But Will It Rot Their Brains?
Technology in Question

Certifications:
Common Sense Education Certifications

Spring Conference Preview!
NETA Newsletter
Published four times yearly. Contributions are welcome.
PO Box 484, Gretna, NE 68028
Phone (402) 540-1904
e-mail: executivedirector@netasite.org
http://netasite.org

NETA Officers and Board of Directors
Josh Allen .................. Past President
Lewis Central Community Schools
josh.allen@netasite.org
Jackie Ediger ................ President
ESU 9
jackie.ediger@netasite.org
Matt Lee .................. President Elect
Westside Community Schools
matthew.lee@netasite.org
Darci Lindgren .............. Secretary
Lindsay Holy Family School
darci.lindgren@netasite.org
Rich Molettierie .......... Treasurer
Omaha Public Schools
rich.molettierie@netasite.org
Stephanie Dannehl .... Board 2017
Bertrand Community School
stephanie.dannehl@netasite.org
Wendy Loewenstein .... Board 2017
Omaha Public Schools
wendy.loewenstein@netasite.org
Becky Miller ................. Board 2017
Norfolk Public Schools
becky.miller@netasite.org
Kent Steen .................. Board 2017
Lincoln Public Schools
kent.steen@netasite.org
Craig Badura ............... Board 2018
Aurora Public Schools
craig.badura@netasite.org
Ann Feldmann ............... Board 2018
Bellevue Public Schools
ann.feldmann@netasite.org
Patty Wolfe ................. Board 2018
Cozad Community Schools
patty.wolfe@netasite.org
Nick Ziegler ............... Board 2018
ESU 5
nick.ziegler@netasite.org
Heather Callihan .......... Board 2019
Northwest Public Schools
heather.callihan@netasite.org
Peg Cooper ............... Board 2019
ESU 10
peg.cooper@netasite.org
Tina Sauser ............... Board 2019
ESU 8
tina.sauser@netasite.org
Jason Schmidt .......... Board 2019
Bennington Public Schools
jason.schmidt@netasite.org

In this issue
But Will it Rot Their Brains? Technology in Question ......................... 3
Certifications: Common Sense Education Certifications ....................... 4
Vote Online! 2017 NETA Officers and Directors............................. 6
Volunteers Needed! ............................................................... 8
Creation in the Classroom ....................................................... 9
Playing in the Sandbox ......................................................... 11
NETA Technology Grant Midterm Reports from 2016 Winners ............. 12
ISTE 2017 San Antonio Texas .................................................... 13
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars ......................... 15
NETA Spring Conference Infographic ..................................... 16
NETA Spring Conference Preview ............................................. 17
Invited Speakers ................................................................. 18
Conference and Registration Details ........................................... 20
Pre-conference Workshop Titles and Descriptions ......................... 21
Conference Registration ......................................................... 23
NETA Membership Form ...................................................... 24

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.

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.

NETA Executive Officers and Coordinators
Julie Moore ............... Executive Director
executivedirector@netasite.org
Tom Rolfs ............... Executive Liaison
Office of the CIO-NITC
tom.rolfes@netasite.org
Eliu Paopao .......... Exhibitor Coordinator
Chadron Public Schools
eliiu.paopao@netasite.org

Lynn Behouvek ....... Site Coordinator
Ralston Public Schools
lynn.behouvek@netasite.org
Lynne Herr .......... Contest Coordinator
ESU 6
lynne.herr@netasite.org
Lucas Bingham ........ Web Coordinator
School District 145 of Waverly
lucas.bingham@netasite.org
It’s winter. In Nebraska. Why is that important? Because it’s time to get registered for the Spring Conference! Early bird registration will end on March 17th so you’ll want to get your registration in before then! It’s also not too soon to begin looking through sessions and thinking about which you may want to attend. I hope you’re excited about all the great offerings we have this year! The selection process was incredibly difficult as there were so many great proposals to pick from.

As you begin to look through the offerings, I challenge you to think about more than just finding sessions focusing on the latest ‘it’ app or the newest web site. Consider a dedicated search to find answers to questions that are becoming more common place to our parents and to the media’s coverage. Will using technology in class cause my student to be bullied? Isn’t social media bad? Is using a screen unhealthy for my child? Won’t it rot their brain?

Screen Time
When talking about screen time and children, I tend to trust the American Academy of Pediatrics. The AAP has been at the forefront of providing recommendations to parents on what is best for the children and in November of 2016 they released guidance for media usage in children. What did they say? Probably the same thing parents across the country say to their children every day: “everything in moderation”. It’s HOW students are using screens and digital technology not the fact they ARE using them.

Active engagement is key. If teachers and parents only use technology in a passive way (i.e., watching videos, playing mindless games, or watching TV) then it is the equivalent of eating nothing but sugary snacks for dinner. However, if we have students engage in creative, thought-provoking tasks that leverage technology we can teach them lifelong skills and move the learning process forward. I highly encourage you to take a look at the AAP recommendations. You can find them with the link at the end of the article.

Staying Safe Online
Even when students engage in active, constructive activities on digital devices, they are bound to encounter unfamiliar situations. Ads that get inserted into apps may have inappropriate pictures, students may be tempted to send inappropriate messages to each other and they may experience bullying.

How we will navigate these murky waters?
By emphasizing digital citizenship! We need to teach students how to appropriately engage with digital technologies and help them develop the skills they need to stay safe online. The AAP states that social media use is a normal part of a young person’s life. They even state that too little interaction is as bad as too much. Students ARE engaging with each other online and we need to give them the skills to do so appropriately.

So what?
As teachers and administrators, we have a responsibility to our students and their parents; a responsibility to inform and equip students for the world in which they are living. We need to get involved in the process, learn about current recommendations and talk with parents about the importance of active, co-engagement with technology.

Fortunately, we have many valuable resources available to us. First, I also encourage you to check out the many resources that are available online. Common Sense Media has a wealth of resources on digital citizenship. The American Academy of Pediatrics has posted their new recommendations on media use as well as their tips for establishing a family media use plan.

Finally, I encourage you to attend the spring NETA conference so we can continue the conversation. We have a conference strand dedicated solely to topics about digital citizenship. Learn from local and national experts and come away with ideas for teaching digital citizenship in your classroom.

I hope to see you all there! ❖

Links:
Media Use in School-Aged Children and Adolescents: http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/5/e20162592

Common Sense Media: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/digital-citizenship
You’ve seen the list of digital badges that some of your colleagues have on their web sites and in their email signature lines: Google Certified Educator, Remind Connected Educator, GoNoodle Ambassador, Common Sense Certified Educator…the list goes on. But what are these programs and why should educators consider pursuing them or learning more about them?

