The NETA 2012 Conference Brings Back Crowd Favorites and Introduces New Leaders

Kevin Honeycutt
Kevin Honeycutt grew up in poverty and his family moved often, always staying a step ahead of the ramifications of his father’s behavior. As he witnessed education around the country he collected powerful experiences that still influence his conversations and his work with educators. He spent 13 years teaching K–12 art in public school and spent summers leading creative adventure camps for kids for 17 years. For the past three years he has hosted a creative learning site called ArtSnacks (http://artsnacks.org) where he shares 150+ ten-minute drawing videos that support standards curriculum.

Currently serving in his eighth year as a Technology Integrations Specialist at ESSDACK, an educational service center based in Hutchison, Kansas, Kevin is also serving his second term as a school board member in the town of Inman, Kansas. Kevin is passionate about meeting the needs of at-risk learners and he works with kids in juvenile detention, developing approaches to re-engage the “lost” learner. Promoting a “tradigital” approach to education, Kevin brings his personal life experience and sense of humor as he works with schools to develop innovative, engaging curriculum to better prepare learners for the work they will faced when they graduate.

Travis Allen
Travis Allen first shared his vision for revolutionizing education in America through mobile learning via a Youtube video urging his local school leaders to utilize iPod touches in his high school. Trans- forming a viral video into the national iSchool Initiative, Travis is now a junior at Kennesaw State University (KSU) in Georgia, where he also manages a team of twenty people who are touring the country providing seminars, workshops, publications, and a network for

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

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

25 Years Ago

NAEDS rhymed with AIDS and they did not want NAEDS to be associated with something that even sounded like the same word.

According to the minutes of NAEDS: On Feb 6, 1987, Phyllis Brunken moved that the name of NAEDS be changed to the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA). Larry Jensen seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was suggested that a contest for choosing the new logo be held next year. So at the spring conference in 1987, with a show of hands, around 250 people voted to change the name to Nebraska Educational Technology Association. Motion carried and the rest is history.

Reflections
Talking with a few seasoned veterans that have been involved in NETA and NAEDS Conferences for many years, they have reflected on how the sessions have changed over the years. I know that many of you have many more memories, but here are a few thoughts.

I remember when...the Apple IIe was introduced, and when we networked with other educators at the conference, we talked about how to solder parts for collecting data from SIMS cards.

I remember when...the Internet was on the horizon and we were learning how to network computers together.

I remember when...HyperCard was introduced as a programming language, and some of the best workshops were available. We were able to use the new skills in the classroom the next day.

I remember when...Palms were all of the rage and we couldn’t get enough of it.

I remember when...“Ask Dr. Dave” and the “Tips from the Windows Wizard” were published in our newsletter.

I remember when...We had one computer per classroom and now everyone around us is now going 1:1.

I remember when...How great all of the conferences have been over the years!

How will you be remembered?
As the NETA Board continues to plan for the 2012 Spring Conference, the session proposal website is now available at netasite.org. Please visit the NETA website today and click on “Submit Proposal.” Mark your calendar, as the deadline for submission is November 18. Keep in mind the categories for this year’s conference: Demonstration, Poster, Conversation, Playground, and Bring your own Device. If you are submitting a BYOD session, please specify the device in your proposal. BYOD sessions need to be interactive so the participants can utilize their devices during the session. They will be 90 minutes in length and were very popular at last year’s conference.

Everyone has classroom experiences or technical knowledge to share with your friends and colleagues. Consider sharing your expertise at this year’s conference. How will you be remembered?
students and educators, to motivate them to embrace becoming life-long digital learners. Working closely with the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) organization at KSU he has been able to turn his vision into a full-blown movement with schools all over the world adopting the iSchool Initiative's concepts. Travis is quickly becoming one of the top leaders in the emerging digital learning revolution movement.

Dan Herllihy

Dan Herllihy is an assistive technology specialist on topics ranging from Creating Access on the Fly, Working with High and Low Incidence Disabilities, Creating Access to the Arts and Using Digital Images in the Classroom as a Teaching and Learning Tool. He is also an IntelliTools Training Specialist, and has written books and articles on technology integration, and produced CDs of educational activities for students. Dan's expertise is in connecting diverse technologies together to provide solutions for access.

NETA is looking for members and friends who are willing to share their classroom, school or district technology experiences with others from across the region by making a presentation at the landmark 25th Anniversary NETA conference, April 26–27, 2012. Presenters who can address uses of technology in any discipline and at any educational level are encouraged to submit a presentation. Sessions are lecture/demonstration, conversation style or poster/gallery sessions and last for 45 minutes. We will also be requesting BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) sessions that are 90 minutes in length.

