Message from the President

Apps, Apps, and More Apps

An interesting message came through our Technology Coordinators list serve recently asking about tech support of all the different apps on all the various devices. Can one person “know it all?” Should one person be expected to “know it all?” I read it briefly and some of the responses (that came rather quickly) and went on with my duties for the day. A couple of days later as I was working on an iPad, the question popped into my mind again. I started thinking about how I was going to assist our students and teachers when they asked for help in selecting the right app or asked for help on new apps as they download them. Digital age techies realize they have little hope of keeping up with trends, so I did the one thing I knew to do—I turned to the World Wide Web.

By typing an app’s name into Google (I used Evernote), the first four hits were a Youtube video, evernote.com explaining how to use it, a blogcast and a user forum—all I could ever need to know about Evernote! How I LOVE Google! Information on any Apple app including description, screenshots and reviews is also available on www.itunes.apple.com and for the Android devices, www.market.android.com.

If you have a teacher or student who is proficient in an app or a multitude of apps, you might suggest to him or her to do a short Quicktime or Windows Media movie explaining how to use the app using Screenflow. Post it to your school website for others to use. You may compile quite a library in a short time so make sure your server has space available! Include on your website resources a list by subject areas of those who would be agreeable to helping others with app selection and questions. Distance isn’t a problem—use Skype to deliver the content. Skype allows for easy for Q and A, too.

Don’t be afraid to ask students for assistance. They aren’t afraid to try new apps and figure out how they work and what can be done with them. Download the app and hand them your device. This has multiple possibilities. You could assign multiple groups of students a different app that would be appropriate for the subject area you are teaching and they could present a short “tutorial” to the class on use of the app. The class could then select the app they prefer to use in class from the list after discussion of pros and cons of each app.

There are top ten lists everywhere for apps on particular subjects. Use online resources available to you or ask those in your own district to assist you in selecting appropriate apps for your purpose. Important to start with free apps and try them. If they aren’t exactly what you want, move on the ones that you can purchase. Districts have VPP programs in place for purchasing apps from apple.

So ask me, “How does this app work?” Don’t know – Google it, ask your students or your colleagues. If you still need assistance, of course I will help!

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If you can share a success story related to technology in the classroom, or a software solution review, we’d love to print it in a future newsletter. For making the contribution, you will receive a 2012 Spring Conference T-shirt.

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

NETA is an affiliate of ISTE—The International Society for Technology in Education.

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Message from the President Elect—

Over the Past 25 Years!

Over the past twenty-five years; the Nebraska Educational Technology Association has been blessed by so many committed directors on the Board, Executive Coordinators, Presidential leaders, and members who have all contributed to the growth of NETA. To name all of them would be an impossible task but I would like to give a shout out to some of the groups. The board works voluntarily without expectations of fame and wealth, so if you see any of them, please let them know how much you appreciate their hard work. Their sacrifice of time and energy is their humble way of giving back to our profession in the hope that innovations in technology continue to be utilized in the teaching and learning of our children. Many people have contributed over this past quarter of century.

The Executives
I would be remiss if I didn’t start with the glue of the association. Being on the board for over five years, I have come to know how important the Executive Director is in keeping it all together. As I read through many years of NETA minutes, newsletters, and conference programs, four key people have kept the “boat afloat.” The first recorded Executive that I could find in the newsletters was Niels Wodder. In a 1993 newsletter article Niels is mentioned as the first Executive Secretary (when the organization was still NAEDS). It was reported in 1989 that NETA had approximately 760 members. Next was Mike Burns. He served as President, Executive Director (5 years), and currently serves as the Exhibitor Coordinator. Mike probably has the longevity record of being on the board the most consecutive years! Jane Ludwig first served as President of NETA and then served as Executive Secretary from 1989-90. During this time, Jane was busy with the Buy Programs, Whistlestops, and other organizational duties. Next, Linda Dickeson served as President in 1991-92 and upon completing her Past-President position; she became the Executive Secretary starting in 1993. The position title changed to Executive Director on July 1, 2001 and she continued to serve until September 2006. During this time, she also split time with the Lincoln Public Schools. As recorded in years of NETA minutes, Linda made many contributions to the ongoing success of NETA. She continues to do newsletter and conference program layouts for the association. Thank you Linda! Finally, in the fall of 2006, former board member and President, Sandy Blankenship took over the reign of Executive Director. I have had the pleasure of working with her and appreciate her commitment, vision, and tracking all of the changes within the association. She continues to do an incredible job for all of us!

The Speakers
Also, over the past twenty-five years, we have had some great keynote speakers at our conferences. I tried my best to write them in order from April of 1998: Kathy Wilson, Bill Lord, Stephen Marcus, Tom Snyder, Bob Kerrey (via satellite), Roger Wagner, Lewis Perelman, Richard Callahan, Bob Hughes, Fredrik Winsnes, David Dwyer, Bob McCannon, Ted McMain, Jamie McKenzie, David Thornburg, Ian Jukes, Hall Davidson, Rem Jackson, Roger Schank, Bernie Dodge, John Kuglin, David Pogue, David Warlick, Debbie Silver, Don Henderson, Marco Torres, Marc Prensky, Gail Lovely, John Couch, Jason Ohler, Dan Buettner, Alan November, Will Richardson, Bernajeane Porter, Stephanie Hamilton, Peter Reynolds, Rushton Hurley, Tony Vincent, and Richard Byrne. And of course, don’t miss this year when Kevin Honeycutt will be the Keynote speaker on Thursday. On Friday, You will be able to “pick your own keynote” between Tammy Worcester and Travis Allen. All three of these popular speakers will make great contributions to your professional development. How many names do you recognize? How many of these speakers have you heard and are currently implementing their message in your day-to-day technology adventures?

And YOU!
Finally, celebrating 25 years of NETA would not have been possible without you. So many people have contributed to the success of NETA, that it is very hard to recognize everyone. Many of you continue to be ongoing members even though you have not been able to attend every spring conference. We do appreciate all that you do to keep NETA strong! Please make a point in attending our opening session at the conference where we will also recognize our Past Presidents for the great contributions that they have made. Don’t forget the dates: April 26—27, 2012. See you then. ❖
## Vote Online!