As we continue this series of articles on certifications, I have asked two friends of mine (and fellow board members) about Common Sense Media certifications. Heather Callihan from Grand Island Northwest, and Patty Wolfe from Cozad Community Schools, work with teachers and students every day. They graciously agreed to share their experiences on why they chose to complete Common Sense Education certification.

~Jackie Ediger

Educators all around are constantly working on various certifications in areas of passion and expertise. As we explore other certification possibilities, let’s touch on the options related to Common Sense Education. Many of you may know Common Sense as a resource for digital citizenship related curriculum and resources. If this is new to you, I strongly suggest you check out the easy to use resources from common sense education (https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators). Common Sense Education provides digital citizenship related resources for teachers, students and parents. They also offer certification to educators and schools. Explore the different certifications, the requirements (which you are probably meeting many of them), and the benefits.

Common Sense Certified Educator: Digital Citizenship
If you are implementing digital citizenship in your classroom, school or district, you may be eligible to become a Certified Educator. Many of the requirements for this certification are probably things you are already doing in your classroom, school or district. To learn more check out: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/certification-educator

Common Sense School/District Certification
School certification takes things one-step further and demonstrates the commitment that your school is making to teach students about digital media/citizenship. This certification shows that the staff believes teaching digital citizenship is an important part of students’ education. By becoming a Digital Citizenship Certified School you are letting your community know that your district is empowering your students to use their devices responsibly and safely.

Common Sense has provided the resources and lessons, so making a plan and implementing it can give your school recognition as a Common Sense School. If 50% of the schools in your district have met the Common Sense Certified School criteria, and you plan to reach the remaining school over the next two years, your school district will qualify to be recognized as a Common Sense Certified District. For more information about your school becoming a Digital Citizenship Certified School visit https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/certification-school

Common Sense Ambassador
If you are a teacher, administrator, or technology specialist who is passionate about teaching with technology and digital citizenship, and you like sharing Common Sense Education’s mission and resources with others, Common Sense Ambassador may be a community that fits you. Ambassadors advocate helping teachers and students harness the potential of technology for learning and life. Ambassadors share their knowledge with their staffs, districts, and at

(Continued on the next page)
conferences. As an Ambassador, Common Sense provides you with training and resources on how to present on and advocate for digital citizenship and/or technology integration. You are also part of a Google Community with other Ambassadors that share the same passion.

If you are a Common Sense Certified Educator, you should explore the Ambassador program. In order to apply, you need to have a current certification and look for an email invitation from Common Sense in June. Through this program, you will be given support, be part of an exclusive community of leaders that share your passion, and receive recognition for your hard work and passion. The Ambassador program will be growing in the fall of 2017, so as of now it’s not highly publicized. For more information, visit the Certified Educator page, under “What are the Benefits?”

**Benefits of being certified**
Educator, school, and district certifications show the dedication and value your district places on the importance of modeling and teaching positive digital citizenship. Certification recognizes you and/or your school for giving its students the foundational skills they need in the 21st century workplace and society. Digital citizenship is a popular topic and something that schools are teaching and modeling daily. Common Sense Education provides innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources for students, educators, and parents.

For more information on the various certifications offered by Common Sense Education visit their website at: [https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/certification](https://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/certification)

---

**Heather Callihan, Grand Island Northwest Schools**—Common Sense Certified Educator and Common Sense EdTech Mentor

**Patty Wolfe, Cozad Community Schools**—Common Sense Certified Educator and Common Sense Education Ambassador (Cozad Schools is a Common Sense Digital Citizenship Certified District.)

We’d love to share your story! Please email [executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org) to be considered for this series or to nominate a great NETA educator who has a story that needs to be shared!

**Sample programs to feature:**
- Seesaw Ambassador
- GoEnnounce Digital Image Champion
- Common Sense EdTech Mentor
- Apple Teacher ❖

---

**Virtual Field Trips**
University of Nebraska State Museum | Morrill Hall

Visit the museum from your school!

**Inquiry based learning** with hands-on kit activities. Look, listen and think like a scientist when you visit us "live" in our museum galleries.

**FULL-RIDE VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE FOR NEBRASKA EDUCATION PROVIDERS**

Apply online to be considered!

[Apply online to be considered!](museum.unl.edu/virtualfieldtrips)

Scholarships are made possible thanks to a generous gift from the Roger’s Foundation.
Vote Online!

2017 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 15. Voting will ONLY be done online.

➤ Choose the link at the NETA web site at http://netasite.org
➤ Use your unique membership ID# emailed to you.

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.

Heather Callihan
Northwest Public Schools

My name is Heather Callihan. I have been in education for 19 years. Throughout these years I was an elementary and middle school teacher and currently a technology integrationist for Northwest Public Schools. My passion for technology and learning led me to my current position. This allows me to collaborate with teachers, administrators and students across the district and state. As president-elect, I will continue exploring these passions while serving educators across Nebraska.

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 North High Magnet School

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 its 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: Watch for the email with your unique membership ID# for voting. Contact Julie Moore at executivedirector@netasite.org if you need to have the number resent to you.
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.

Chad Ackerson
Westridge Middle School
I am a classroom teacher that strives to integrate technology seamlessly into my classroom every day. I want to be a NETA Board Member to be able to help more teachers find a passion for technology in the classroom like I have. I believe technology plays an integral role in the education of our students. I would love the opportunity to help NETA encourage an excitement for enhancing learning by the use of technology.

Nate Balcom
Starr Elementary School
Grand Island Public Schools
I’m an Elementary Integration Specialist in Grand Island with thirteen years of teaching experience. I was recognized by NE Loves PS as one of the 140 teachers to follow on Twitter (@mrbalcom). I enjoy presenting at EdCamps and conferences. I’m a Level One Google Certified Educator and Seesaw Ambassador. I believe students come first and as a board member I would continue the legacy of guiding teachers and students through our technology-infused world.

Eileen Barks, ESU 2
Eileen Barks, M.Ed, has worked in education for 23 years. During the last 10 years she has worked directly with teachers in professional learning, assisting educators to feed their passions through tech integration, content, and leadership. She serves on the Leadership team for the State ESU- Teaching and Learning with Technology group. She is interested in serving on the NETA board in order to promote integrated professional learning in technology throughout the state of Nebraska.

Lisa Bohaty
Campbell Elementary/ LPS
Learner, Explorer, Passion. This is what I live by. I’m a Computer Science Teacher and Building Tech leader at Campbell Elementary in LPS. This is my 15th year in education. As an explorer I have been a frontier at bringing new technology to our school including robots, Google Expedition and BreakOut EDU. As a member of the NETA board inspire teachers to step outside their comfort zone and reach learners in new ways.

Michell Boyce, Fairview Elementary/Bellevue Public Schools
I’m a happy wife, proud mother of two, and passionate educator of 24 years. I have experience in Special Education, Elementary Education, Arts Integration, and technology in a 1:1 setting. I have led STEM summer camp, and presented at several conferences. I am passionate about technology, BreakoutEDU, and empowering learners to take charge of their education and get excited. I want to grow by taking on this new challenge to serve my community through NETA.

