Message from the President

Does “It” Always Have to Be the Newest and Greatest?

**Bob Goeman**
*University of Nebraska Omaha*

**We are always hearing** about the “latest technology” and the “newest released apps,” or the “next operating system,” or the “greatest 2.0 website,” or the “ultimate assessment tool,” or the “fastest computer ever,” or the “breakthrough display,” and on and on. Does that mean that the items that your school adopted and purchased are outdated and no longer useful? I certainly hope that is not the case.

**Who is involved in helping to make the decisions?**
Who is at the table when decisions are made on what technology should be a priority in your district? I believe that technology is another tool in the toolbox of learning. This decision must have three players: **First,** the teacher must be at the table. They are the ones working with the students and understand what may be valuable. **Second,** the curriculum director must be at the table. They are the experts looking at the overall picture of what curriculum is being offered across disciplines. **Third,** but not least, is the technology director. In order for the whole plan to come together, the technology director must look at the feasibility, including the network, hardware, software, current resources of technology, and what may need to be purchased to meet the decisions of the latest technology that meets the curriculum needs.

**What about innovative use of technology?**
I believe first you must figure out how to increase student achievement, while reducing costs through new and emerging technologies. If both of these things result in a positive outcome...you have been innovative! It isn’t always that simple. Reading some of the history of ACOT (Apple Classrooms of Tomorrow), two positive findings included: 1) The ACOT experience appeared to result in new learning experiences requiring higher level reason and problem solving, although the authors claim this finding was not conclusive, and 2) ACOT did have a positive impact on student attitudes and did have an impact on changing teachers’ teaching practices toward more cooperative group work and less teacher stand-up lecturing. Classrooms are most successful when useful technologies are linked with great teaching strategies.

**How long can you claim that you have the latest technology?**
Technology continues to develop in school districts across the nation. Typically over the summer new initiatives are implemented that have been in the planning stages for months or even years. (It is really the only time technology directors have time to install and troubleshoot new technology.) Sometimes there is a trial period before it goes district wide. Some claim that by keeping new hardware around, you are staying up on (Continued on page 3)

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If you can share a success story related to technology in the classroom, or a software solution review, we’d love to print it in a future newsletter. For making the contribution, you will receive a 2013 Spring Conference T-shirt.

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

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

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Connections

The Nebraska Educational Technology Association is all about connections. What does that mean to you as a Teacher? Technology Coordinator? Superintendent? Principal? Librarian? It means we have incredible ways to connect ourselves to other professionals and we have unprecedented ways to connect our students to the world.

Connections have always been a big part of our learning process. Getting together with others who share the same passion or are trying to solve similar problems is crucial. With today’s landscape, we have access to make connections like never before. And NETA is here to help you!

Face to Face:
Join us at our Spring 2013 conference as we Ignite Learning! The conference is a wonderful time to connect with other educators. Where else can you get this many people together to learn the latest and greatest in education technology from Nebraska’s best? We also have two sponsored groups that meet regularly. They are the long standing Technology Coordinators and the 1:1 groups. Check out the NETA website to see how you can get involved with either of these communities.

Virtually:
With the ever-growing electronic connections we have, NETA has grown right along with the mix. While we still use email as our primary source of outgoing communication, we also have many other tools to connect with the membership. Depending on your level of comfort and use, there are many options to connect with other NETA members. The first, and probably easiest, is to connect using Twitter. There are hundreds of Nebraska educators using Twitter to expand their network of connections. Try it out! Find others using the #nebedchat hashtag. You can also follow @yourNETA to get started. NETA also has a Facebook page you can “Like.” If you are already using Facebook and want to meet other educators using that connection, head on over to http://www.facebook.com/yourNETA. The latest addition to the social network is our Google Plus Community. This is a relatively new medium for our members that have Google Plus accounts. Jump on in at http://bit.ly/VuJqHB.

Keep listening to the streams on these different communities as our members graciously share their teaching knowledge and expertise, tips and tricks, websites and new things to try, questions to ponder and problems to help solve. The connections you make are invaluable as you grow as an educator and for our students to succeed. You will find new ways to connect your students to THEIR passions and guide them to new learning opportunities never before imagined.

So, how are you growing your professional connections and how are you helping to grow your students’ connections? Jump online and tell us!

How do you know?
I use a couple of different resources to attempt to know what is going on with the latest technology. First, I talk with my peers and listen intently to what they have to say. Second, I subscribe to many educational technology journals and magazines and see many emails about what is going on in educational technology. Third, I may be the biggest lurker on Twitter (I apologize up front). But the amount of awesome information that is posted is phenomenal to read first hand from teachers and educational technology leaders. Finally, I have my Zite (iPad application) tuned in to technology and education. I read Zite daily. I don’t know how I would keep up with the latest information without these four types of resources.