Poster/gallery sessions

A poster/gallery session allows many presenters to set up in one large session room with poster boards or other resources. It is possible to bring a computer for the gallery showing if it is stated ahead of time on the proposal. Participants stroll through the gallery in an informal manner while presenters show projects and answer questions.

Presenter guidelines

Lead presenters pay the significantly reduced rate of $25.00 and are expected to provide ample handouts or Web/email access to their information after the conference. A co-presenter may assist in the session. A co-presenter must, however, register for the conference as a regular attendee ($115.00 full conference or $80.00 for one day). A limit of three presenters per session will be printed in the program. Students are allowed to assist in a presentation as guests of the conference (limit of four, and must be supervised at all times).

Questions should be directed to Dr. Bob Goeman, President Elect/Conference Chair by email at bgoeman@mail.unomaha.edu.

Earlier Deadline This Year!

Sessions may only be submitted online, and must be entered by the November 18, 2011 deadline. No emailed sessions will be accepted. Click the link at the NETA home page at http://netasite.org to submit. The online session submission site is open now!

Save the Date!

NETA Conference
April 26–27, 2012

La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
http://netasite.org
NETA Board Openings
Do you know someone who would like to be more involved with NETA? Would you like to be more involved with NETA?

Board of Directors
NETA has four vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you feel you have the skills and knowledge that will help our organization, please consider submitting your name as a candidate for our Board of Directors. Or maybe you know a member that you feel would be an excellent candidate. Encourage them to submit their name for the ballot. Board members serve a three-year term. Candidates need to obtain permission from their administrators before submitting their name for the ballot. NETA reimburses expenses and substitute pay for board meeting/conference attendance. Candidates will be asked to provide a digital photo and a short narrative for the ballot.

Responsibilities:
- attend up to three day-long meetings each year
- assist with setup and attend meeting the day & evening prior to the spring conference
- attend and have significant duties during both days of the spring conference
- attend a two-day strategic planning retreat in the summer each year
- provide at least one newsletter contribution during their term

Candidates must be members of NETA.

Two officer positions are also available, Secretary and President-Elect. The duties for the two officer positions are as follows:

President-Elect
- Have been a NETA member at least one year prior to being nominated for the position.
- Serve for the President when the President is unable to serve. Shall automatically assume the office of President upon resignation of the President. Shall complete the term of office of the resigned President and shall then serve the full year to which elected.
- Be responsible for aiding in the development of NETA.
- Be responsible for developing and implementing the annual conference.
- Serve one year as President-Elect, then one year as President and one year as Past-President.

Secretary
- Keep a record of meetings of the Board of Directors and NETA.
- See that actions requiring communication with members, other individuals or groups are promptly carried out.
- Help the president-elect in the coordination of conference information and registration materials.
- Track attendance of board members to meetings and report excessive absences to the board.
- File and distribute changes in policy or rules of order adopted at NETA board meetings.
- Be re-elected on the even numbered years, and may be held by the same person for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Deadline to submit information for ballot: December 9, 2011

Please go to the following online form and submit your nomination information. https://neta.wufoo.com/forms/neta-board-openings/. A digital picture for the ballot needs to be sent via email to William Bolen. The picture should be a headshot about 1.25” X 2” at 300 dpi, or if it is lower resolution needs to be larger so our staff can reduce the size and increase the resolution.

Any questions can be directed to our Past President: William Bolen
ESU10
76 Plaza Blvd
Kearney, NE 68845
email: wbolen@esu10.org

http://netasite.org

November 2011
2012 Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship

Poster and PSA Contest Guidelines
*Sponsored by the Nebraska Attorney General and Educational Service Units*

The ESUs of Nebraska in partnership with the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office are sponsoring an Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship Poster and Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest for students in K-12 Schools in Nebraska.

**Eligibility**
Any public or private school/district within an ESU may participate.

**Categories**
Each school or district may submit one entry in each category from each grade grouping: K–4, 5–8, 9–12, i.e. three entries per school for each of the five categories.

**Entry Formats**

- **Poster**
  - high quality computer generated (pdf, tiff, jpg, or png);
  - hand drawn
- **Audio PSA**
  - submit on labeled CD (mp3, aiff, or wav format).
- **Video PSA**
  - submit on labeled VHS, DVD, or CD (QT, WMV, or RM format).
- **Open**
  - a submission which does not fit a poster or PSA category above—could be a brochure, video documentary, etc.