April Bridwell
Prairie Lane Elementary
Westside Community Schools
I have been teaching for 23 years and am a life-long learner in the digital world! Elementary school is where it all begins and I spend my time engaging 6th grade students, allowing them to take risks and developing problem-solving skills, all through the use of technology! It would be a wonderful opportunity to be a NETA Board member where I could encourage other educators to be as enthused about learning as I am!

Jay Cecrle
Adams Central Junior/Senior High
I began my career in 2000 at Giltner Public Schools teaching science in grades 7-12. I then took a job at Adams Central (my alma mater) in 2005 teaching 7th grade and 10th grade and later teaching biological sciences grades 10-12. I have always used a wide variety of technologies in my classroom and enjoy sharing and learning new ideas and tools from both colleagues and attending tech conferences such as NETA.

Stephanie Dannehl
Bertrand Community Schools
I am the tech integration specialist and school librarian for Bertrand Community Schools. In this role, I lead, educate, and support students and staff with the purposeful use of technology. I am passionate about technology integration and how it can engage and empower students. I would love the opportunity to continue to serve on the NETA board and be an advocate for the vision and goals of the NETA organization.

Joshua Drake, Silver Lake
Serving as a teacher and coach over the past 11 years I have found technology to be a huge part of what I do. Putting the proper tools in a student’s hands and seeing the lightbulb come on for them drives me as an educator. I would like to be on the NETA board so that I can help other teachers find this light in their students.

Karen Dux
Fairbury Public Schools
My name is Karen Dux. I am the Technology Integrationist for Fairbury Public Schools, adjunct faculty member of Doane University and a member of the ESU 5 Leaders Of Technology group. I love to share what I learn with educators through collaboration, professional development and conference presentations. Because of my passion for educational technology and attendance at almost every NETA conference, it would be an honor to serve as a member of the NETA board.

(More candidates on the next page)
Abby Fitzgerald
Bennington Elementary
Bennington Public Schools
Abby Fitzgerald is in her 7th year teaching fifth grade for Bennington Public Schools. She is a Google Certified Educator—Level 2, Co-Director for EdCamp Omaha, Bennington District Technology Committee Member, PST Coordinator, and PTO Board Member. She has attended six NETA and two ISTE conferences. She strives to implement technology into her classroom using methods such as PBL, flipped math, mystery hangouts, Amazing Race, 3D printing, blogging, BreakoutEDU, GoogleADay, and coding.

Scott Harrington
Norris High School
My name is Scott Harrington and I have taught history at Norris High School for the last 11 years. As our students have become more accustomed to technology, I have enjoyed re-envisioning the role of technology in my classroom. I believe that critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration are at the cornerstone of taking student engagement to the next level. I would be honored to serve on the NETA board.

Nathan Kleinmeyer
Plattsmouth Community Schools
In my 11 years as an educator, I’ve experienced the benefits that being connected creates for teachers, students and schools as they continually strive for excellence. Technology is a tool that engages and empowers all learners to explore the world and create solutions to problems that may not yet exist. The NETA Board offers an opportunity to promote best uses and to empower teachers and students to continue to grow.

Wendy Loewenstein
Omaha Virtual School
Wendy Loewenstein has served one year on the NETA board and is eager for the opportunity to continue. She plans to leverage her multiple perspectives in education to advocate for innovative endeavors for NETA. Currently, she is the principal of Omaha Virtual School with Omaha Public Schools. This is the first K-8th grade virtual school in Nebraska. Wendy is a risk-taker and embraces failure, as she believes this is how true growth and learning occurs.

Becky Miller
Norfolk Public Schools
Technology Integration. Project-Based Learning. STEM/STEAM. Flipped Classroom. Blended Learning. All buzz words in education. Buzz words continually evolve, yet the fact remains that we need to educate children to navigate an ever-changing world. Technology has opened up limitless opportunities for teachers to focus on the best practices in teaching and learning. Becoming part of the NETA Board, has deepened my commitment to innovative technology use. I hope to continue serving you as a board member.

Joe Sherwood
Morrill Public Schools
As a child, I lived in Los Angeles, CA, Tuscon, AZ, Chicago, IL, and Orlando, FL. I graduated from Boone High School in Orlando, FL in 1981 and went to Citadel Bible College in Ozark, AR to study for the ministry. I earned my MA in Educational Administration, my Superintendent’s Endorsement, and all but the dissertation on my EDD from UNL. I married Michele in 1987; we have three children and five grandchildren.

Kent Steen
Lincoln Public Schools
NETA has been my primary professional organization for 20 years. I served as NETA President in 2006. I’ve presented at NETA, sponsored student contest entrants, and was honored to receive the Excellence in Leading with Technology Award. I am the LPS Curriculum Specialist for Computer Science. I’ve led trainings throughout Nebraska related to Code.org and advocacy for CS. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to again serve the NETA membership on the Board of Directors.

Spencer Vogt
Peru State College
I would love to serve as a NETA Board of Directors member to help Nebraska educators continue to grow in the field of Educational Technology and help push our schools to become innovative technology examples for the rest of the country to follow. Please consider voting for me to represent your thoughts on the NETA Board of Directors.

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, sign up on the conference registration form when you register for the 2017 NETA Spring Conference. If you have questions, contact Josh Allen, NETA Past President and Conference Volunteer Coordinator, at josh.allen@netasite.org.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the conference in April!
Our challenge as educators is to craft engaging learning experiences for students. When students are given opportunities to create, the learning shifts to the student and they are the center of the educational experience. So, the question becomes, how can I provide students opportunities to create on a regular basis? Designing lessons that include creation opportunities moves students from passive to active learners and provides students a variety of ways to show their learning. The use of technology provides new creation opportunities for students.

What does creation look like in the classroom? Let’s take a look at how five iPad Academy teachers in Bellevue Public Schools provide opportunities for students to create with technology.

### 1. Investigative Projects

Turn a passive lecture lesson into an active lesson filled with a classroom of creators. Brent Myers (@mrmyers1), eighth grade history teacher at Mission Middle School in the Bellevue Public Schools, redesigned his lessons on the Transcontinental Railroad and the Homestead Act. He flipped the script by giving the students a driving question for them to answer. Using resources that were both online and unplugged, students investigated the importance of these historical events and created a paper slide video to showcase their learning.

#### 2. Student Authors

Brittany Braasch and Michelle Klamm, third grade teachers at Bellevue Elementary, have students create eBooks on Jamestown to showcase their learning. The creation of the Jamestown book fulfills an essential objective for Social Studies. The students are required to include information about leadership, reasons for settlement, geographic location, how they made their money, shelter, and interesting facts. They also have to include a personal reflection detailing their thoughts on being a child in Jamestown.

