholarship applications, and job interviews. It is always available, and parents can use it to communicate about school and student progress.”

Digital Leaders

Dickeson can identify plenty of ways teachers can use digital portfolios, from showcasing classroom projects to offering evidence of their own performance. She trains colleagues in how to build a portfolio to augment a textbook or for a lesson that has no textbook attached. The teachers learn to capture Web pages, construct study guides, and incorporate videos. “You can put these into a curriculum portfolio to use again and again,” Dickeson says.

Beyond the District

Once their teachers get started, Andringa and Dickeson know, they’ll find even more uses for PDF portfolios. In fact, while Dickeson was conducting training at the Nebraska Department of Education earlier this year, the state director of technology suggested that he use a PDF portfolio as a pre-meeting organizer rather than send many emails containing many attachments. It probably won’t be too long before Dickeson turns that idea into a reality in her district. (Send questions to Linda at ldickes@lps.org)

Linda Dickeson got excited about electronic portfolios when her district beta tested Adobe Acrobat 9 Pro, almost two years ago. “Previous versions of the software let you create portfolios,” says the Distance Learning Coordinator for the Lincoln (NE) Public School District, “but they weren’t going to get us where we needed to be. With this version, the lightbulb was turned on for educators everywhere.”

Instant Illumination

The key, Dickeson says, is that the program lets you create, in just a few simple steps, a PDF portfolio that you can fill with any kind of file: PowerPoint presentations, scanned documents, video and audio clips, and so on. “The software compresses the files and puts a wrapper around them so it’s one neat little package,” she says.

“Students, parents, anyone with a computer, can open up and interact with all of a portfolio’s contents,” Dickeson says. “And it’s easy for students to continue adding new files every year.”

Although Lincoln teachers are just starting to discover PDF portfolios, they already realize their value. “Students become responsible and...
Welcome to ISTE 2011!
Mark your calendars, and plan now to attend ISTE 2011 in Philadelphia! Join more than 18,000 educators from across the United States and several foreign countries to participate in the largest educational technology conference of its type in the U.S. The conference will be held June 26-29, 2011 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA.

The NETA Board is providing a special ISTE 2011 housing and registration offer for our membership. This offer provides Nebraska NETA members a block of reserved rooms at a reserved hotel, guaranteed super early bird registration rate of $330 ($235 if you are an ISTE member through July 2011), and an opportunity for a Nebraska reception while at ISTE.

The conference organizers have reserved a block of rooms for Nebraska NETA members in the Embassy Suites Philadelphia (Center City), 1776 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103. This hotel is a 10-minute walk from the Convention Center, with the NETA rate of $220/240 per night for single/double rooms. Complimentary shuttle busses are also available to and from the Convention Center. This hotel offers free breakfast and an evening manager’s reception. All accommodations are subject to 15.2% state and room taxes.

NETA Reserved Housing
To take advantage of the Embassy Suites Hotel housing arrangements: Go to the reservation web site: http://bit.ly/gftmLf

• Click “View Rooms and Rates”
• Click “Book”
• Select dates needed
• Click “Book”
• Fill in details for each guest.

All unused rooms in the NETA block will be released for general sale on April 1, 2011.

The registration process described above was new last year. Previously you needed to FAX in your registration to reserve a room in the NETA Block. The online registration is much better, plus you know immediately whether the room is available. Cancellations received by April 13, 2011 will not be charged a cancellation fee. Any cancellations to these room reservations between April 14 and 5:00 EST on June 10, 2011 are subject to a $150 cancellation fee. After June 10th you will need to work directly with the hotel.

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

NETA Super-earlybird Registration
Complete your conference registration separately using the ISTE 2011 Website online registration. Register by May 1, 2011 to qualify for the Early Bird Rate (if you choose the NETA affiliate as outlined below)!

Go to: http://www.isteconference.org/ISTE/2011/registration/ and click Register Online.

Begin by choosing ISTE Member if you are a current ISTE member (conference discounts for ISTE members offset the ISTE membership fee). NOTE: It is important that you select Yes, I am a member of an ISTE Affiliate and choose NETA: Nebraska Educational Technology Association from the Affiliate list while registering. Identifying yourself as a NETA affiliate attendee makes it possible for us to communicate with you before the ISTE conference with any additional up-to-the-minute information about NETA social hours or other events you won’t want to miss. Conference registration is frozen for you at the super early bird price, $330 ($235 if you are an ISTE member), through May 1, 2011.