**Rules**
- No real names used on posters or in audio or video PSAs.
- Copyright laws must be followed, i.e. images, sound, etc.
- 29 second target time on PSAs (audio and video).
- Label CDs and DVDs with ESU Internet Safety Entry Form info (see next page.).
- Put ESU Contest Entry Form on back of posters
- **Poster Size**: minimum—8.5” X 11”, maximum—16” X 22” (recommended delivery in protected mailer, such as tube or flat box. Do not bend.)

**Deadline**
Entries must be submitted to your local ESU by **March 9, 2012**.

Send entries to your local ESU, attention Technology Specialist. Email executivedirector@netasite.org if you have questions regarding who or which ESU to contact.

**Award**
One entry in each grade grouping from each ESU will be selected and given state ESU recognition. Winning posters and PSAs, audio and video, will then be eligible for awards and/or use by the ESUs and the Nebraska Attorney General’s Office. A winning entry in each category will be selected and sent on to the Attorney General’s office for special recognition.

**Entry Form**
Download the interactive form from the NETA website Resources page at http://netasite.org/downloads or use the form on the next page. Place it on the back side of each poster entry. Submit the form along with each audio and video entry.
2012 ESU Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship Contest Entry Form

Please complete this form and place it on the back side of each poster entry. Submit it along with each audio and video entry. Please label CDs and DVDs.

Student(s) Name(s): _____________________________________________________________

Student(s) Age(s): _______________________________________________________________________________

Grade(s): ____________________ Circle Category: Poster (HD or CG) PSA (Audio or Video) Open

School Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________

School Address: __________________________________________________________________________________

School City, State, Zip: _____________________________________________________________________________ School Phone: ________________________

Teacher Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Teacher email address: ________________________________________________ ESU: __________________

All images and music are original, are royalty free, or copyright permissions have been granted for broadcast and display.

I hereby grant permission to use this entry for positive recognition, display, publication, or broadcast by the Nebraska Educational Service Units and/or the Attorney General’s Office of Nebraska.

____________________________________________________________   ___________________________________
Student Signature   Date

____________________________________________________________   ___________________________________
Student Signature   Date

____________________________________________________________   ___________________________________
Student Signature   Date

____________________________________________________________   ___________________________________
Student Signature   Date

Teacher Signature   Date

Entries must be submitted to local ESU by March 9, 2012.

Send entries to your local ESU, attention Technology Specialist. Email executivedirector@netasite.org if you have questions regarding who or which ESU to contact.
From Edutopia.org

Texting in the Classroom: Not Just a Distraction

By Audrey Watters

The Pew Research Center released new data this week on Americans’ text-messaging habits. According to Pew, 83 percent of American adults now own cell phones and almost three-quarters (73 percent) send and receive text messages. The research only looks at adults’ usage of text-messaging, but it does find that younger adults are much more active texters than older age groups. Cellphone owners between the ages of 18 and 24 exchange an average of 109.5 messages a day—that’s more than 3200 messages per month. That’s compared to about 41.5 messages a day for all cellphone owners, a figure that’s largely unchanged from figures reported in 2010.

The Pew study doesn’t look at the texting habits of those under age 18, but a study released last year by Nielsen found that those cellphone users in the 13 to 17 age range were the most avid texters among any age group. According to this 2010 Nielsen data, people 18 to 24 sent an average of 1630 texts per month—about half the number Pew says this group currently sends. And that Nielsen report pegged the texting rate of 13 to 17 year olds at 3339 per month—approximately what 18 to 24 year olds are now sending and receiving. One might wonder: does the texting rate of 13 to 17 year olds continue to be twice that?

Certainly that age group—in fact, all those under 18—are increasingly likely to be cellphone owners. According to those surveyed as part of Project Tomorrow’s 2010 Speak Up report (PDF), more than half of middle and high school students (51 percent and 56 percent respectively) own a cell phone (without Internet access). In addition, 34 percent of middle schoolers and 44 percent of high schoolers own a smart phone.

With the ubiquity of cellphones, many schools are facing questions about what to do when students bring cellphones to school. Ban them outright? Require they be kept in a locker or backpack? Require they be turned off? Allow them to be used, at teachers’ discretion, in class?

The reasons why cellphones are banned are, interestingly enough, many of the same things that make cellphones a potentially very useful educational tool: cellphones, particularly smart phones, are powerful mobile computing devices. If the cellphones have Internet access, students can use them to look up information online. Cellphones double as calculators and as cameras. And unlike iPads, tablets, e-readers, smart phones, laptops or desktop PCs, these devices are ubiquitous. Moreover, as the statistics indicate, text-messaging seems to be the preferred method of communication of teens.