Students use Popplet as a graphic organizer as they collected the information. They found their information in Schoology and the Early Jamestown app, as well as through videos that the teachers provided. The students used the Book Creator app to create the actual

(continued on the next page)
3. Creation with Green Screen Videos

Tori Parde, sixth grade teacher at Fairview Elementary, allows students the opportunity to transport themselves and their projects to a different setting by using a green screen for student creation videos. For one of their language arts assignments focusing on communication skills, students created a movie review news segment. Students use the camera app to film, the Green Screen app by DoInk for the green screen backgrounds and layers, and iMovie to edit the finished project. Students were required to put clips from the actual motion picture trailer in their movie review segment. The only limit was the child’s imagination.

“My advice is to dive-in!” Parde said. “I see this as a way to help incite wonder in my students. I hope these experiences ignite a passion for traveling to new places, learning new things, and dreaming to be something or somewhere they never thought they could be.”

4. Coding

When Kathy Harms (@kathy_harms), first grade teacher at Wake Robin Elementary, described her upcoming Science Objective, EO2 Position and Motion, we asked ourselves if there was a more creative way to engage our students with this material. The objective asks students to compare relative position and motion of objects. As we discussed the lesson, we thought it would be a perfect fit for the Dash robots and Parrot minidrones.

The first day was a “show and do” format. Harms modeled how to code Dash to show the basic movements by using the Reflector app to display the iPad with a projector and showing students how to drag the coding blocks together to make Dash move. Then, students got into groups and took turns coding forward/fast. Student gathered on the rug to see a demonstration of the backward/slow blocks and returned to groups to practice. The “show and do” format was repeated four times and helped focus the students to assure they knew the directions before working independently in their groups. The other motions covered were zig zag, back and forth and round.

The second day students experienced a station rotation model including coding challenges with the robots. They used their science motion words of forward, backward, round and round, faster, and slower.

“This activity took students to a new level of understanding within this objective,” Harms said. “The activities allowed students to not only learn the objective, but to transfer the learning to coding the robots. The experiential learning solidified the concept and 95% of the students earned an advanced score on the assessment, one student who earned proficient was absent Day two. The center activities, both teacher guided and student guided, were appropriately timed so students could experience the successful completion of the activities or tasks. Applying the vocabulary as students coded or viewed Dash’s motions was a meaningful way to learn, reinforce and extend the science objective (SC2.2.2).”

Scan this QR code to see the details including videos of the lesson plan.

5. Multimodal Summarization

Lisa Keene (@lkeene), fourth grade teacher at Leonard Lawrence, provides her students choice and creation in language arts. She takes advantage of the multimodal opportunities that technology brings to the classroom. In her reading curriculum, students were studying the genre of tall tales and learning

(Continued on the next page)
Remember playing in the sandbox when we were kids? Wasn't it great?

I learned a myriad of lessons while playing in many a sandbox while growing up. Creativity, patience, responsibility and even good sportsmanship!

I was in a Kindergarten teacher’s classroom last year and she used the term “sandbox” in a whole new way...

We were introducing a new app to her students. I don’t remember the app, it doesn’t matter. I just recall the moment she told her students that they were going to have “sandbox time” once we opened the app for the first time. The teacher proceeded to tell the students very little about the app. As I recall, she told them the name of the app and showed the students the basic tools within the app. She then told the students that they had “sandbox time” for the next ten minutes. Since I didn’t know what “sandbox time” was, the teacher had the students teach me the simple rules.

1. You can’t raise your hand to ask a question while exploring the app.
2. You have to figure out how the app works.

Simple, right? Wow!

When I first started my current position as a technology coach, I thought that a major part of my job was to teach teachers every single aspect of any new app that I introduced to them. Fast forward five years and I changed that philosophy after watching a very good Kindergarten teacher instruct a room full of five and six-year-olds to figure out how to use an app on their own. She challenged those students.

I like that idea. A lot.

That simple action encouraged exploration, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration in her classroom.

I believe as teachers we sometimes try to do too much for our students. We don’t challenge them enough in our classrooms.

So the next time you are introducing a new app to your students or colleagues, teach them about “sandbox time” and turn them loose!

(Continued)

The skill of how to summarize. After class time was spent learning the skills and reading the tall tale Paul Bunyan, students were given choice and time to create video summaries. Students chose their groups, the tall tale, and the app and applied their creativity and summarization skills to retell the tall tale.

“The students really got into it,” Keene said. “They brought props from home, made props/costumes out of paper, and created their own characters in Toontastic. Writing summaries can be difficult for fourth graders sometimes, but given all the choice, creating, and knowing it was going to be seen by an audience, made it motivating to learn.

What did the students create? Projects included a green screen video, an app smash with Puppet Pals, Toontastic, and iMovie, a paper slide video. All the students shared their creations SeeSaw app and additionally shared their projects to the class using Reflector 2 (computer) and airplay (iPad).

Scan this QR code to see an example of the tall tale. The characters were made in Toontastic and PuppetPals2, and the video created in iMovie.

As you reflect on your classroom, is creation part of your workflow? Use these ideas above as a springboard to opening the doors of creation for your students.
Derek Babb
Omaha North High School

High School/Elementary School Robotics Collaboration

With our NETA grant money, we purchased ten MakeWonder Dash robots. These robots are programmed using a block language on a tablet. So far we have explored the features of Dash, what the robot can do and how we can control it. We have also started developing activities for elementary students such as navigating a maze and programming a security robot.

The next step is to partner with nearby elementary schools to find time that high school students can come work with the elementary students on these stand-alone lessons. We want to try the same lessons with several classes to refine them and then revisit the classes with a deeper, more in-depth lesson. The bigger idea is to engage both sets of students to use Computer Science as a problem-solving tool.

Eric Langhorst
Discovery Middle School
Liberty, Missouri

Discovering Drones at Discovery Middle School

Eric Langhorst was awarded a Teaching with Tech grant to incorporate drones into eighth grade broadcasting and technology class at Discovery Middle School in Liberty, Missouri. After evaluating a variety of options, a DJI Phantom 4 drone was purchased. The drone has been nicknamed the “Jay Cam”. Before taking flight Eric maneuvered the maze of FAA regulations on school use of drones, including direct contact with local FFA officials. The drone is officially licenced and has its own FAA registration number.

Broadcasting students have used the drone to capture 4K flyover footage of the school building which has been incorporated into the opening credits of the student produced news broadcast. Videos of outdoor school events have also been used in news features for the weekly broadcast. The technology class has incorporated the Phantom 4 in their curricular unit on drones. Students research the technical, regulatory and applications for drones and created a series of lessons to be used by 5th grade students. The tech class has teamed with the KC Drone Company on a grant, which will ultimately use drones to 3D map the World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City for use in an app.