### 2012 NETA Officers & 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 24. Voting will ONLY be done online.

- Choose the link at the NETA web site at [http://netasite.org](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.*

**Jason Everett, ESU10**

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.” ~ John Dewey

We are living in the ever-changing world of educational innovation, driven by technological advances never imagined. Having been in education technology for over 18 years, I have seen many changes in this field. In my current role at Educational Service Unit 10, I am provided with many opportunities to work with educators, finding unique and differentiated ways to teach in blended environments, as well as building infrastructures to make it happen. Students across the state have their hands on technology every day and it is imperative that Nebraska educators have the necessary tools and strategies to help their students with being successfully prepared for tomorrow’s world. NETA is the change agent to assure this across Nebraska, guiding educators towards sharing their knowledge and love of teaching, learning, and collaborating in a digital society. I have been proud to be a part of NETA as both a member and Board Member. It is a dedicated organization that offers leadership and innovation across the state by way of the annual conference, professional development opportunities, along with providing support of other initiatives at the state and national levels. I am excited to be a part of the Nebraska educators team, a part of NETA, and to be working with so many committed and outstanding educators every day, all working together to help students become responsible and successful citizens.

No other candidates at this time.

No other candidates for President Elect were nominated. There will be an opportunity to do a “write-in” vote for another candidate if you wish.

### Secretary

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

**Chad Ackerson, Elba**

I am the 5th & 6th grade teacher at Elba. I will be an excellent NETA Secretary because I have a passion for educational technology. I enjoy searching for websites, apps, and other technologies that I can utilize to enhance students’ learning. I am in charge of our school’s Mac based technologies, such as a MacBook Lab and the school’s iPods. I created Elba’s Technology Vision Statement and Goals for our 3 year technology plan. I have also created a variety of staff trainings on technology use—they are available at tinyurl.com/ackersonsedtech. I have helped many of our teachers begin to use technology in the classroom on a regular basis to enhance the academic performance of their students. I am working towards a Master’s Degree in Instructional Technology from UNK, and hope to be a Technology Coach for a district when my degree is finished. I feel that being a part of the NETA Board will help further my knowledge and skills as a Technology Coach. Technology integration is vital to preparing our students for life after school. Being a part of the NETA Board will help me continue to enhance the education of our students.

**Tanya Windham, Adams Middle School**

My family calls me a gadget geek and my colleagues call me a trend setter. The more I learn about technology in education the more I realize I need to learn. My interest in technology began with a Vic 20 and led to a degree in computer science (when DOS was the big thing). I continue to learn and work hard to incorporate technology into my curriculum in meaningful ways. As a member of my district’s Technology Integration Group, my responsibilities include evaluating new technologies for student and staff use. As the NETA Secretary I would hope to advance educator knowledge of technology integration in the classroom to increase student achievement, expose students and staff to learning opportunities beyond the classroom, assist educators in developing alternative methods to collaborate, improve student engagement and creativity, and help educators differentiate their curriculum to meet the specific needs of students. I have presented sessions on differentiation using technology, technology in the classroom, specific Web 2.0 applications, and other topics at the NETA conferences, NAMLE Professional Development Institutes, Nebraska Association for the Gifted, and the Association for Middle Level Educators National Conference. I look forward to serving NETA!
changing society, one in which we must prepare students for their future and not our past. It is my hope that I can bring a variety of ideas to the NETA Board to make an already strong organization even better.

Tara Baker, Grand Island Senior High

I'm caught in the middle, born too late to graduate without using technology in the classroom and born too early to be part of the digital generation. I completed high school having only spent one hour on the Internet, I completed undergraduate with only an email account, and I completed a masters online. Yet, I continue to teach in a school district that isn't 1:1 and is uncomfortable with students using their own technological devices in the classroom. I've taught in the regular education, Advanced-Placement, and English Language Learners classroom; all of them required their own set of technological needs. I would like to serve on the NETA board of directors so I can share my technology struggles and experiences with others. I feel my organization and prior-experiences serving on board of directors for other organizations will allow me to contribute and lead when needed. As someone who has to work to keep up with the daily advances in technology I believe I will be able to communicate what I think are the best practices to be used in classrooms and the different types of problems that come with using them with NETA's members.

Crys Bauermeister, Pierce Jr Sr High

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 1:1, and although I used to be a Language Arts teacher, I now assume the hats of a computer applications teacher and school librarian. 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. Besides, we love playing! My involvement with NETA includes presenting at four previous conferences, helping at registration for the past three years, and attendance at the conference for the past eleven 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!

Jackie Ediger, ESU9

Technology opens up the world to our students today and I feel that anything we can do to empower students and prepare them for tomorrow makes a difference. At NETA conferences, I have seen the impact the NETA organization has had on teachers and how it affects students' motivation back in the classroom. Continuing to serve on the NETA board would allow me to

(continued on the next page)
Graphic Imagery contest. Both positions require commitment, encourage students to be creators of their own learning. On the technology into their teaching practices on a consistent basis and College. My goal is to guide educators on how to incorporate Degree in C&I and in Educational Leadership through Doane Council of School Administrator (NCSA) conferences and ESU Technology Affiliate Secretary; Presenter at NETA, Nebraska include: ESU9 Instructional Technology Conference committee; ESU Technology Affiliate Secretary; Presenter at NETA, Nebraska Council of School Administrator (NCSA) conferences and Co-Chair of NCSC Administrator Technology Boot-camps throughout the state; and instructor for Hastings College and Doane College technology courses for teachers. I have a Master’s Degree in C&I and in Educational Leadership through Doane College. My goal is to guide educators on how to incorporate technology into their teaching practices on a consistent basis and encourage students to be creators of their own learning. On the NETA board I am the chair for the NETA room hosts and the Graphic Imagery contest. Both positions require commitment, collaboration and dedication.