Most Important
Oh, and I forgot the most important thing that will help YOU with all of this discussion: The annual NETA Spring Conference—“Ignite Learning,” April 25 & 26. You don’t want to miss it!

So when do you jump on board, or when do you make sure what you currently own will meet the curriculum needs of the students and teachers? Good luck and see you soon at NETA as we Ignite Learning!

(Newest and Greatest, continued from page 1)
Vote Online!

2013 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 20. 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.

Gregg Robke
ESU 4

My name is Gregg Robke and I would be thrilled and honored to act as the next NETA President Elect. As the Technology Director at Educational Service Unit 4, I have actively been involved in NETA since 1996. I am currently serving my second term on the NETA Board. I feel NETA plays a vital role in helping to integrate technology into our school districts, and I would like to see NETA continue to grow. NETA Rocks!

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.

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 Public Schools

I am interested in continuing to serve as your NETA Treasurer. Over my previous terms, we have introduced a new online financial accounting system, moved to an almost 100% electronic payment procedure (there are still a few vendors that only take checks) as well as providing any number of reports at the discretion of the Board. Continuing to serve NETA as the Treasurer would be an honor.

No other candidates at this time.

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

NOTE: Contact Julie Moore at executivedirector@netasite.org if your membership number is torn or unreadable on the newsletter.
Directors

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.

Heather Callihan
Northwest Public Schools
My name is Heather Callihan and currently working in my 15th year of teaching. I began my teaching career in Bellevue, NE. During this time, I worked towards a Masters Degree in Instructional Technology. Currently I am a Middle School Technology Teacher and hold a vital role working with teachers on integrating technology. I would love the opportunity to be on the NETA Board and work closely with others who have a passion for technology.

Brent Catlett
Bellevue Public Schools
I have been in the field of education for fifteen years. During my years in education, I have taught in many different K-8 classrooms and I also served as Principal before becoming an Instructional Technology Trainer for Bellevue Public Schools the past three years. Recently, I became a Google Certified Teacher and Trainer. I want to help make Nebraska a leader in technology and would appreciate your vote! Thanks.

Brian Gibson
Northwest Public School
I am from a small town in western Nebraska. I am married and have two daughters ages 8 and 13. I have worked at two different school districts and started 1:1 initiatives at both. One laptop and one iPad initiative. I am extremely dedicated to all the organizations I belong to. I believe the NETA organization would greatly benefit from my knowledge, experience and expertise.

Rod Havens
Aurora High School
I currently teach 9th and 10th grade English and serve on the technology committee in Aurora where we are set to implement a 1-1 iPad initiative. While pursuing my Master’s degree in technology, my greatest reward comes when I can help other teachers find and use tech tools in their classrooms through inservice training or 1-1 mentoring. I hope to bring another teacher’s perspective to the NETA board that will advance K–12 technology integration throughout the state.

Jim Homan
Gross Catholic High School
Hi! I’m Jim Homan, on the technology staff at Gross Catholic High School in Omaha including these duties: running our school website, coordinating our 1:1/BYOD program, organizing our learning management system, helping teachers integrate technology into classes, helping our Office of Advancement with social media.

I have really enjoyed learning about technology (it is fun) and I believe I would bring a valuable perspective to the NETA board, being from a private school.

Joan Ibarra
Alliance Public Schools
I am Joan Ibarra, Systems and Data Technician at Alliance Public Schools. I have never come away from NETA without feeling invigorated and challenged. I would like to be part of the team that leads us in educational technology. I proudly contributed to the recent and successful APS technology fair, “Techcellence Expo 2012.” I wear many hats: PowerSchool Administrator, Webmaster, data manager, troubleshooter...and I would be honored to wear the hat of “Board Director!”

Shellie Kosmerchock
Zion Lutheran School
As an educator I believe in education. I received a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree from Concordia St. Paul, Minnesota in 1989, a Master of Arts in Education in 2005 from Viterbo University in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and in May, I graduated from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, with a Masters of Education in Administration. I am the new 7th & 8th grade teacher and school principal at Zion Lutheran School in Pierce, Nebraska.

Matt Kutscher
Doane College
Long-time classroom teacher, instructional designer, and current education faculty at Doane College preparing educators to use technology effectively for learning in the classroom. I love to observe how technology can engage learners in and out of the classroom and the creativity students and teachers bring to their learning. And I love watching how the use of mobile technologies and online resources has adapted to expanded the classroom beyond the brick and mortar model.

(More candidates on the next page)
(NETA Board of Directors Nominees, continued)

Lisa Menke
York College

I developed my first elearning course in 1998. Since then I have grown along with the technology and love that we now can develop fully interactive, transmedia learning elements that will impact our learners like never before!

In my position with York College I am working to develop innovative learning opportunities for our online students.