Becky Miller
Norfolk Public Schools

Kid Power 4 Kids

Getting kids moving, introducing them to cultures, and cultivating a sense of global community and responsibility are the goals behind Kid Power 4 Kids. The project is designed around the UNICEF Kid Power Band, which is a child-friendly fitness band. Students wear their band to see how many steps they can take each day. The band tracks steps and movements thereby unlocking missions in the corresponding UNICEF Kid Power App. As the students complete missions, they earn points. These points help UNICEF deliver therapeutic food packets (RUTF) to malnourished children around the world. In addition, for every band purchased, Target donates $10 to the US Fund for UNICEF.

As the year started, we got the Kid Power 4 Kids project started off with some major movement, a one-mile walk outdoors! As with many projects, I expected the initial excitement to wear off, and it did... but only a little! With continual lessons on malnutrition, different countries, and games from around the world, the excitement is ongoing! I have been very pleased with our progress so far. As of November 2016, the students have earned a total of 112 RUTF packets. We are thrilled that this project can benefit our students and malnourished children throughout the world. Thank you so much to NETA for your support of healthier kids both nationally and internationally.

Paul Timm
Lyons-Decatur Northeast

The Avian Education, Conservation, and Ecology Project

The Avian Education, Conservation, and Ecology Project has participated in two quarterly field studies. The field studies were a four-day field study at the Nature Conservancy’s Niobrara Valley

(Continued on the next page)
Welcome to ISTE 2017! Mark your calendars, and plan now to attend ISTE 2017 in San Antonio! Join more than 16,000 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 25–28, 2017, at the San Antonio Convention Center.

The NETA Board is again providing an opportunity for a Midwest States reception while at ISTE for NETA members to expand their professional learning network.

**NETA Super-earlybird Registration**

Complete your conference registration using the ISTE 2017 Website online registration. Register through March 1, 2017 to qualify for the Super Early Bird rate.

Go to: https://conference.iste.org/2017/attend/ and click **Register Now.** Begin by logging in if you are a current ISTE member or create an account.

**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 at the super early bird price, $450 ($325 for ISTE members), through March 1, 2017.

**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.

If you have any questions about registration for ISTE 2017 in San Antonio, please contact Julie Moore at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org). We hope to see you at ISTE in San Antonio! ❖

**(Midterm grant reports, continued)**

Preserve on the Niobrara River in June and a single-day field study at Ponca State Park in September teaching elementary students about songbirds. The project was also presented at the NATS Fall Conference to Nebraska’s science teachers in September. Additionally, students from Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Norfolk Public, and Allen Public Schools have participated in their own local birding activities.

In order to share the project with the public, a Twitter page has been created and updated on a regular basis @NEbirdproject. Online quizzes via Google Drive were created and taken by all students involved with the field studies. All participating students have achieved 90% or better on all quizzes. In preparation for the quizzes, students utilized apps purchased with grant monies to learn to identify birds visually on purchased iPad Mini 2’s as well as by bird call with use of the speakers.

When in the field, students have utilized the iPads to record digital lists of bird sightings. The speakers and apps have also been used to call in birds utilizing calls stored on the iPads.

Future planned field studies include the Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Norfolk in December and visiting the Platte River in March to view the Sandhills Crane Migration. Stay tuned to the project’s Twitter feed for frequent updates. ❖
Free Lesson Plans Available
For students grades 9-12 to learn about modern agriculture.
Visit DiscoveringFarmland.com

Lesson Plans include:
- Farming as an Industry
- Educated Consumers
- Breaking Down Stereotypes
- Challenges in Farming and Ranching

Ad sponsored by
U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

February 2017

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)
February 6–10, 2017
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

NDLA (Nebraska Distance Learning Association)
Digital Learning: Connect and Engage
February 8–10, 2017
Omaha Marriott (Regency)
Omaha, NE
ndla.org

Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)
February 13–15, 2017
St. Charles, MO
metcconference.org

Nebraska Association for the Gifted (NAG) Conference
February 23–24, 2017
Omaha, NE
www.negifted.org

March 2017

Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE)
March 5–9, 2017
Austin, TX
site.aace.org/conf/

National School Boards Association (NSBA)
March 25–27, 2017
Denver, CO
annualconference.nsba.org

Infotec (by the AIM Inst.)
March 28, 2017
Embassy Suites
La Vista, NE
infotec.org

April 2017

CoSN’s School Networking Conference
April 3–6, 2017
Chicago, IL
www.cosn.org/events/

NETA Spring Conference
Pearls of Wisdom—Celebrating NETA’s 30th Anniversary
April 20–21, 2017
CenturyLink Center Omaha
Omaha, NE
netasite.org

June 2017

Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)
June 5–8, 2017
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE
nceeducation.com

ISTE Conference
Technology Charged Learning Starts Here
June 25–28, 2017
San Antonio, TX
www.iste.org

July 2017

Great Plains Summit featuring Google
July 13–14, 2017
Southwest High School
Lincoln, NE
gpsummit.org

October 2017

Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference
November 2–3, 2017
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE
fall.netasite.org

United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)
30 Years of Driving Excellence in Distance Learning
April 30–May 3, 2017
Indianapolis, IN
http://www.usdl.org

http://netasite.org
2017 SPRING CONFERENCE
April 20 - 21, 2017 | CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

100% WOULD RECOMMEND THE CONFERENCE TO SOMEONE ELSE

ATTENDEE SATISFACTION RATE

1 in every 15 NEBRASKA EDUCATORS ATTENDS THE CONFERENCE

Attendance was over 2,500 educators at 2016 Spring Conference

OVER 100 CORPORATE SPONSORS/EXHIBITORS supporting NETA’s Purpose and Vision

OVER 375 SCHOOL DISTRICT and ESU TECHNOLOGY “decision-makers” attend the conference, and many more “Influencers”

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
Keynote/Featured Speakers

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

10% AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE
Over the last 8 years

37% this past year

MEMBERS from the FOLLOWING:
Beijing | California | Iowa | Maryland | Massachusetts | Michigan | Montana | New York | Pennsylvania | Texas
Illinois | Louisiana | Minnesota | Nebraska | North Carolina | Ohio | South Dakota

NETA INFORMATION

PURPOSE

The Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that provides leadership and promotes the application of technology to the educational process.

VISION

The Nebraska educational process will promote utilization of appropriate technology to support quality teaching and learning.

STAY IN TOUCH

@yourNETA | www.netasite.org
NETA Spring Conference Preview
April 20–21, 2017
CenturyLink Center Omaha
455 North 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68102

“Pearls of Wisdom” Celebrating 30 Years!

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.

### Conference Highlights

- **Venue**
  The Spring NETA Conference will again be held at the spacious CenturyLink Center Omaha, near Omaha’s vibrant Old Market.