Matt Flynn, Ashland-Greenwood PS
Since I began teaching in 2002, I have had a passion for educational technology. Engaging students through the use of a variety of technological tools is what helped me become Ashland-Greenwood’s Technology Integration Specialist in 2008. As the district’s Technology Integration Specialist, I work with teachers to develop lessons and units that effectively use technology, encourage higher level thinking skills, and meet ISTE NETS-S standards. I have been a NETA member since 2005 and a member of ISTE since 2009. I attended the ISTE conferences in both 2009 and 2010, and I have presented at NETA multiple times. Serving on the NETA Board would allow me to actively support the continued tradition of excellence that occurs each year at the NETA conference. As a NETA Board member, I would be able to share many of the best practices I have observed while working to build a strong educational technology environment at Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools. In addition, I am committed to helping the students and teachers in our state develop effective teaching strategies and philosophies that prepare them for their future. I also serve as an adjunct faculty member for Doane College, teaching courses on Instructional Technology as part of their Curriculum and Instruction Master’s Program. Over the last three years, I have developed and led numerous professional development activities for staff at Ashland-Greenwood and several other schools implementing one-to-one initiatives. The perspectives I have gained from these experiences will help me represent the schools of Nebraska. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve you on the NETA Board!

Brent Gaswick, Nebraska Dept. of Ed.
I started my education career with the Rapid City Area Schools. During this time, I was a Special Ed. teacher, 5th grade teacher, Instructional Technology Specialist and a Dean of Students. While in Rapid City, SD I received my Masters in Ed. Admin. In 2003 I became a K-6 Elementary Principal in Gordon, NE. As principal I helped lead several technology initiatives including a project to connect the Elementary School and the High School with fiber optic. My interest in technology dates back to my 3rd grade classroom when the principal came into the room and choose me to go to the library and spend 20 mins using the new Apple II+ computer. I have been hooked ever since. While I am into technology, my real passion is for how technology can be used to improve student achievement, motivation and learning. The effective implementation and use of technology has the power to truly transform education. It was my interest and desire to integrate technology in education that lead me to my current position with the Nebraska Department of Education as a Technology Integration Specialist. In this role I have presented at NETA, the ESU’s and individual school districts on ways that technology could support and enhance the instruction of classroom teachers as technology can never replace a highly qualified teacher. Serving on the NETA board is a perfect opportunity to continue my goal of helping make Nebraska Education the best in the Nation.

Joan Ibarra, Alliance Public Schools
I am the “Systems and Data Technician” at Alliance Public Schools. Like most NETA members, I wear many hats: Power School Administrator, web master, data manager, troubleshooter and overall "technology gopher". I have enjoyed attending NETA for the past several years, and have always come away invigorated about the learning and collaboration that takes places at these conferences. The thing I like the most about my job is learning new skills and sharing with others. We have had a lot of positive change in technology in the past three years and it has moved us forward exponentially. In addition, this year our high school became a 1:1 school. We are excited and proud of our recent advancements in technology. I believe that adapting to change is the main component of an effective technology person. Embracing challenges and learning is a rewarding experience and I am fortunate to be in a position where I am able to do both. I would be honored to serve on the NETA board. I would embrace the opportunity to learn and share, and would be dedicated to being a valuable contributing Director.

Robbie Jensen, ESU3
I am an Instructional Technology Specialist for Educational Service Unit #3. I support 18 different school districts by providing instruction technology training both in the classroom and as part of professional development workshops. Before my work at ESU #3, I worked as an elementary technology facilitator teacher K-6 technology classes for Omaha Public Schools. I consider myself to be constantly learning. I have received my Master’s Degree in Elementary Education and a certificate in Instructional Technology from UNO. I am a SMART Certified Instructor and a Google Qualified Individual. I have been a member of NETA since I started my education career and wouldn’t miss a conference. I am constantly looking for new ways to better the achievement of students by attending other conferences and learning opportunities as well. I have attended many conferences and have assisted in presenting at NETA and ISTE and believe in sharing ideas to better the educational environment for our students. I strongly believe that instructional technology, when used properly can open doors for students and prepare them for the future.

Todd LeMense, Marrs Magnet/OPS
As a Technology Specialist, I have the opportunity to work with students and teachers on a daily basis. I am able to put technology into the hands of our students and see the fantastic projects that they develop. I am always amazed at what students are able to do with camera phones, text messaging, laptops, iPads, camcorders, Internet, and computer applications. I have been with OPS for (continued on the next page)
(Vote, continued)

over 20 years and during that time have served as a classroom teacher, technology instructor, technology coordinator, and now technology specialist. I have worked with all grade levels during my career and have experienced great success with each level. I am a member of ISTE and attend the annual ISTE conference during the summer. I have been a member of NETA for many years and feel that NETA and the NETA Conference are great avenues to share information with colleagues around the state. I have presented many times at the NETA conference and have always been able to bring something back to my school from many of the other great presentations. I am excited about the direction technology is moving with our students - the energy, drive and passion for increased use of technology should help to drive us as educators as well. I would be honored to serve on the NETA board and continue to increase the awareness of what NETA does for our state. If elected, I bring enthusiasm and my passion for educational technology for improving learning and instruction to the board.

Lori Long, Gothenburg Public Schools
I have taught in Gothenburg for seven years, the last five 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 and volunteered at several NETA and NEMA conferences, as well as participated as a member of a Learning Web team at NETA in 2010. Serving on the 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.

Jeff Paige, Northwest High School
I have been teaching at Grand Island Northwest High School for the past 14 years. I have taught in Kansas and Iowa as well. In all of the schools I have taught I have brought a high level of enthusiasm and energy to my classes. My experiences range from Kdg PE to 12th grade Physics. I currently teach in the Sciences and Engineering areas. I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the NETA Board. I feel that I can bring a different viewpoint to the table with my vast experiences in a variety of educational settings. I have been very involved in the McRel process at Northwest NS and have participated in the many workshops that ESU 10 has offered. Last year I had the privilege of participating at the NETA conference as a member of a Learning Web with my fellow science teachers. One of the main factors that I wish to serve is that I feel that as NETA educators we need to provide our students and peers with the knowledge of technology and how it can best be used in the classroom setting to enhance learning. As an "Old Dog" who has learned "new tricks" I am looking forward to learning even more and sharing that with my students and fellow teachers at Northwest and across Nebraska. Those that know me will attest to the fact that I will be a positive and enthusiastic member of the NETA Board.