If selected, I will serve alongside my fellow directors to continue the tradition of excellence and connectivity that is NETA.

Jason Schmidt
Bennington Public Schools

As a classroom teacher, I was always looking for ways to incorporate technology into my instruction. Now, working for Bennington Public Schools, I have the opportunity to help more people with technology. I have met many people through this organization who have helped me so much.

I would like to serve on the NETA Board because I want to have the opportunity to give back to something that has given me so much.

Broderick Steed
Umonhon Nation Public School

My name is Broderick Steed; I’m the high school principal and technology coordinator at Umonhon Nation Public School. My technology interest intensified when I became a technical support phone representative at Gateway Computers. I taught and worked at Gateway part-time for 10 years until they closed their doors. During that time I became the technology coordinator and later an administrator.

I believe my experience and knowledge make me a superb candidate; I appreciate your consideration.

Peter Theoharis
Hastings Senior High

As a teacher working with all levels of students, I understand how technology enhances and enables our materials to most efficiently connect to students.

I’m a past NETA presenter and leader of a Learning Web Team. I also have helped form the Freshmen Mentoring Program at Hastings High and other inventive and aggressive programs. I believe my past experiences and desire to use future technologies would make me a great member of the NETA board.

Angie Wassenmiller
Concordia University

I’ve been fortunate to fill a one-year director position, and am hoping to continue to serve; it feels like I’ve only just started to get my feet wet! As an instructor and the Director of Instructional Technology at Concordia, my focus will continue to be connecting pre-service teachers with NETA activities. After being part of the strategic planning meeting, I’m excited about NETA’s future, and would like to be part of implementing envisioned changes.

Evi Wusk
Peru State College

As Assistant Professor of Educational Technology at Peru State College, I teach and co-direct our iPad Virtual Learning Community. I earned my Ed.D. at UNL and was a former language arts and journalism teacher at Waverly and Elkhorn. As Nebraska Writing Project alumni, I have a passion for purposeful and reflective technology use with students who struggle with writing. It would be an honor to serve on the NETA board in my home state, Nebraska.

VOTE!

http://netasite.org

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2013 NETA Conference Volunteers Needed!

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 to 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 2013 NETA Conference. If you have questions, contact Renee Kopf, NETA Past President and Conference Volunteer Coordinator, at rkopf@fallscityps.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the conference in April!
August 14th was my child’s first day of kindergarten. Colvin is our third, and final child to go through this amazing experience. I have to say it was a bittersweet day. On one hand, it was the proudest day as a parent, reflecting on all that our family has shared in the past six years. This history will now be put into real world perspectives with educational, social, emotional, and physical experiences—some of which he may have already been exposed to, and many of which he(162,279),(653,831)

I never would have guessed
Looking back, I would have NEVER believed that the 21st Century skills (that are now at my children’s beck and call) would be what they have become in the course of twenty years since my youth. (Yes, I am dating myself!) I would never have guessed that my three beautiful children wouldn’t know what a record player is, as I NEVER could have lived without one not so long ago! I would never have guessed that I could take a phone with me wherever I go to be contacted at any given second of any given day. I would never have guessed that I could use something other than a typewriter to finish my two degrees, or to compose my thoughts. And I definitely wouldn’t have believed that I would be able to share parts of my life, my world, my soul with the entire universe with the click of a button! I am truly living in an amazing world of technology!

Children as teachers
I don’t know what all of the answers are in terms of 21st Century learning and the bazillions of tools that are out there, but I do know that I have learned, and continue to learn a great deal from the children of the 21st Century. They are brilliant as teachers. It’s time to embrace the many wonderful facets of the 21st Century and become better human beings and teachers by allowing our students to teach us all that they know. This may have never happened before in the history of mankind, but how simply amazing and powerful is it that our children know more than we do in many facets in the technological world we live in?

NETA’s 1:1 Community Meeting
On October 17th approximately 70 people came to Kearney for the 1:1 meeting, with 20 connections via distance learning for others to attend.

It didn’t matter the device, but a consensus was agreed upon that technology has to be part of the future of all schools. One thing that really stood out from the day was that each school needs to analyze their own philosophy when it comes to mobile devices or laptops. Many schools expressed that philosophy had to change and adjust when it came to classroom management and lesson planning, management of the devices, textbook philosophies and purchasing, as well as an administrative philosophy.

Schools who were immersed in technology now shared their experiences: the planning, execution, obstacles, rewards, outcomes, and adjustments. Schools who are looking to acquire technology for their students asked about options, platforms, and models.

All types of computers, tablets and mobile devices were talked about with the pros and cons of each shared. The management and security techniques of different devices were briefly demonstrated and discussed. After a productive and lively day, people left ready to make changes in their districts.