- **190+ Breakout Sessions**
  Session topics will be listed on the NETA web site by mid-February.

- **Poster/Playground Sessions**
  Casually visit poster/playground displays and ask questions about successful projects.

- **Strands**
  Back by popular demand! A technical strand of sessions for Technology Coordinators and Support Specialists, a strand for 1:1 implementations (device for each student), a digital citizenship strand, a leadership strand and a Google spotlight strand.

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

- **Maker Spaces**
  Explore and learn at a Maker Space!

- **Graduate Credit**
  You can earn graduate credit for attending both days of the conference.

- **Vendor Exhibits**
  Your favorite exhibitors will be showing all the latest and greatest tools and solutions!

- **Win Big Prizes**
  Attend our prize drawings after the closing sessions on Friday!

- **Pre-conference Workshops**
  Workshops will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2017. (Workshop information located on page 21.)

### Keynote/Featured Speakers:

**Keynote Speaker Thursday:**
- Michelle Cordy

**Keynote Speaker Friday:**
- Hadi Partovi

**Featured Thursday:**
- Holly Clark
- Michelle Cordy
- Erika J. Kluge (Sponsored by Assistive Technology Partnership/ Education)
- Thomas C. Murray

**Featured Friday:**
- Greg Kulowiec
- Jennifer LaGarde (Sponsored by Nebraska School Librarians Association and NETA)
- Hadi Partovi (Sponsored by CSTA-Nebraska and NETA)
- Kathy Schrock

*(Find more information about keynote and invited speakers on the next pages)*
Invited Speakers

Michelle Cordy  
**Keynote Speaker Thursday**

*Show up and Refuse to Leave*

Let’s talk about joining a crowd, being connected, and staying involved. You already know that being a connected educator is powerful PD. Now let’s spark a conversation about how connecting leads to change, innovation, and well-being. Experience a visit to my classroom and see engaged and empowered students. Then witness a shift to something bigger through my recent classroom based research. Whether this is your first time at a NETA conference, or you’re a regular attender let’s celebrate being present, being connected and then take the next step. Together, we are going to show up and refuse to leave.

Hadi Partovi  
**Keynote Speaker Friday**

*Computer Science for All: America’s Untapped Opportunity*

Software and computers are everywhere, revolutionizing every field around us. But the majority of schools don’t teach computer science. Code.org believes every student should have the opportunity to shape the 21st-century and wants to turn this problem around. Code.org has already helped over 100 million students try computer science for the first time with one Hour of Code, partnered with 120+ school districts to bring courses to schools, and released a free online learning platform with 10% of students in K–8 US schools enrolled. We’ve helped change policy in over 20 states to better support computer science. This is just the beginning of a bold vision to bring this foundational field to every K–12 public school by 2020.

Featured Speakers

Holly Clark

Holly Clark is an award-winning educator and speaker based in San Diego, CA and Portland, Oregon. She is both a National Board Certified Teacher and Google Certified Innovator. A long time teacher and administrator, Holly consults globally with schools to help them successfully and purposefully innovate instruction through the use of learning theory, technology integration and design thinking strategies. Holly holds an MA in Education from Columbia University, New York.

Holly is an internationally recognized keynote speaker — passionately spreading the idea that we need to disrupt education and innovate classroom curriculum. She is the Educational Strategist for EdTechTeam and head of their new publishing division—EdTechTeam Press. She authors a successful blog and her first book, *The Google Infused Classroom*, was published in late 2016.

Erika J. Kluge, M.F.C.S.

Erika J. Kluge is an Assistive Technology (AT) Specialist & Educator with a background in Child Development, Communication Disorders, and Special Education. Her experience emphasizes the use of AT to enhance reading, writing, note taking, test study prep, and executive function (time management, thought processing, and organization) skills. Her passions are educating professionals, parents, and students of all ages about the use of AT, technology, and learning strategies for academic success; and educating everyone about how the use of AT can enhance academics and life. Erika is also committed to helping schools learn how to use tools they already have, along with recommendations for new tools, to better meet the needs of all of their students in a Universal Design of Learning (UDL) approach. Additional areas of interest include: ADD/HD, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Mild Brain Injury, Processing Disorders, Sensory Disorder, Spectrum Disorder, and Talented & Gifted Twice Exceptional.

Greg Kulowiec

Greg Kulowiec is a nationally recognized instructor, presenter, author, award-winning teacher and authorized Google Education Trainer. He has been an early adopter of mobile devices in the classroom and coined the phrase “App Smashing.” Prior to joining EdTechTeacher, Greg spent eight years as a high school history teacher and one year as a technology integration specialist. He began integrating technology into his classroom with early mobile devices including iPods and cell phones. Those initial efforts focused on building capacity for students to create dynamic content.

*(Invited Speakers, continued on the next page)*
(Featured speakers, continued) with mobile devices to demonstrate their understanding of complex ideas. In his last year as a classroom teacher, Greg began the process of exploring how mobile devices and iPads could be effectively integrated into the classroom to support student learning and creativity.

As an instructor and presenter, Greg brings a dynamic and thoughtful approach to technology integration with an emphasis on how these devices can be used in the hands of students to reveal unique perspectives, understanding, and capabilities. He blogs regularly at The History 2.0 Classroom, as well as, Free Technology for Teachers.

Jennifer LaGarde
Jennifer LaGarde (aka library girl!) is a Librarian Ambassador and Education Road Warrior! As an Educator on Loan for the NC Department of Public Instruction, she travels across the land working with school librarians, classroom teachers, principals, superintendents—literally ANYONE who needs help building or making the most of a 21st century school library. Jennifer is a Nationally Board Certified School Librarian, is also the Social Media Special Committee Chair for the North Carolina School Library Media Association, was a founding member of NCSLMA’s Young Adult Book Award and shares NCSLMA webmaster duties with another North Carolina librarian. In 2011, Jennifer was awarded the “I Love My Librarian Award” by the American Library Association, The Carnegie Corporation of New York and The New York Times. She was also named a 2011 “Mover and Shaker” by Library Journal. And in 2013 she was selected as one of five teacher librarians (nationally) finalists for the first ever Bammy Award for outstanding service in the area of school librarianship. Jennifer is the author of the award winning blog The Adventures of Library Girl where she proves you don’t have to be a super hero to be a teacher librarian, but having a cape sure helps.”

Kathy Schrock
Kathy Schrock has been a school district Director of Technology, an instructional technology specialist, and a middle school, academic, museum, and public library librarian. She is currently an online adjunct graduate-level professor for Wilkes University (PA) and an independent educational technologist. Kathy has been involved with technology to support teaching and learning since the early 1990’s, and is an Adobe Education Leader, a Google Certified Teacher, an Amazon Teacher Innovator, an Alpha Squirrel, a ThingLink Certified Educator, and a Discovery Education STAR and Guru. In 1995, Kathy created the award-winning site, Kathy Schrock’s Guide for Educators, to help teachers easily wade through the many resources on the Web. In 1999, she partnered with Discovery Education and maintained the site until late 2012 when the site was retired. Kathy’s current online resources may be found on Kathy Schrock’s Guide to Everything!