Kristina Peters, Ralston Public Schools
Technology holds the potential to change the manner in which students learn and engage. It is our duty as educators to ensure that technology is in the hands of every student. I have made it a priority to ensure my students have as much access to technology as possible in my current position as an ELL teacher in Ralston Public Schools, as well as my previous position as an ELL inclusion teacher in Omaha Public Schools. Whether my students are blogging, using iPod Touches, iPads, or Web 2.0 tools, they are constantly exposed to technology to help motivate and foster learning. My professional world was revolutionized when I joined Twitter and started blogging in 2009. I found an entire community of amazing educators who invited me in with open arms. As I invested time in this new form of professional development, I also began to attend workshops and local conferences, such as NETA, where my passion for learning and sharing became stronger. In two years, I have gone from attending to presenting at these same conferences. It would be an honor to join the NETA Board of Directors to help lead Nebraska educational technology forward, inspire others to find their passion, and further develop my Personal Learning Network.

Stephen Sautter, York Public Schools
After teaching 7th grade math for seven years at York Middle School, I moved to the Media and Tech Integration Specialist position at York Middle and High Schools. As the Media and Tech Integration Specialist, it is now my responsibly to lead, educate, support, and guide students and staff into the future using 21st century skills. NETA has been an invaluable experience and resource for me to become a better leader, educator, and life-long learner. Incorporating technology is essential to prepare our students for their future. When students utilize technology in learning, their level of engagement and understanding increases. Therefore, in order to optimize learning, it is imperative to inform staff and students on new educational tools in technology. NETA is the resource that allows teachers to do just that. NETA gives teachers the chance to learn new tools, strategies, and skills to better educate students. NETA supports educators as they teach students to connect, communicate, learn and collaborate with others worldwide. NETA provides networking opportunities, giving teachers the opportunity to keep up with ever-changing landscape in education by learning from each other. It is also a place to celebrate the achievements schools, staff, and students make using technology. Collaborating and networking with teachers from around the Midwest at NETA is an invaluable event. I would honor the opportunity to serve on the NETA board to assist teachers and students move into the 21st century.

Kandi Stelling, Kearney PS
I teach K-5 Elementary students music for Kearney Public Schools. I am passionate about incorporating meaningful technology within my curriculum and helping other teachers to do the same. Collaborating with teachers and students to help them creatively express and demonstrate their learning has been my greatest joy! I have created curriculum for the music enrichment program at my school, which included fostering students’ creativity through original musical compositions, podcasting and digital storytelling. From this experience, I was accepted to present for NETA 2011 and ISTE 2011. I am also an instructor for summer technology institutes, geared toward professional development in my district. It would truly be an honor to be a part of the NETA Board of Directors at such an exciting time in education! More and more school districts across Nebraska are realizing the significant role they must play in technology education for their teachers and even more importantly, their students. NETA does a great job in providing access to valuable tools and resources for teachers and school districts to do these (continued on the next page)
very things. I would also like to be a part of this team because you share, support, and demonstrate technologies that use best practices and strategies. These concepts engage students in higher-level thinking, creativity, and communication and collaboration skills imperative for education in the 21st Century. If selected to your Board of Directors, I would bring an enthusiastic, passionate, fresh perspective, which will compliment the progressive NETA team. Thank you for your consideration.

Angie Wassenmiller, Concordia University

I am the Director of Instructional Technology and E-Learning at Concordia University. I also serve as an adjunct instructor in the College of Education, where I teach undergraduate and graduate courses in instructional technology and teacher leadership. Prior to joining Concordia, I taught instructional technology and elementary practicum courses at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Originally from Nebraska, I moved to Texas after graduating from College of Saint Mary and received my post-bac education credentials from Southern Methodist University. I received my master's degree in Computer Education and Cognitive Systems from the University of North Texas, and moved back to Nebraska to pursue my PhD in Instructional Technology from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. I taught elementary school and served as a K-12 technology trainer in both Texas and Colorado. I am a Google Certified Teacher. I would like to serve on the NETA board because I believe in the importance of K-12 and higher education partnerships. I would love to find more ways to connect Nebraska's teacher education students with NETA members and activities. Whatever your background, your input is needed! So when late April rolls around and you are looking for something different in your NETA Conference experience, make sure to stroll on over to the cozy Marriott Library and take in a Conversation.

NOTE about voting:
Contact Sandy Blanknship at executivedirector@netasite.org if your membership number is torn or unreadable on this newsletter. Please cast your votes at netasite.org.

K-12 Disaster Planning & Recovery Workshop

When:
Wednesday, February 29th, 2012

Where:
Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

What:
Disaster Recovery Training for Technology Coordinators and School District Administrators. This workshop is a full-day event that will focus on disaster planning and give an opportunity to begin working on your disaster recovery plan. The speakers and workshops for the event will help with the planning phase and show how preparing for disaster is not as overwhelming as one might think.

Speakers:
Keynote Speaker—Kirk Langer, Director of Technology at the Lincoln Public Schools

Guest Speaker—Dr. Steve Joel, Superintendent at Lincoln Public Schools

Workshop Facilitators and Planning Committee:
Gary Needham, Kearney Public Schools
Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools
Lucas Bingham, Louisville Public Schools
SuAnn Witt, Nebraska Dept of Education
Tom Rolfe, Nebraska State Office of the CIO

For more information and to register for this event, please visit: http://netasite.org/drworkshop

Conversations at NETA 2012!

by Josh Allen, Papillion-La Vista Schools

This year, the 25th Anniversary of NETA, I encourage you to try something new: the Conversation Strand. In the last two newsletters we’ve discussed what the strand is (group discussions instead of traditional sit and get) and why you should present in the strand (because we are always wanting new ideas!). Now, I would encourage you to go to one at NETA 2012! What you’ll see in many of the session descriptions is “come to share” and “learning from the group.” Maybe you will see a topic that your school has been reflecting about, discussing, or implementing. Whatever your background, your input is needed! So when late April rolls around and you are looking for something different in your NETA Conference experience, make sure to stroll on over to the cozy Marriott Library and take in a Conversation.
Dennis McIntrye Retires From NETA Board

By Sandy Blankenship, Executive Director

Maybe you remember him as Mr. WiFi (at NETA 2010) or as the guy in the media closet when conferences were at Holiday Inn. If you’ve been attending NETA since the early 90s you might remember him as President of NETA. For many years, he’s served as NETA’s Site Coordinator. Dennis McIntrye has worn many hats for NETA, doing whatever needed to be done to improve the conferences for all attending.