• For minutes of the meeting go to: http://preview.tinyurl.com/1to1OctMeeting
• For video recordings of the day go to: http://vc.esu10.org/videos/video/2845/ (three video segments).
• To see the back channel conversations and links go to: http://todaysmeet.com/NE121
The 2012 Broadband Connecting Nebraska Conference was held on October 2, 2012 at the Cornhusker Conference Center in Lincoln. Lieutenant Governor Sheehy welcomed the attendees and shared a little about his vision of broadband use in our state.

Cool gadgets—Vuezone
The first keynote was David Lewis, who shared some cool gadgets, including inexpensive video surveillance systems (under $200) that store archived video online for a low monthly cost. You may find more information regarding the systems by visiting the website, www.vuezone.com. Using systems like this, he envisions elderly parents being able to stay at home longer. Their kids can check up on them if they haven’t gone outside to get their newspaper, setting off the motion detector.

Broadmap project and more
The following keynote was Brian Scaffidi who told us about the broadmap project. They are creating with the broadband mapping available at http://broadband.nebraska.gov.

After the morning keynotes, we were able to break into four break out session areas. I attended the Education Break out. Mike Carpenter and Dr. Tessa Durham-Brooks from Doane College described their science data gathering project. They actually upload more data to the Internet than they download. Ron Cone from ESU10 shared details about their Team Blue project supporting teachers. You may find the information by going to this link, http://learn.esu10.org/. I shared how Lindsay Holy Family School uses broadband in many ways, which you may see at http://bit.ly/Y3WA0A.

Vint Cerf, Google VP
At lunch, attendance doubled as students were welcomed in to hear our main keynote—Vint Cerf, Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist. Cerf is credited as one of the “fathers of the Internet” for his work with Bob Kahn in the early 1970s, which led to the ARPANet architecture that evolved into the Internet. It was truly a privilege to hear him speak. He amazed me with his current problem of an interplanetary network. Imagine trying to get signals to go not just over the curvature of the earth, but between two planets while they are both spinning. It will be amazing to see how the minds of our current students tackle problems like this!

More cool gadgets
Four breakout sessions were offered in the afternoon. I chose to attend the one with cool gadgets. They demonstrated the Reflection app to show a wireless iPad connection to a digital projector. Ustream.tv was shown to stream live events. OoVoo was shown for video conference calls. We played a little with the GM wireless speaker. One gadget I hadn’t considered for school use was a little device that plugs into your cell phone and allows you to accept credit cards for a simple 2.5% fee per use—no monthly fees or installation fee. They said it could be useful at school concession stands or for school fund-raisers. You may find more information on that at https://squareup.com.

The attendance thinned quite a bit for the closing keynote, but was worth staying for. Michael Curri from Strategic Networks Group spoke about the utilization of broadband, how it affects commerce, and how to support businesses that need it. The slides from his presentation can be found at http://liferaydemo.unl.edu/web/nebroadband/AGENDA.
Welcome to ISTE 2013!
Mark your calendars, and plan now to attend ISTE 2013 in San Antonio! 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 23–26, 2013, at the San Antonio Convention Center.

The NETA Board is providing a special ISTE 2013 housing and registration offer for our membership. This offer provides Nebraska NETA members a block of reserved rooms at a hotel, guaranteed super early bird registration rate of $164, 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 Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio Riverwalk, 105 St Mary’s Street, San Antonio, TX 78205. This hotel is a short walk from the Convention Center. The rates are $164 for a single or double room. 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 Drury Plaza Hotel housing arrangements, Go to the reservation web site: http://bit.ly/TpVuoF

• 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 27, 2013.

Cancellations received by 5:00 p.m. EST on April 10, 2013 will not be charged a cancellation fee. Reservations cancelled after 5:00 p.m. EST on April 10, 2013, will be assessed a $150 cancellation fee, unless specific alternative arrangements have been negotiated with ISTE. Beginning June 7th you will need to work directly with the hotel.

PLEASE NOTE: NETA rooms fill early, so please register as soon as possible.

NETA Super-earlybird Registration
Complete your conference registration separately using the ISTE 2013 Website online registration. Register by May 1, 2013 to qualify for the Early Bird rate (if you choose the NETA affiliate as outlined below)!

Go to: http://isteconference.org/2013/registration/ and click Register Now. Begin by logging in if you are a current ISTE member or create an account (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, $344 ($239 if you are an ISTE member), through May 1, 2013.

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 Antonio 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 2013 in San Antonio, please contact Julie Moore at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org). We hope to see you at ISTE in San Antonio! ❖
**EVERNOTE IS**, by far, my favorite productivity app. A general description of Evernote—it is a tool for note-taking, but it is so much more than that! Evernote not only allows you to take text notes, but also clip web pages, upload images and files, create checklists, record audio, and more. Multiple notebooks can be created to organize notes; you can create a notebook for different classes, subject areas, lesson plans, projects, etc. Notebooks can then be shared via a public link or email invitation so others can view the notes contained in them. You can also tag notes, making them searchable and even more organized. However, the real beauty of Evernote lies in its compatibility with different operating systems, devices, browsers, and other apps.