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

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

If you have any questions about registration or housing for ISTE 2011 in Philadelphia, please contact Sandy Blankenship at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org). We hope to see you in Philadelphia!
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

**February 2011**

**Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)**
February 7–11, 2011
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

**Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)**
February 14–16, 2011
St. Charles, MO
http://metconference.org

**Nebraska Distance Learning Association (NDLA) Vendor Fair**
February 17, 2011
ESU 10, Kearney, NE
groethem@esu10.org

**March 2011**

**Nebraska Association for the Gifted (NAG) Conference**
March 3–4, 2011
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
La Vista, NE
www.negifted.org

**EDUCAUSE Midwest Regional Conference**
March 14–16, 2011
Chicago, IL
net.educause.edu/mwrc11

**CoSN’s School Networking Conference**
March 14–16, 2011
New Orleans, LA
www.cosn.org/events/

**International Technology and Engineering Education Association (ITEEA)**
March 24–26, 2011
Minneapolis, MN
www.iteaconnect.org

**April 2011**

**NETA Spring Conference e3: empower, encourage, engage**
April 28–29, 2011
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
La Vista, NE
http://netasite.org

**May 2011**

**June 2011**

**Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)**
June 7–9, 2011
Holiday Inn Younes Conf. Center
Kearney, NE
nceanews.com

**Technology in Education (TIE)**
June 21–24, 2011
Copper Mountain, Colorado
tiecolorado.org/conference/

**August 2011**

**Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning**
August 3–5, 2011
Madison, Wisconsin
www.uwex.edu/disted/conference

**October 2010**

**ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference**
October 16–18, 2011
Polk County Convention Center
Des Moines, IA
itec-ia.org/en/conference/
NETA News

NETA Spring Conference Preview—April 28-29, 2011
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center—12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE

“e³: empower, encourage, engage”

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

Invited Speakers

Rushton Hurley
Keynote Thursday
The Sky Ain’t Falling, We’re Rising!

Rushton Hurley has been a Japanese language teacher, a principal of an online high school, a teacher trainer, an educational technology researcher, and a school reform consultant who has worked and studied on three continents. He was one of the inaugural cohort of Google Certified Teachers and is now director of an educational nonprofit called Next Vista for Learning, which houses a library of free educational videos made by and for teachers and students everywhere at http://nextvista.org.

New! Choose your own Friday Keynote from these speakers:

Tony Vincent
Question the Status Quo

Tony Vincent started teaching in Omaha twelve years ago when it wasn’t so easy to publish online. He left regular teaching to become an independent consultant. Currently based in Phoenix, Arizona, Tony has worked with teachers and students from around the world. His websites include Learning in Hand, TonyVincent.net, Our City Podcast, and the Arizona K12 Center Technology Blog.

Richard Byrne
Seven Challenges All Educators Face

Richard Byrne is a high school social studies teacher and author of the award-winning blog Free Technology for Teachers. He has presented at conferences and at schools across North America. Richard’s work is focused on sharing free web-based resources that educators can use to enhance their students’ learning experiences. http://www.freetech4teachers.com

Karen Cator
Transforming American Education: Learning Powered by Technology

Karen Cator is the Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education. She has devoted her career to creating the best possible learning environments for this generation of students. Prior to joining the department, Cator directed Apple’s leadership and advocacy efforts in education.
Featured Speaker

Scott Marfilius  
*Featured Thursday on Assistive Technology*

Mr. Marfilius has been working with individuals with disabilities for the past 26 years. The past 20 years has involved implementing assistive technology at various levels. Scott’s focus areas in assistive technology include computer access, and technologies that assist those with cognitive and learning disabilities.

Gallery of Poster Sessions

On Thursday afternoon, watch for the gallery of Poster Sessions. The first session will highlight the state-wide Learning Web grants and teachers who received NETA and Qwest/NETA grants last year, with additional rounds of poster sessions addressing a wide variety of topics. Stroll freely through the gallery of poster sessions where all presenters will informally display projects in one session room and be on hand to answer your questions.

Student Attendance

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

Lunch Tickets!

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

Registration Discounts

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

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

Direct questions about the processing of registrations to:
1.800.280.6218 toll free  
541.346.3537 direct (M–F, 8am–5pm PT)  
netareg@ce.uoregon.edu

For non-registration questions, contact:
Sandy Blankenship, executivedirector@netasite.org, phone 402.540.1904

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[http://netasite.org](http://netasite.org)
Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) Sessions