I’m not sure when I got to know Dennis, but it was probably when I was first on the NETA Board in the early 90s. However, it didn’t take long to figure out that he was something special. The board could be discussing a very hot topic, and Dennis would just listen then eventually analyze the situation and communicate a solution from all the discussion. When Dennis talks, people listen!!

Tireless Advocate

Dennis has provided a variety of services during the NETA conferences. Years ago he’d organize all the TVs and VCRs, bring them from Westside, store them in hotel rooms and then he and a crew would get them to the presentation rooms as needed. One of the most monumental tasks he accomplished was working with the Embassy Suites people before the shovels had even broken ground. He had a vision of what NETA needed and he worked tirelessly to evaluate whether this new complex would best meet NETA’s needs. Once he shared the plans with the NETA Board and they approved moving forward, he then brokered a deal with Embassy. Whether you are a board member or an attendee, you are now benefiting from his work by having a conference site where session rooms and exhibition hall are close together, there’s ample parking, and improved Internet access.

Dennis was President of NETA in 1992-93 and soon after that became the Site Coordinator. This past October he resigned from the board because of health reasons. Thankfully he still plans to attend NETA 2012 and assist our new Site Coordinator, Lynn Behounek, as needed. Dennis’ wife, Cheryll, has also assisted during conferences and we want to acknowledge her as well.

There is no way to adequately thank Dennis for all he’s done. There are too many tasks spanning many years. If you’d ask Dennis why he’s supported NETA all these years, he’d most likely credit his supervisors at Westside for “expecting” him to contribute his talents. He also will pass on the “thank yous” to his colleagues from Westside who continue to enhance the conference network. Westside Community Schools has been very supportive of NETA throughout the years and we also want to thank them for allowing Dennis to serve NETA!

If you see Dennis during NETA 2012, please tell him thanks! He’ll most likely be wearing his blue NETA shirt—or possibly, if necessary, be dressed as Mr. WiFi!

2012 NETA Conference Volunteers

Volunteers are a vital part of the NETA Conference each year. They help attendees find their way around the conference floor, help with registration, and they add a friendly smile to the busy hallways. It doesn’t take a lot of skill, just a willingness give up a small portion of your conference time and an eagerness to help others.

If you are willing to volunteer during the conference, sign up on the conference registration form when you register for the 2012 NETA Conference. If you have questions, contact William Bolen, NETA Past President and Conference Volunteer Coordinator, at wbolen@esu10.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the conference in April!"
Two topics in many presentations and conversations at the Nebraska Education Technology Association Conference in the spring of 2011 were iPads and using videos. I’m going to focus on videos. The use of videos to enhance learning by students and to help students enjoy learning has increased dramatically. Video cameras, flip cameras and even cell phones make taking a video, editing (or not) and posting the video become very easy. I see three main ways that videos are being used in the classroom. Some examples would be:

1. **Capture interest**
   Capturing student interest by using videos. Dan Meyer is a leader in using videos to capture student interest. See examples at [http://blog.mrmeyer.com/](http://blog.mrmeyer.com/).

2. **“Flip” the classroom**
   In a “flipped” classroom students’ homework is to watch a video or lecture. Students come to class and work problems where the teacher can provide guidance and help. A short video of what a “flipped” looks like can be found at [http://vodcasting.ning.com/video/the-flipped-classroom](http://vodcasting.ning.com/video/the-flipped-classroom).

3. **Student-created videos**
   Student created videos help students share their knowledge. We all know that the highest level of learning is achieved when you teach someone else.

**Upside-down teaching**
Cathy Seeley, former president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, suggests something called “upside-down teaching.” Rather than starting a lesson with the identification of procedures and simple examples then working up to a rich, challenging problem, teachers who practice upside-down teaching begin with the rich, challenging problem. Seeley suggests the following outline: start with a rich problem; engage students in dealing with the problem by discussing, comparing, and interacting; help students connect and notice what they have learned; then assign exercises and homework. This approach is similar to project based learning.

I have links to several examples on my web site at [http://lvermaas.wikispaces.com/Upside+Down+Teaching](http://lvermaas.wikispaces.com/Upside+Down+Teaching). Dan Meyer is a master of this strategy. One recent example shows a video of him shooting a basket. The inevitable question is, “Will the basketball go through the hoop?” Students use mathematics and the video to look at the path of the ball to come up with an answer and then check the video to see if they are correct. To see his videos and thoughts go to [http://blog.mrmeyer.com/](http://blog.mrmeyer.com/).

If you have not heard of the “flipped classroom,” I am sure that you will in the near future. Rather than spending class time lecturing students, teachers who flip their classroom use videos as homework and then spend time in class helping students learn. The power of using videos is “rewindable” learning. Students do not always learn the first time. Videos allow the student to rewind or stop and watch as many times as they want. While some teachers record a teaching episode, there are many sources of lessons for students. A short list would include Patrickjmt, Khan Academy, Brightstorm, YouTube and Teacher Tube. A more extensive list is on my web page at [http://esu6math.wikispaces.com/Video+Teaching+Resources](http://esu6math.wikispaces.com/Video+Teaching+Resources). Consider using student recommendations and teacher input to create useful resources.

**Students create videos to demonstrate learning**
Finally, I would like to talk about student-created videos. Students or groups of students who create a video to demonstrate the distributive property will have a much better understand of that property and one that will last long after the NeSA-M assessment in the spring. Sharing the video will help other students learn. These projects allow a variety of students to show off their expertise. Teachers may say, “But I don’t know how to make or edit a video.” Don’t worry, your students do. Let them take the lead. Other Web 2.0 tools are Voice Thread, Animoto, GoAnimate, or ToonDoo.

If you have any ideas on videos, sites, or comments please share them with me at lennyvermaas@gmail.com.
Are you looking for a good way to get your students creating their own music? With the number of iOS apps growing rapidly every day, it’s hard to keep track of and find the best ones. When it comes to using them in the classroom, where do you go for ideas? I have your answer! I have already done some of this work for you! As an Instrumental Music teacher, I focused my searching on music-related apps.

I have put together a list of my Top 10 Music Production apps. These apps can be used in a music classroom as well as a non-music classroom. These apps range in prices from free to $19.99; some apps offer a lite version for free. Talk to your Tech Specialist about the possibility of getting these apps at a reduced price through Apple’s Volume Licensing.