**Compatible with everything**

Evernote is compatible with a variety of operating systems (i.e. Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, Chrome OS, Android, iOS, Windows Phone, WebOS). This means that you can access Evernote on almost any computer, phone, or mobile device. Translation? Your notes are always available! I have Evernote on my phone, iPad, and all of my computers. A quick note entered on my phone can easily be accessed later on my iPad, work computer, home computer, etc. Web clippers are available for Safari, Chrome, Firefox, and Internet Explorer, allowing you to clip and save online content (texts, links, images) with a single click. Talk about making research easy and efficient!

**Apps that integrate**

What has most impressed me about Evernote is the amount of apps with which it integrates. *Evernote Trunk* is a site featuring endless amounts of apps that allow you to expand your Evernote experience, including a section on apps for education. Here are some of my favorites:

- **Skitch** is a free image annotation and drawing tool. You can capture a photo or select one from your gallery and then add arrows, text, highlighting, etc. A really handy editing feature for educators is the blur tool, which allows you to blur faces of students, if needed. You can also annotate maps, capture and annotate images from the web, or draw from scratch.

- **JotNot Scanner Pro** is a great scanner app. You can take pictures of multiple documents and/or add images from your gallery, which can then be processed and shared as a JPG, PNG, or PDF. Scanned items can be password protected, and emailed, printed, faxed, or saved to iTunes or your photo library, and, of course, copied to Evernote.

- **Evernote Peek** was originally designed to be used with the iPad 2 Smart Cover, but now features a virtual cover, making it accessible on other versions of the iPad. Create study notes in Evernote and sync them with Evernote Peek. The note title becomes the clue and the note body becomes the answer. Once in Evernote Peek, you can peek under the cover to see the clue, and pull the cover up to see the answer.

- **Speaktoit Assistant** is a virtual buddy that will save notes to Evernote, and connect you to other services such as Google, Facebook, and Twitter. Speak in everyday language to create a note, update your Facebook status, get maps, search for news, convert measurements, send email, and more. You can even modify your assistant’s appearance.

- **CloudMagic**, you can search data across multiple accounts such as Evernote, Facebook, Twitter, Dropbox, Microsoft Exchange, etc. You can also see recent updates across all of your cloud services, and do simple tasks (i.e. replies, retweets, forwards, open attachments). CloudMagic really comes in handy if you need to quickly find something and aren’t very organized!

- **Explain Everything** lets you import content from Evernote, PowerPoint, Keynote, photo galleries, and more. You can add explanations to that content on one or more slides using audio, narration, and annotation tools. Record the screen as you manipulate and explain content. Recorded movie files can then be exported to Evernote, YouTube, email, Dropbox, etc. Explain Everything is great for flipped classrooms!

(continued on the next page)
Organize yourself now!
Organization is not one of my strengths, but Evernote has helped me make serious improvements. I have found it to be particularly useful for:

- Organizing class content by creating notebooks and tags for each class
- Saving important notes and information from conferences and professional development opportunities
- Creating checklists and agendas for class
- Sharing notebooks with students
- Scanning and saving handouts and important documents
- Saving and sharing committee notes

To get started, simply download Evernote on all of your devices. Play around with its features, and then explore Evernote Trunk to find out how you can make it work even harder for you!

Go to https://evernote.com/ and click THE TRUNK to learn about even more companion apps. More are being added, so check back frequently!

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Neta Logo for 2013 Chosen!

The winning design for the NETA Logo Contest is by Sydney Langley from Tekamah-Herman Schools. Sydney is a senior, and the sponsoring teacher is Linda Farrens. Thanks to the contest coordinator, Jason Rushing from the Lincoln Public Schools, and everyone who submitted a logo entry.

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Conversations at NETA 2013

By Josh Allen, Papillion La Vista Schools

There are two rules you hear a lot in schools:
1) be quiet and listen and
2) be quiet in the library

For the third NETA conference in a row, you will hear a lot of talking in the (Marriott) Library! Conversation strands aren’t your typical “sit and git” sessions. Those facilitating sessions want your expertise as well! Based off the “un-conference” presentation model, the person leading the session may be there to gather your experiences or have you help them answer a question they’ve been contemplating.