Bring your own laptop to these sessions. The sessions are FREE, but you must register to attend (a ticket will be required), with a maximum of two BYOL sessions per attendee. Put the BYOL session number and title in the appropriate place on the registration form or online. Register early—each session is limited to 40 attendees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BT10</td>
<td>Googlize Your Classroom</td>
<td>Come and experience some of the best Google tools for teachers and students! We will give a quick overview of some of the many tools Google has to offer: Google Docs, Sites, Picnik, YouTube, Picasa, Earth, Sketchup, Chrome and the new Body Browser! These are all free! Resources and tutorials will be provided online. We will focus on the collaboration tools: Docs and Sites.</td>
<td>Thursday April 28</td>
<td>10:30 AM-12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Judy Griffin, Mary Ann Angeroth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT11</td>
<td>Got the Itch for New Software—SCRATCH it!</td>
<td>Scratch is a free program developed by MIT and the Department of Education. It provides pull-down menus to write programming for computer animation. The presenter will provide lessons and samples that can be used in your classroom immediately. Come learn how to create projects that include video games, animations and image manipulation.</td>
<td>Thursday April 28</td>
<td>12:30-2:00 PM</td>
<td>Richard Gottner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT12</td>
<td>Everyone Has a Voice</td>
<td>Presenters will demonstrate using backchanneling in your classroom. This interactive session will be set up so attendees will be able to participate in backchanneling and know the basics of setup.</td>
<td>Thursday April 28</td>
<td>2:30-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Darren Hanson, Jody Bauer, Jason Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF10</td>
<td>Google Earth, GPS, and Web 2.0: Creating Interactive Explorations</td>
<td>This session will explore Google Earth as platform for digital storytelling. Participants will have the opportunity to create interactive, place and Web 2.0-based multimedia presentations that includes GPS data.</td>
<td>Friday April 29</td>
<td>10:30 AM-12:00 noon</td>
<td>Paul Clark, Bob Goeman, Matt Lee, Tom Gamble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF11</td>
<td>Teaching for Value with Technology</td>
<td>This session will look at how to use online tools that add value to your lessons. Technology can create an individual and meaningful component for any classroom. We'll explore online tools like Scribblar, Stixy, and Xtranormal that enrich the traditional lessons.</td>
<td>Friday April 29</td>
<td>12:30-2:00 PM</td>
<td>Jamey Boelhower</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW at Conference! Barcodes on Name Badges

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

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

Online registration begins February 1, 2011

Be the first at your school or institution to register and get your pick of the BYOL sessions!
Conference Registration

La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center, LaVista, NE [Omaha area]—April 28-29, 2011
Register with this form or online at http://netasite.org

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

- Early registration discount ends March 25, 2011. There is a $5.00 per person late fee after that date [postmarked].
- Pre-registration deadline closes April 8 [Both online or mailing postmarks]. After April 8, please plan to register onsite.
- NETA does not support shared registrations. Each registrant must have their own name badge and packet.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY TO AID IN PROCESSING

Name __________________________________________ Position __________________________________________

School/Organization __________________________________________ District [optional] _______________________

Is the mailing address listed below at school [work] or home? □ school [work] □ home

Street ____________________________ City ____________________________ State _______ Zip ________________

Wk Ph ________________ Hm Ph ________________ E-mail address __________________________

Would you like your name and address released to vendors? [No response indicates permission.] □ Yes □ No

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

Conference Registration Amount [Please check the appropriate box below.] $_____________

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

Register for OPTIONAL BYOL [Bring Your Own Laptop] sessions on the lines below [described on previous pages or on the NETA web site]. BYOL participants must also be registered for the conference. There is a maximum of two BYOL sessions per attendee.

BYOL#  Title

Refund Policy: Conference registration refunds will be made only if notification is made to the registration office listed below by April 8, 2011. A $15.00 handling fee will be subtracted from the refund.

Late Fee [Add $5.00 for registrations postmarked after March 25, 2011, and for on-site registrations] $_____________

Group Discount [Subtract $10 for a full registration or $5.00 for one-day] $_____________

(Must be in groups of 10 or more registrations paid with the same check, PO, or charge card)

Total Amount Enclosed [conference registration + late fee - discount] $_____________

Payment Method: □ Check □ Purchase Order [enclosed] □ MasterCard □ VISA □ American Express

(American Express, Visa or MasterCard only) Charge Card # ________________________ Exp. Date __________

3-4 digit CVV2 code __________ Signature [for charge cards only] __________________________

Would you like to volunteer? Please check if you would be willing to volunteer to assist the NETA Board during the conference.

Mail to: NETA11 Conference Registration
1277 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1277
or 541.346.3545 fax

Questions to: 1.800.280.6218 toll free
541.346.3537 direct [M–F, 8am–5pm PT]
netareg@ce.uoregon.edu

Make checks payable to NETA.
Fed. ID number #47-0775766

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NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
P.O. Box 27
Waverly, NE  68462

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, 2010, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but could not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April, 2011. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

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

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

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