The popularity of text-messaging has long been given as one of the main reasons why cellphones are a distraction in the classroom. If students are texting, they’re not paying attention. Texting is often viewed as the new form of passing notes in the back of the class.

The assumption is, of course, that this SMS communication is always off-topic. But a variety of new tools have been released recently that are tapping into the popularity of texting and the ubiquity of cellphones and are demonstrating that these can, in fact, be used for educational purposes:

Remind101
Remind101 allows teachers to send text messages (and email) home— to students and/or to parents—to offer reminders and updates for class. Remind101 allows teachers to communicate with their classes without either teacher or students having to share their phone numbers.

Poll Everywhere
As the name suggests, Poll Everywhere allows teachers to use cellphones for polling in class. Students text their responses, using their cellphones to give feedback, answer questions, take quizzes.

(Continued on the next page)
Celly
Celly provides SMS-based group messaging. Classrooms can use the service to take quick polls and quizzes, filter messages, get news updates, take notes, and organize and hold study groups. The groups can be public or private, moderated or open.

StudyBoost
StudyBoost allows students to study via SMS-based quizzes. The questions can be self- or teacher-created, and can be multiple choice or open-ended.

Of course, the availability of these tools does not mean that all cellphone usage is de facto educational and that all texting in class is on-topic. As with any technology, cellphones do require policies for acceptable use, and students need guidance on exactly what that means. But these new tools do give educators a range of options should they decide to let students turn their cellphones on in class. Many of these tools have been designed with the classroom setting in mind, and have privacy policies, moderation features, and analytics so that teachers can feel more confident in how texting is being utilized.

But most importantly, perhaps, with cellphones becoming increasingly ubiquitous, text-messaging tools are less likely than smartphone or even Web apps to exclude some students because they don’t have access to the latest technology.

WORDFOTO

WORDFOTO is an iPod app that recently came across my desk. Once installed, open the app. Click on the camera icon and take a new photo (or choose a photo already in your library). Choose “Words” on the bottom menu bar. You can use the words that are already there or add your own! Choose a Style from the list to create fun images! Then share them with Facebook or email them to anyone!

Students love this type of fun image tool to express their creativity with friends! Use this in your class projects for creative ways of practicing vocabulary, matching geometric shapes with their name, making a slideshow of all the ways your community shows their patriotism, or creatively representing species from every biome. Using tools like these engages students and meets students at their creative levels with tools they understand. Watch them grow!

We encourage you to utilize the interactive forms from the web that allow you to legibly print your entry form. This will help contest chairs so contest winners and sponsors’ names are spelled correctly in our publications.

A mission of NETA is to provide recognition to outstanding Nebraska students and teachers, in part by providing contests, scholarships, and grants. The forms and guidelines for these opportunities were printed in the September newsletter, with a summary listed below. Check our website for interactive entry forms and detailed instructions for student contests and teacher opportunities.

**Contest for Students and Teachers**

**Creative Comics**
K–12 Students and Teachers, it’s time to get creative! We are looking for your best original digitally created comic strips. Students: create a comic strip that highlights your learning or showcases curriculum topics. Teachers: share original classroom or technology humor. Contact Lucas Bingham with questions at lbingham@esu3.org.

**Contest for Students Only**

Student contests are open to all Nebraska K–12 public and private school students, unless otherwise noted.

**K–12 Graphic Imagery Contest**
Entries in the graphic imagery contest could include digital photographs, images that have been digitally enhanced, hand drawn images and others—be creative. All entries should be original work created by the individual submitting the entry—clip art should not be used. Contact Jackie Ediger with questions jediger@esu9.org.

**K–12 NETA Conference Logo Contest**
Create a design for the NETA Spring Conference 2012—25 Years of Innovation. Encourage students’ creativity by entering artwork created with computers in the NETA Conference Logo Contest. The winning design will be used on the conference materials, T-shirts, and published on our website. **NOTE: Earlier deadline for this contest—December 16, 2011.** Contact Jason Rushing with questions at jrushing@lps.org.

**Web 2.0 Tools Student Collaboration Contest**
Examples of interactive entries: classroom blogs, wikis, web pages, online interactive classroom newsletters, or educational social networking sites. Student divisions: K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. Contact Jane Davis with questions at jdavis@esu16.org.