Past conversation strands have focused on everything from a “Web 2.0 smackdown,” where attendees shared their favorite web 2.0 apps, to sessions on the best way to approach technology staff development. You get to talk! You get to contribute! We hope you will make your way down to the Library and help us break the rules!
Combatting the Scary Blank Screen:
Technology tools for teaching writing

Digital tools and digital writing are changing the way writing is used in our world, and yet so often our tools for writing in schools never move beyond a pencil and notebook. Reasons to resist digital writing (lack of funding and resources, testing pressure, etc.) are real concerns, but digital writing can concretely align with our instructional aims while engaging students in new ways, and digital writing and standardized testing are not necessarily at odds. Digital writing or the “New Writing” (Leu) is different, sure, but it doesn’t require we sacrifice fundamentals.

Motivating reluctant writers
As a participant in the Nebraska Writing Project, I was equipped with new techniques to effectively teach writing...but even with my new ideas and energy following the NWP summer institute, I still face the challenge of students—in spite of my efforts—staring at a blank screen. Chatting conferences can help to get these student fingers moving. By using Apple Remote Desktop to view student screens, the teacher can see which writers are off to the races—filling up their screens with lines of prose—and which students find themselves stuck in the starting blocks, hesitant to key even one word.

This technology (or synchronous use of the chatting forum in Blackboard or Moodle, or Google Talk) can move writing conferences online. Many reluctant students are willing to enter a chatting forum to discuss their writing, or lack thereof, and in my experience many of them are surprisingly nimble at moving between the formal discourse of their paper and the informal texting lingo in our chats.

Not only can digital tools engage students in the writing process itself, but they can also give us new answers to the age-old questions of writing.

Audience: Who will read this?
As a student writer, I was always trying to read my teacher’s mind. What is it that he wants? How will I please her enough to earn that A? This type of thinking isn’t necessarily bad, but as effective writing teachers in the 21st century, we have to think globally. While digital writing assumes new audiences and brings with it safety concerns for our students, when approached thoughtfully, the increased audience of online publishing can motivate students to write for more than just us.

Purpose: Why am I writing this again?
The power is in the prompt, and digital prompts respond to real-world purposes. Effective teachers of writing create thoughtful prompts that will allow students space to write, and quite often these prompts employ choice to increase motivation, but for some of our students this choice is paralyzing. When students are stumped for topics, writer’s block isn’t an excuse as we can co-opt popular Internet tools.

Mode: What genre is the best fit?
As news media continues to move away from print, writing looks less linear as words now find themselves swimming in a sea of images, links, and online media. For our student writing assignments to be authentic, our assignments must reflect this shift. Employing multi-genre research projects (Romano) will help our students move in this direction. Students can move to online media producers through website and blog creation tools (Weebly, Webs, Google Sites, Tumblr, Blogger, etc.) But, you ask, should some writing still be private? Sure, but the ease of online publishing can increase student engagement and motivation to write well, as a forum exists for seemingly every genre imaginable, and new modes of expression, such as Wordle, spur creativity for our students. Even if a student is writing a script for a video voice-over, the writing still has to be compelling.

Editing & Revision: How can I improve my draft?
Students today (and teachers) have numerous tools to help them see (continued on the next page)
(writing, continued)

errors in their writing. Having a mom who “can really rock a comma” is no longer a requirement for writing well. Tools such as Grammarly can (for a fee) help students move beyond spell check to vocabulary development. Citation Machine, EasyBib.com, and the OWL of Purdue aide students in effectively citing resources, and CreativeCommons.com can help them ethically use digital media and gain an understanding of copyright and fair use. Apps such as Mind Note, Outliner, or Sundry Notes help students organize their ideas.

Collaboration: Um...is it cheating if we work together?

In short, not anymore. Writing has often been seen as an individual endeavor, but we can think about authorship differently as tools remove the seams that used to make collaboration cumbersome. Google Docs opens avenues for multiple authors, their comments, and allows the teacher to differentiate and see who did what. In addition it can decrease teacher paper load and increase the ease of feedback through the use of one draft copy. New tools help teachers and students navigate the writing process and products and they move outside the four-walled classroom.

Sidebar: Apps for Writing

iWrite Words
Grade Level: K–1
Skill: Handwriting

Sentence Builder
Grade Level: K–5
Skill: Sentence Construction

Day One
Grade Level: 6–12
Skill: Journaling

The Newest Equation Podcasts = Motivation:

How Podcasting is Changing the Face of Accountability in the High School Math Classroom

Loni Watson,
Seward Public Schools

It’s a random, run-of-the-mill Tuesday. In the middle of pouring my sweat, blood, and tears into a spellbinding lesson on solving radical equations, I pause to take a small moment of self pity. I am missing not one, not two, but three of my Algebra 2 students on this very ordinary day. Between the chaos that is high school, the athletic competitions, quiz bowls, college visits and seemingly endless orthodontist appointments, this is becoming a regular scene in my room. It’s a well-known, hot-button topic in the teachers lounge; students miss way too much class. Usually the teacher ends up bearing the brunt of a student missing class. Re-teaching occurs at all hours of the day: in class, in the wee hours of the morning, after school, and in the evening. But it doesn’t have to be this way.