These apps also vary in the level of ability needed to use them. Some of these don’t require any musical knowledge at all to create a musical masterpiece! Have your students create songs from original poems, songs to accompany videos they created, songs to write a song to show their knowledge of a certain topic, etc. Allow your students to find new and creative ways to demonstrate their knowledge in your class.

If you have questions, contact me at kimberly.ingraham@ops.org.

Making Music with your iPad or iPod Touch

Top 10 iOS Apps for Music Production

1. **GarageBand**
   ($4.99)—This app turns your device into a recording studio. With it’s multiple touch instruments, Smart Instruments, and a song creator, GarageBand will allow you to record yourself, use preloaded melodies and loops, and publish to mp3s.

2. **Music Studio**
   ($14.99/Lite Version, Free)—This app has a built-in piano keyboard, 65 studio-quality instruments, a 127-track sequencer, note editing, reverb, real-time effects all on a user-friendly interface.

3. **Band Simulator**
   ($15.99/$9.99)—This app has a guitar, bass, and drums and allows you to add loops to create original songs.

4. **MadPad HD**
   ($2.99)—This app allows you to make songs with different sound sets. You can also download sets created by other people.

5. **iDousyn**
   ($1.99)—This is a monophonic synthesizer which also includes a voice recorder and a drum with a simple, easy-to-use interface.

6. **AmpliTube**
   ($19.99/Lite Version, Free)—This app includes a guitar and a multi-effect recording studio.

7. **DJ Mixer Pro**
   ($3.99/Lite Version, Free)—This app allows you to change the tempos of your songs without affecting the playback pitch.

8. **ASD**
   (Amazing Slow Downer) ($14.99/Lite Version, Free)—This app allows you to adjust the mix, pitch, and speed of the songs on your iOS device to learn them at your own pace.

9. **Songify**
   (Free)—This app will turn your speaking into singing, similar to AutoTune. Just speak to your device and let it create your song for you!

10. **Pro Keys**
    ($2.99)—This app is a multi-instrument keyboard that also allows you to play, sing, record, and edit tracks.
Get Clicker Feedback from Students Without Buying Clickers

Socrative—A new web 2.0 tool that truly anyone can use!

Ok, so you might be asking yourself, “What’s your big deal with Socrative over those clickers anyway?” Well, first of all, Socrative is 100% free, at least for now. As with any product in development or beta they could start charging at any time. Moreover, the Socrative system is online and very simple to use. The system works all inside a web browser on any device. As a teacher, you load the teacher portal to manage the class. Then, direct your students to a website and give them your room number to join in class activities. You control when students complete questions or activities.

Here is a quick overview of how it works from the start:

- Visit the Socrative home page to learn more about how the response system works at http://socrative.com
- When you are ready to create a free teacher account, visit http://t.socrative.com and click “Register”
- Type an e-mail address and select a password to use. Once you are finished, click “Register” and you will be guided through a quick overview of the program.
- You will then be taken to the Socrative teacher portal. Here is where all your work for classes will be done. Start by trying the system out with a simple test. You can pretend to ask your students a multiple choice question.
- Grab another computer, smartphone, iPod Touch, iPad or open a different browser and visit http://m.socrative.com (where your students will go to answer questions and engage in class).
- Join your room number and respond to the activity you started in the teacher portal, you should see live results! (Continued on the next page)
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 26–27, 2012 to gather ideas for the project.
- attend a regional two-day institute in June at an ESU to learn about instructional strategies and develop an action plan.
- work with a team facilitator who will help to answer questions and provide resources.
- align the project to a school improvement goal.
- make sure the project supports at least one proven instructional strategy.
- implement the project by second semester of the 2012–13 school year.
- share the project at the NETA conference in April, 2013.

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 26th. Don’t miss this session! The focus of last year’s teams was integrating social studies concepts and many of them have been incorporating video editing. Many of the poster sessions will highlight the tools they’ve used to improve student learning.

This is the eighth 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 2012 team. If you are interested, please contact the technology professional development person at your local ESU.
I have been a major Google user for about 7 years. My Google Doc list is four times as long as my documents list on my computer. Everything is in the Google Cloud! I even bought extra space for my pictures on Picasa (since my desktop computer at home almost died one day...I felt good about having Google having a hand in making sure I wouldn’t lose any pictures!). Google is always adding, changing and adapting to what people say they want.

Google+ rival to Facebook?
Google+ is a possible rival to Facebook because that is where all my friends are located. I love touching base with people I don’t get to see very often and seeing pictures of long lost friends’ families. The friends I have on Google+ so far are persons like me who use a lot of technology and LOVE to use Google tools.

New favorite
My newest favorite tool in Google is a part of Google+: Google Hangout with Extras. Google Hangout is a video conferencing service that Google has within Google+. It works great, can be used with up to 10 people, but you are thinking, “I already have iChat, Skype, Google Talk and Facetime, so seriously, why would I need ANOTHER video chatting tool?!?”

Google+, Google Hangout with Extras was introduced to me by Brian Fitzgerald from Lincoln Public Schools. During a planning session for a summer event, six of us throughout the state had a video conference. There was a small video with each of us down the right side, a chat window in the lower left, and then in the upper left a list of Google Documents to share with the group! It starts you out with ‘Notes’ – a blank document to take notes on and sketchpad to draw on (more fun than useful in meetings). Brian shared a couple documents with the group...and voila! just like google magic, the entire group could see the documents and they were added to their list of Google Docs.

This service is currently in Beta, but I am seeing some great possibilities and the cost for Google+ Hangout with Extras is FREE! I have used Adobe Connect for video conferencing, and it was also a learning curve to get going with a group of people. The recording feature was great, but I don’t know if I used it enough to get my money’s worth.

Let’s get started! If you have a Google account, on the classic Google page or on your iGoogle page, click the +You in the top left corner of your screen. This will get you going in Google+. From here, you will see your Google+ page. You can now invite anyone with a Google account to be your friend.

Once you invite people, then you can start your hangout. A hangout is just a video conference for up to ten people—the Hangout with Extras allows you (Continued on the next page)
(Google Hangout, continued)

For questions about Google+ Hangout with Extras, email Jackie at jediger@esu9.org ❖

Meetings for NETA Sponsored Groups

Tech Coordinators
There has been a change of venue for the Tech Coordinators’ meeting in February. The date is still the same, Wednesday, February 15, 2012. The meeting will now be held at ESU #9 in Hastings, NE in the JVW Conference Room.