In addition to teaching online, Kathy writes, speaks, blogs, tweets, and conducts professional development workshops, presentations, and keynotes both nationally and internationally. She is known for her practical presentations dealing with pedagogically-sound practices for the embedding of technology seamlessly into teaching and learning. Kathy’s passions are online tools to support classroom instruction, the role of emerging technologies in the classroom, infographics, tablets in the classroom, assessment and rubrics, copyright and intellectual property, and gadgets of any type! You can find her on Twitter (@kathyschrock), Skype (kathyschrock), Google+, and on many other social networks.

Thomas C. Murray
Tom serves as the Director of Innovation for Future Ready Schools, a project of the Alliance for Excellent Education, located in Washington, DC. He has testified before the United States Congress and works alongside that body and the US Senate, the White House, the US Department of Education and state departments of education, corporations, and school districts throughout the country to implement student-centered, personalized learning while helping to lead Future Ready and Digital Learning Day. Murray serves as a regular conference keynote, was named one of “20 to Watch” by NSBA, and was named the “Education Policy Person of the Year” by the Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015. Connect with him at thomasmurray.com or @thomasmurray.
Conference and Registration Details

Posters, Playgrounds & Maker Spaces!
On Thursday afternoon, explore and learn at a Maker Space. Areas that will be showcased include:

- **Make it DO**—What can you make existing equipment DO with logic, programming, and creative ideas. A “maker’s” take on robotics, coding, and unique adaptations of different tools.

- **Make it NEW**—Rapid prototyping from raw materials and finished products to actually implement your ideas. Additive and subtractive manufacturing through 3D printing, engraving/carving, and creative design.

- **Make an IMPACT**—Making a difference in this world through social innovation takes a keen eye on the needs of your community. Using sensors, tools, and innovative skills, you can make an IMPACT on someone’s life.

- **Make it YOU**—YOU are uniquely YOU. Here is your chance to be creative with design, wearables, and personalized touches. Make your statement here!

On Friday watch for the gallery of Poster/Playground Sessions. The sessions will highlight the teachers who received NETA grants last year, contest winners, with additional poster and playground sessions addressing a variety of topics. Stroll freely through the gallery of poster/playground 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 1, 2017.

**Back in 2017! 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](http://netasite.org). Groups of ten or more participants qualify for a $10.00 discount off each full conference registration or a $5.00 discount off each one-day registration. **All qualifying registrations must be on the same check, charge card or purchase order and mailed together or entered under the same group name online. Register online at [http://netasite.org](http://netasite.org).**

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

For non-registration questions, contact:
Julie Moore, [executivedirector@netasite.org](mailto:executivedirector@netasite.org)
phone 402.540.1904

**Reserve Your Hotel Room**
Don’t Forget to Reserve Your Hotel Room! NETA has negotiated discounted rates at the Hilton Omaha (connected to the CenturyLink Center Omaha), Embassy Suites by Hilton Omaha Downtown and the Courtyard by Marriott—Omaha Downtown. For more information on how to reserve your room please visit [www.netasite.org](http://www.netasite.org). Click on Spring Conference Information and then on Housing and Logistics.

**Food Choices at the Conference**
- Gourmet Coffee Cart
- Alexander’s BBQ
- Taco Cart

**Concession stands located in Exhibit Hall A:**
- Smoked Andouille Sausage
- Chili Cheese Coney
- Nacho Grandeo
- Jumbo Hot Dog
- Nachos, Pretzels & Popcorn
- Beverages
Pre-conference Workshop Titles and Descriptions

The following workshops are optional and can be added on to the conference experience when registering. Workshop fees are listed at the end of the descriptions. Attendees need not be registered for the conference in order to participate in a workshop, but either way pre-registration for workshops is required. There is limited seating in order to ensure the highest quality learning experience for participants, so don’t wait to register! Be prepared to bring your own device (BYOD) for pre-conference workshops.

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**9:00-11:30 a.m.**

**workshop #**

**901 Art-duino: Project-based Learning Integrating Computer Science, Arts, and Technology**
Jeff Branson, SparkFun
Arduino is the go-to programmable hardware choice for artists, makers, and hobbyists. In this workshop, teachers will be introduced to the world of Arduino—a low-cost, programmable microcontroller—in the context of an art-based, cross-curricular and project-based learning environment. ($75)

**902 Dive into Coding with Robotics**
Jason Rushing and Susan Prabulos
Lincoln Public Schools
Want to explore how fun and easy it is to bring coding alive with robots? Come and play with Dash and Dot from Wonder Workshop and Beebots from Terrapinlogo during this fun-filled, hands-on workshop. Participants will learn how to program various robots and discover ways to incorporate math and science into engaging activities. Project ideas, lessons, and templates for lessons will be shared! This workshop is geared for elementary teachers who would like to bring computer science and robotics into their classrooms. ($75)

**903 Illustrator and Photoshop CC—Getting Started and Beyond**
Linda Dickeson, Lincoln Public Schools
The workshop introduction will clarify the question, “What is the Creative Cloud (CC)?” and attempt to cover what CC features are available in school licensing. The hands-on training will begin with Illustrator. The workshop will first introduce the concepts of workspace, panels, artboards and vector graphics. Participants will learn to modify a vector object by changing fill, stroke, curves, size and shape using selection tools and appropriate panels; and will create original objects by drawing with the Pen tool, Brush tool, Pencil tool, various shape tools and more. Participants will also be introduced to layers, tracing, and adding type to complete a simple project. Moving to Photoshop, the workshop will include comparison of similarities in workspaces, panels and tools to what has been explored in Illustrator. Participants will learn to use selection tools effectively, employ common photo editing techniques, manage layers, and combine images for a creative project. Ultimately the strengths of each program will be compared, and participants will be shown how Illustrator and Photoshop can effectively work together for a closing project. Additional teaching and learning resources will be shared. ($75)

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**1:00-5:00 p.m.**

**101 Chromebook Management**
Lance Lennon
Eagle Grove Community School District
Participants are introduced to the features and functionalities of Chromebooks. Attendees will learn how to enroll, configure, and manage the devices within their GAFE admin console. We will discuss best practices for managing devices in a school setting. Lastly, we will talk about third party tools which will make the job of managing these devices less complicated. ($75)