Podcasting daily lessons has completely changed the accountability structure in my high school classroom, and it could not be easier. I podcast lessons during classes I teach; this takes no time outside of class. Not only can students watch podcasts of daily lessons that they have missed, but they can re-watch lessons as well. We know mastery doesn't always happen the first time we learn new material.

Podcasting takes lessons and teachers beyond the classroom and into homes, libraries, on iPads, and into computer labs. Students can be accountable for their own learning at their own pace outside of the classroom. Students get the second chance they so often need.

The great news is that almost all schools in Nebraska are set up with a podcast server. Here's how you start:

• If you have a Mac server, talk to your local technology director about logging in to the program Podcast Capture. This program is available at many schools in Nebraska. This program will amaze you. With no more work than creating a username and password you will be able to capture video, computer screen, and voice with one click. The video podcasts will automatically upload to a blog site that you can link to your school website.

• If you are not working on a Mac server try one of these great podcasting tools: 1) Audacity, 2) Podbean, or 3) PodOMatic

No Excuses!

Don’t be nervous; setting the podcast up could not be easier. We have no time to wait on this; student learning is on the line. Not only will your students have a better understanding of the material in your class, but you will save yourself time and headaches previously spent re-teaching the same topic. You can also dive into deeper and more meaningful learning. Email your technology director today. You won’t regret it.

http://netasite.org
You have likely heard about the new app called Remind101. If not, this is a must-get free app that will serve as a great accountability tool in your classroom. Remind101 allows you to send out email and text reminders to students and parents without sharing cell phone numbers and information. This may be the single most useful tool I have found in quite some time for the classroom, clubs, and sports.

To set up:
- Go to Remind101.com and create an account.
- Create a new “class” by pressing the + button under “My Classes.”
- You may create your own code or let the program create one for you.
- You are done! This could not be easier. The webpage will give you a phone number and a code. Have your students text the code to the appropriate phone number, and they will be set up for your classroom reminders. Click the PDF icon for printable directions on how to sign up for reminders via text and via email.
- Sign up and send yourself a reminder to test out the system. Play with the “scheduling” feature and practice sending out a reminder at a specific scheduled time.

I am happy to say that between my Algebra 2 class and Key Club, I currently have 150 members signed up to receive my reminders. Each are set up as different classes. I use Remind101 to remind parents and students of upcoming events in clubs and sports, quizzes and tests in Algebra, as well as big projects.

I have received positive feedback from my parents and students on this notification system. Parents love being involved and “in the know,” and students like the friendly reminders. If you have any questions feel free to send me an email. Get started today, you will not regret it!

The Learning Web News

The Learning Web is a year-long professional institute promoting technology integration projects which meet school improvement goals and support proven instructional strategies. NETA has been the sponsor of this project for the last eight years. We should find out soon if we will receive the Improving Teacher Quality grant, which funds this project. The NETA website at http://www.netasite.org will have information on the status of The Learning Web as soon as it is available.
Survey Says...

NETA is as strong as its membership. We are fortunate to have outstanding members in our organization. As we plan for our spring conference coming up in April and for our future, we thank you for taking the time to complete the membership survey that went out this past fall. Your feedback helps guide the board of directors in our planning efforts. Please see some of your responses to questions asked from the survey in a Wordle format. Thank you for being GREAT members! We look forward to seeing you at the 2013 NETA spring conference, Ignite Learning, April 25-26.

Please define your role in Education.

What resources do you currently utilize on the NETA website?

What, if any, additional benefits would you like to have access to through your NETA membership?

Please list any comments or recommendations regarding benefits of being a NETA member.
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

February 2013

Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC)
February 11–13, 2013
St. Charles Convention Center
St. Louis, MO
metcconference.org

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

Nebraska Association for the Gifted (NAG) Conference
February 28–March 1, 2013
Embassy Suites Conference Ctr.
La Vista, NE
www.negifted.org

March 2013

CoSN’s School Networking Conference
March 11–13, 2013
San Diego, CA
www.cosn.org/events/

NDLA (Nebraska Distance Learning Association)
March 14–15, 2013
Southwest High School
Lincoln, NE
ndl.a.org

April 2013

National School Boards Association (NSBA)
April 13–15, 2013
San Diego, CA
annualconference.nsba.org

Infotec (by the AIM Inst.)
April 16–17, 2013
CenturyLink Center
Omaha, NE
infotec.org

NETA Spring Conference Ignite Learning!
April 25–26, 2013
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
La Vista, NE
netasite.org

June 2013

Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)
June 4–6, 2013
Kearney, NE
nceconference.com

ISTE Conference Forging the Learning Frontier
June 23–26, 2013
San Antonio, TX
www.isteconference.org/2013/

August 2013

Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning
August 7–9, 2013
Madison, Wisconsin
www.uwex.edu/disted/conference

October 2013

ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference
October 13–15, 2013
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines, IA
itec-ia.org/en/conference/

United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)
April 28–May 1, 2013
St. Louis, MO
http://www.usdla.org
NETA Spring Conference Preview—April 25–26, 2013
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center—12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE

Conference Highlights

➤ 160+ Breakout Sessions—session topics will be listed at the NETA website by mid-February.