1:1 Initiative
The next meeting will be held January 31, 2012 at ESU10 in Kearney. A working agenda will follow. Register at https://odie.esu10.org/workshops.

To check on the status of meetings and/or agendas, go to http://netasite.org. Under the main menu, click on “Sponsored Groups.” ❖

NETA Logo for 2012 Chosen!

The winning design for the NETA Logo Contest is by Abigail Swanson at the Lincoln Public Schools Information Technology Focus Program. Abigail is a sophomore. Teacher sponsor is Steve Carr. Thanks to the contest coordinator, Jason Rushing from LPS. ❖
A Teacher’s Guide to Twitter

Do you tweet? The answer could be “Yes!” or “What’s a tweet?” A tweet is the term for making a post on the free microblogging service called Twitter. My use of twitter revolves around my job at school. I only tweet items that other teachers and techies would find useful. If a teacher wants to see what gems of knowledge I have shared, they ‘follow’ me. Twitter is totally public! Anyone can follow anyone. For that reason, I don’t share any exact details about my students, class field trips, etc.

The first step of using twitter is to sign up for an account. It is fairly straightforward. Visit twitter.com, fill in the fields below New to Twitter and click on the yellow sign up button.

Fill in your information and choose your twitter name. When choosing your user name, try to use a similar pattern to other online identities you already have, such as your email. Even if you are not planning on using twitter soon, it is a good idea to ‘reserve’ the name you want, because they are being used up fast! Upper and lower case does not matter, and try to avoid underscores. Your twitter name will begin with an @ (at) sign. Mine is @dalindg—and it matches my Google email, AOL AIM, and plurk account id’s.

Once you have your login created, you can start using twitter immediately! Make your first tweet simply by typing in the “What’s happening” field at the top of the page. The 140 characters count down as you type... brevity is the key. This is why it is called microblogging!

Even if you have not followed anyone, you can use hash tags to get lots of useful information. A hash tag I check out all the time is #edtech—just enter the hash tag in the search box way at the top of the twitter page (search is shown by a small magnifying glass next to the blank field shown in the image below.)

You haven’t followed any of these people, but they have tweeted and included the #edtech in their tweet. If any of these people look like someone you would like to follow, just click on their name and choose follow. Later, if you notice they now post more about what they ate for breakfast than education, you can unfollow by simply clicking on the red unfollow next to their name.

NETA 2012 will use the hash tag #neta12 so you can view live comments and notes during our conference! The most exciting use of twitter for me has been seeing other educator’s notes during a session I am attending as well. I can also see notes from other sessions going on at the same time. I have also found I’m less apt to lose my notes if I tweet them.

If you didn’t have time to see the tweets during or right after an event, use the site http://topsy.com to view past posts. Entering #neta11 in the search field will return all notes and comments from last year’s NETA conference. Entering #iste11 will let you see our national conference tweets! You can also see all of my tweets by searching on @dalindg.

(Continued on the next page)
Executive Director Position

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

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

New Name, Same Quality Discussions

By Nicole Badgley, Arnold Public School

In an effort to keep up with the times, the Laptop Community website will be changing its name to 1:1 Communities. (http://1to1.communities.esu10.org) As school districts sign up to attend these meetings, they add to an ongoing agenda of topics that is relevant to their immediate needs. Many of those needs involve mobile devices of many kinds. We have talked at length about each of these topics and would not want the name of our group to exclude any potential school districts that are using mobile devices. We will continue to talk about laptop issues as well as acceptable uses, management, professional development, and the use of many devices.

The 1:1 Community met on October 24, 2011 in Kearney at ESU10 with about 13 schools represented. A lively discussion was held along with a NETA hosted lunch to allow the educators to network and talk on their own. The minutes of the last meeting definitely reflect the interest in mobile devices and the variety of 1:1 options for school districts. (To read the minutes of the October meeting please go to: http://bit.ly/tZ9y22)

This group originated in August of 2008 as several schools requested a “support group” to discuss the specific needs, interests, concerns and planning of 1 to 1 school districts. At the time, these districts were going 1 to 1 with laptops. Since then, districts have been able to provide mobile devices in many forms including iPods, iPads, cell phones, tablets, handheld readers, and, of course, laptops.

(Twitter, continued)
The main drawback of twitter.com is that it is very over-used. Once you understand the basics of twitter, you may wish to avoid twitter.com’s time-outs by using other tools. Two that I like are http://www.tweetdeck.com (a download) or http://hootsuite.com (online) to tweet and follow multiple hashtag feeds. Those tools include automatic link shortening and ways to let you post more than 140 characters at a time.

I try to visit twitter at least once a week, and every time I find at least two new resources to use in my classroom. As you start to tweet, others may follow you, especially if you remember a hashtag and a link to make your tweets more usable. You may find this to be an excellent tool for curriculum planning as well as tech support and parent communication. Hopefully, rather than taking more of your precious time, it will turn into a real time saver!
Welcome to ISTE 2012!
Mark your calendars, and plan now to attend ISTE 2012 in San Diego!
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. The conference will be held June 24–27, 2012 at the San Diego Convention Center.

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

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

NETA Reserved Housing
To take advantage of the Embassy Suites Hotel housing arrangements: Go to the reservation web site: http://bit.ly/ypzXK2

- 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 March 29, 2012.

The registration process described above was new two years ago. 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 5:00 p.m. EST on April 11, 2012 will not be charged a cancellation fee. Reservations cancelled after 5:00 p.m. EST on April 11, 2012, will be assessed a $150 cancellation fee, unless specific alternative arrangements have been negotiated with ISTE.