**102 Learn to Code with Scratch!**
Susan Prabulos and Jason Rushing
Lincoln Public Schools
Never used Scratch before? Want to learn how to create using the program and discover ways to incorporate coding into your classroom? Come and learn how to use the Scratch program during this hands on workshop. Participants will learn Scratch basics and create animations, knock knock jokes, and a simple game. Ideas for other classroom, curriculum based projects will be shared. Workshop is geared for new to Scratch users or teachers who would like to learn more about how to incorporate it into their curriculum. It’s never too late to learn to code. Get Scratchin’!! ($75)
(Pre-conference workshops, continued)

**103 Adobe InDesign CC—Publishing and Design Basics for Rookies**

*Linda Dickeson, Lincoln Public Schools*

The introduction to the workshop will clarify the question, “What is the Creative Cloud (CC)?” and attempt to explain what CC features are available in school licensing. InDesign workspaces, panels and page navigation will first be introduced. Participants will have hands-on guided practice creating shapes, adding and formatting text, placing graphics created in Illustrator or Photoshop, or adding other various images. With sample files, participants will learn how to efficiently create and manage a multi-page document and prepare it for printing or export. ($75)

**604 Break Out of Your Box with Breakout EDU!**

*Amy Schultz and Kristen Slechta, ESU 9*

Join Amy Shultz and Kristen Slechta from ESU 9 for a great hands-on workshop exploring how this inquiry-based learning platform can be used to engage students of all ages—from Pre–K to adult learners. Workshop time will be spent experiencing Breakout EDU games, exploring the free, shared games that teachers from around the world have created and shared with each other and explore clues and templates for creating your own games. Want to learn more before the workshop? Check out the “Get Started” link at Breakoutedu.com. Step two will return the password needed to view shared games in the Breakout EDU community. ($75)

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**601 Firewall Security Best Practices**

*Ben Mientka, Network Nebraska*

Join the Network Nebraska network engineering and security crew for this hands on session and demonstration on what the best practices for configuring your firewall are. Should you block foreign IPs? How can you track down issues or thwart incoming attacks/scans? Come to this session to hear the answers and what should be top priority for firewall configuration basics! ($75)

**602 JunkBots: Converting Scraps & Recycled Materials into STEM Robots with Arduino**

*Jeff Branson, SparkFun*

Popularity and excitement around robotics and engineering continues to grow in schools across the country, but many platforms are very cost prohibitive. Teachers will learn how to build their own robotics platform using cardboard, recycled cans, and found materials with Arduino, a low-cost, open-source microcontroller. ($75)

**603 Blended Math and Reading in the Elementary Classroom**

*Jeffrey Bernadt & Jeanette Carlson, Bellevue Public Schools*

We have devices, now how can we transform the classroom? Come join us as we help you put your classroom on a path to creating a personalized learning environment for your students. This workshop will focus on blended learning at the K–6 level. We will explore a core suite of digital tools and strategies specific to math and language arts to empower students to create, reflect, and collaborate. The workshop will be hands-on with time for teacher planning and creation, so bring your tablet, your computer, and any curriculum materials for an upcoming unit. ($75)

**904 Future Ready Schools: A Framework for Transformation**

*Thomas C. Murray, Future Ready Schools*

When we analyze the US education system and classrooms across our nation, we see dramatic differences and gaps in innovation. Side-by-side images of classrooms from 1917 and 2017 yield eerie similarities in many schools today, even with the 100-year difference. How can schools and classrooms transform from those of the industrial era where desks are in rows, students are facing forward, and have teachers always front and center to ones that are student-centered, personalized, and harness the power of technology? Districts and schools across the nation are transforming into ones that are Future Ready, revamping such aspects as teacher empowerment, personalized professional learning, innovative learning spaces, community partnerships, in school and home connectivity, among others. This hands-on, engaging pre-conference workshop will challenge the thinking of school district leaders, while giving them the opportunity to dive deeply into the Future Ready Framework, network with other school leaders, and gain access to a myriad of free tools and resources that can support your district’s transformation.

This workshop will inspire school leaders and provide free tools and resources to empower them to transform their districts, schools, and classrooms into ones that better prepare students for the world they face tomorrow. ($135, includes boxed lunch)
Conference Registration

CenturyLink Center Omaha—April 20-21, 2017
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.

• Conference Registration begins February 1, 2017. Early bird registration discount ends March 17, 2017 (postmarked).
• NETA does not support shared registrations. Each registrant must have their own name badge and packet. Please be ethically responsible.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY TO AID IN PROCESSING

Name ___________________________________________ Position __________________________________________
School/Organization ___________________________________ District (optional) ____________________________

Please list involvement/memberships of other state level educational organizations:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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 ____________________________
Twitter @ ____________________________________________

Would you like your name, email address, and address released to vendors? (No response indicates permission.) ❏ Yes ❏ No

NOTE: Registrations may be paid by check, purchase order, MasterCard, American Express or VISA.
Note registration increases listed below after March 17.

Conference Registration Rates (Please check the appropriate box below.)

❏ Full conference, both days (early bird rate) ........................................ $139
  (Includes all sessions and exhibits. After March 17 cost is $159.)
❏ Thursday ONLY (early bird rate)..................................................... $114
  (Includes all sessions and exhibits. After March 17 cost is $139.)
❏ Friday ONLY (early bird rate) ........................................................ $114
  (Includes all sessions and exhibits. After March 17 cost is $139.)
❏ Lead Presenter ........................................................................... $39
  (one per session—additional presenters must pay full registration)
❏ Student conference pass (for Higher Education students—not for K-12)........ $39
  (Includes full conference and inclusion on NETA listserv. Full-time student ID Required.)
❏ Vendor Exhibits ONLY (includes membership) ............................... $59

Enter your registration rate (depending upon early bird rate or after March 17th) ......................... $ __________

List up to two optional workshops by workshop number: 1) _______ 2) __________ Workshop total ........ $ __________

Subtotal (Conference registration plus any optional workshops) ........... $ __________

Group Discount* (Subtract $10 for a full registration or $5 for one-day) $ __________
*Must be in groups of 10 or more registrations paid with the same check, PO, or charge card

Total Amount Enclosed (Subtotal - group discount) $ __________

Payment Method: ❏ Check ❏ Purchase Order (enclosed) ❏ Credit Card (pay on-line only at http://netasite.org)
*American Express, Visa or MasterCard accepted online only. If you would like to pay by credit card do not complete this form!

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

Mail to: NETA17 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

Refund Policy: Conference registration refunds will be made only if notification is made to the registration office listed below by April 1, 2017. A $15 handling fee will be subtracted from the refund.
NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

Membership Form

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

Name ___________________________________________ Position __________________________________

Preferred Address ____________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ Zip __________________________

Home Phone ___________________________ Work Phone __________________________

School/Agency Name ___________________________ Email __________________________

If you attended the Spring Conference in April 2016, your membership is included with your registration. You will receive a printed newsletter. If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, but did not attend the Spring Conference, you may pay $35 for a printed September, November, February and April newsletter. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

NETA Membership
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

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

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