➤ Poster Sessions—casually visit poster displays and ask questions about successful projects.

➤ Strands—by popular demand! A technical strand of breakout sessions for Technology Coordinators and Support Specialists, a strand for 1:1 (device for each student) implementations, a digital citizenship strand, and a distance learning strand.

➤ Conversation Sessions!! Come and learn from the group, not from an individual presenting.

➤ Earn Graduate Credit for attending both days of the conference

➤ Vendor Exhibits—your favorite exhibitors showing all the latest!

➤ Conference T-shirts—your remembrance of this year’s conference.

➤ Win Big Prizes—attend our prize drawings after the closing sessions on Friday!

➤ NETA Playgrounds—explore with help from experts!

“Ignite Learning”

As a NETA member, you have the benefit of receiving advanced Spring Conference information and the registration form in this newsletter before the information goes out to the public.

Invited Speakers

Dr. Yong Zhao
Keynote Thursday
World Class Education: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students
The world needs creative and entrepreneurial talents who are globally competent to take advantage of the opportunities brought about through technology and globalization and tackle the tough challenges facing human beings. But our schools are being pushed to produce homogenous, compliant, and employee-minded test-takers, as a result of the seductive power of the traditional education paradigm. Dr. Yong Zhao challenges the traditional paradigm, debunks the myth of international tests, and proposes a new paradigm of education aimed to cultivate diverse, creative, and entrepreneurial talents.

Choose your own Friday Keynote from these two speakers:

Leslie Fisher
Technology Time Machine
We have always been surrounded by technology and watched as it changed the world around us. See an informative and entertaining look at what technology meant to teachers throughout the decades while discovering great technology tools we can use now. We will also take a look at where we are heading with a sneak peak at some products and features of the future.

Jeff Utecht
A New Learning Landscape
It’s not just our schools that are changing, it’s society as a whole. A new learning landscape is emerging. A landscape of global education. What does this mean for our schools, our students, and communities? This presentation looks towards the future and what awaits today’s students.

Mark Coppin (Featured Speaker Friday)
Mark has 25 years of experience working in various capacities at the Anne Carlsen Center, beginning as a special education instructor, serving four years as director of summer programming, and two years as interim director of educational services. He was a classroom teacher until 1992 when he became Director of Assistive Technology (coordinating the provision of assistive technology services) and Director of IT. 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 Julie Moore [executivedirector@netasite.org] by April 5th.

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 2013! 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:
Julie Moore, executivedirector@netasite.org, phone 402.540.1904
Conference Registration

La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center, LaVista, NE (Omaha area)—April 25–26, 2013
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 bird registration discount ends March 22, 2013 [postmarked].
- Pre-registration deadline closes April 5 [Both online or mailing postmarks]. After April 5, 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. Note registration increases listed below after March 22.

Conference Registration Amount (Please check the appropriate box below.) $________________________

- □ Full conference, both days (early bird rate) $125.00 (includes all sessions and exhibits. After March 22 cost is $150.)
- □ Thursday ONLY (early bird rate) $100.00 (includes all sessions and exhibits. After March 22 cost is $125.)
- □ Friday ONLY (early bird rate) $100.00 (includes all sessions and exhibits. After March 22 cost is $125.)
- □ 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 (now includes membership) $40.00

Refund Policy: Conference registration refunds will be made only if notification is made to the registration office listed below by April 5, 2013. A $15.00 handling fee will be subtracted from the refund.

Conference Registration begins February 1, 2013

Enter your registration rate (depending upon early bird rate or after March 22nd) $________________________

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 - group 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: NETA13 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
NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

Membership Form

*NETA Statement of Purpose:* The Nebraska Educational Technology Association exists for the purpose of providing leadership and promoting the application of technology to the educational process. Its span of interest includes all levels and aspects of education.

Name ___________________________________________ Position ________________________________

Preferred Address ________________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ________ Zip __________________________

Home Phone __________________________ Work Phone ________________________________

School/Agency Name __________________________ e-mail ________________________________

If you attended the Spring Conference in April, 2012, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but can not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April, 2013. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

- [ ] I am a new member
- [ ] I was recruited by this current NETA member

NETA Membership
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

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