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

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. San Diego 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 2012 in San Diego, please contact Sandy Blankenship at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org). We hope to see you in San Diego!
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

**February 2012**

**Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)**
February 13–15, 2012
St. Charles Convention Center
St. Louis, MO
metcconference.org

**Nebraska State Reading Association Conference**
February 23–25, 2012
Ramada Inn, Kearney, NE
www.nereads.org

**Nebraska Association for the Gifted (NAG) Conference**
February 29, 2012
Scott Conference Center
Aksarben Village
Omaha, NE
www.negifted.org

**March 2012**

**CoSN’s School Networking Conference**
March 5–7, 2012
Washington D.C.
www.cosn.org/events/

**International Technology and Engineering Education Association (ITEEAA)**
March 15–17, 2012
Long Beach, CA
www.iteaconnect.org

**April 2012**

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

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

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

**United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)**
April 29–May 2, 2012
St. Louis, MO
www.usdla.org/
2012-usdla-national-conference

**June 2012**

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

**August 2012**

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

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

**October 2012**

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

**February 2012**

http://netasite.org
NETA Spring Conference Preview—April 26-27, 2012
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center—12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE

“25 Years of Innovation”

As a NETA member, you have the benefit of receiving advanced Spring Conference information, BYOD 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 BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) sessions at the conference, which are filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

Invited Speakers

Kevin Honeycutt
Keynote Thursday
*Trends, Tools and Tactics for 21st Century Learning*
This keynote is a fun look at the exciting things that happen when educators step outside their boxes and try new tools. It reinforces the importance of relationships while encouraging teachers to become learners again through positive examples of student success.

Tammy Worcester
21st Century Teaching & Learning—It’s About TIME!
“Time” is the central theme of this inspirational, humorous, and informational presentation. Tammy will share examples of the impact of time on human behavior and will provide some practical ways to use time wisely and even save time by using technology effectively and efficiently.

Travis Allen
*Becoming a Mobile Learner*
Hear from a student on becoming a mobile learner in today’s world. As a college student, Travis brings his iPad and only his iPad to each of his courses. He does not own paper, pen, a printer, or books. Find out how he accomplishes this and get a glimpse of what students will look like in the very near future. Also, hear about his student led non-profit dedicated to revolutionizing education.

Featured Friday

Dan Herlihy
Dan is a national conference presenter on topics ranging from Using QR Codes, to Creating ebooks, to Using Student Response Systems on iPads/iPod—and more! Look for his sessions on Friday. Sponsored by Assistive Technology Partnership/Education.
Gallery of Poster Sessions

On Thursday afternoon, watch for the gallery of Poster Sessions. The sessions will highlight the state-wide Learning Web projects and teachers who received NETA and CenturyLink grants last year, with additional poster sessions addressing a 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 6th.

Lunch Tickets!

Lunch tickets will be available for purchase during check-in Thursday and Friday mornings. 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.

Again in 2012! Barcodes on Name Badges

This year your name badges will again 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.

Registration Discounts

Register with the form on a later page in this publication or online at 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.

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
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Sessions

Bring your own device to these sessions. The sessions are FREE, but you must register to attend (a ticket will be required), with a maximum of two BYOD sessions per attendee. Put the BYOD 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>SLR Camera Questions</td>
<td>Participants will be able to ask questions and learn how to set their cameras to take the best picture based on the light and settings available. Information on aperture, shutter speed, and depth of field will guide the user to get the best pictures from their cameras in difficult lighting situations. Device Needed: SLR Camera.</td>
<td>Thursday April 26</td>
<td>10:00 AM-12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Rick Williams and Diane Wolfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT11</td>
<td>Google Forms—More Than Just Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Google Forms—More Than Just Multiple Choice says it all. During this BYOD session you will create a variety of Google Forms to be used in such areas as assessment, evaluation, data gathering, etc. Whether you are new to Google applications or a seasoned user, you will come away with a toolbox of new form uses. Device Needed: laptop.</td>
<td>Thursday April 26</td>
<td>12:30-2:00 PM</td>
<td>Lori Feldman, Cyndi Bowman, and Kay Tibbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT12</td>
<td>Engaged Learning During &amp; After the Bell: Tools for Upper Elementary</td>
<td>Participants will experience some of the tools that our school has used in engaging students during and after school, particularly in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. We will showcase some of our best lessons and some of our flops (with tips about making them work). We will use Edmodo and a Google Site as the starting point for using the following free online tools: Prezi, Stixy, Voki, xtranormal, etc. with the participants—so BYOD. Device Needed: laptop.</td>
<td>Thursday April 26</td>
<td>2:30-4:00 PM</td>
<td>Becky Keilig, Haley Greer, and Sherry Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF10</td>
<td>Communication is Key…and FREE!</td>
<td>Come and learn how to use the FREE communication tools within Google for your classroom. As Generation X and Y parents become more involved in our schools, the need for meaningful and timely communication has never been greater or more in demand. Outcomes for this session include the creation of your own classroom website and calendar. Participants will be expected to have a Google account before the session. Device Needed: laptop or iPad.</td>
<td>Friday April 27</td>
<td>10:30 AM-12:00 noon</td>
<td>Abigail Ott, Melissa Sears, and Thera Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF11</td>
<td>The Power and Potential of Easy ePUBLISHing</td>
<td>Millions of tablets/eReaders have been purchased in the past few years. Are we pivoting to a digitally published future? Tools/techniques for creating/distributing digital books using both iOS and OS X will be introduced. Required: An iOS 5+ device with Creative Book Builder ($3.99) and an OS 10.7+ laptop with Apple’s iBooks Author (free). Participants will help create the ‘Exploring NETA 2012!’ digital book as part of the session.</td>
<td>Friday April 27</td>
<td>12:30-2:00 PM</td>
<td>Paul Lindgren and Lynn Spady</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online registration begins by February 1, 2012

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

La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center, LaVista, NE [Omaha area]—April 26–27, 2012
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 23, 2012. There is a $5.00 per person late fee after that date (postmarked).
• Pre-registration deadline closes April 6 (Both online or mailing postmarks). After April 6, 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 23.

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

☐ Full conference, both days ______________________________________$115.00
   [includes all sessions, exhibits 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 BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) sessions on the lines below [described on previous pages or on the NETA web site]. BYOD participants must also be registered for the conference. There is a maximum of two BYOD sessions per attendee.

BYOD# __________________________ Name ____________________________

Refund Policy: Conference registration refunds will be made only if notification is made to the registration office listed below by April 6, 2012. A $15.00 handling fee will be subtracted from the refund.

Late Fee (Add $5.00 for registrations postmarked after March 23, 2012, 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: NETA12 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
# 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Phone</td>
<td>Work Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School/Agency Name</td>
<td>e-mail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you attended the Spring Conference in April, 2011, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but could not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April, 2012. 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