**K–12 Open Class Contest!**
As we continually seek to support contests that accurately reflect classroom uses of technology, we are continuing the Open Class Contest. Write a great computer app? An awesome desktop publishing file? Digital story? Podcast? An original music composition? We want them all! Contact Jason Rushing with questions at jrushing@lps.org. **(Teacher contests on the next page)**

**Wanted!**

Judges for all contests!
We are looking for people willing to assist with the contest judging, scheduled on Saturday, February 11, 2011 in Louisville.

If you are interested, please contact Lynne Herr at lherr@esu6.org. Lunch is provided, along with a terrific learning experience and great company. Please join us for a fun day! **NOTE: If you have students entered in any of the contests, you will not be able to judge that particular contest.**
Teacher contests are open to Nebraska public/private teachers, unless otherwise noted. Deadline for all teacher opportunities is January 13, 2012!

Point/Counter Point Video Contest—NEW Contest!
Here’s your chance to create a 30-second video, taking a side on the issue of whether social media should be allowed in the 21st century classroom. Contact Matt Lee with questions at mlee@westside66.org.

Opportunity to Attend NETA 2011!
Nebraska public/private teachers who are in their first three years of teaching—put your name “in the hat” to possibly win a free NETA registration. If you can answer “yes” to all of the following, please submit your name for the drawing 1) 3 years or less teaching experience, 2) have not attended NETA Conference, 3) knows that the school or district does not have the means to pay registration costs, 4) has strong interest in use of technology in the classroom, and 5) has principal/supervisor support. Contact Nicki Markut with questions at nicki.markut@dist145schools.org.

ISTE Teacher Trek Contest
Win a trip to ISTE 2012 in San Diego next summer! We are asking you to use your creative technology skills to submit your contest entry explaining how you use technology to enhance student learning and how attending ISTE 2012 would strengthen what you already do. What are you hoping to learn or gain by attending sessions at ISTE 2012? Trips will be awarded with a maximum of $1500 each (total in awards not to exceed $9000). Contact Nicki Markut with questions at nicki.markut@dist145schools.org.

Excellence in Leading with Technology Award
The purpose of the Nebraska Excellence in Leading with Technology Award is to recognize and honor an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in implementing technology to improve teaching, learning or administration. This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school administrators and technology coordinators whose primary job role does not include teaching students. Contact William Bolen with questions at wbolen@esu10.org.

Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award
The purpose of the Nebraska Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award is to recognize and honor an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in implementing technology to improve teaching and learning. This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school teachers. Contact William Bolen with questions at wbolen@esu10.org.

Web 2.0 Tools Teacher Collaboration Contest
Examples of entries: classroom blogs, wikis, web pages, online interactive classroom newsletters or educational social networking sites e.g. ning. Teacher Divisions are for teachers of grades K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. Contact Dawn Prescott with questions at dprescot@esu7.org.

Technology Grant Program
To further encourage the linking of technology to the curriculum, NETA is proud to continue the Technology Grant Program. Grants will be awarded with a maximum of $1500 each (total in awards not to exceed $9000). Contact Nicole Badgley with questions at nbadgley@esu10.org.

CenturyLink Teacher Classroom Grants (formerly Qwest Grants)
The purpose of these grants is to recognize Nebraska public and private school teachers who use technology in the classroom in new and innovative ways, with an emphasis on improving student performance. This year at least ten grants of up to $5,000 each will be awarded to schools within the CenturyLink local service area. Check our website to download the instruction packet, including a list of eligible communities and the scoring rubric. For application questions contact Lynne Herr at lherr@esu6.org. For eligible district questions, contact Danny Pate at danny.pate@centurylink.com.
During the April 2011 NETA Conference, eleven Nebraska teachers were awarded Century-Link/NETA grants. The grants were for up to $5,000 each. The following reports will provide a glimpse into how these projects have progressed since districts received their checks last April. Please check our web site to see if your district qualifies for these grants. With budget constraints, this is a great opportunity for those districts within the CenturyLink service area.

http://netasite.org/2012contests

Your district could be highlighted as a winner next year. Be sure to check out this opportunity!

Polly Pearson
Holdrege High School

The “But Why” Project: $4,650

The goal of the “But Why” Project is to move students to a deeper level of thinking and reasoning by providing them with a digital writing pen to create an environment of inquiry based mathematical investigation in a digital environment. In order to prepare students to be successful, we must teach them to question, analyze and problem solve. Using the funds provided by the grant, Holdrege High School Mathematics Department was able to purchase 15 Livescribe digital writing pens.

To begin the project, the calculus students have been divided into eight different groups. These groups have each been paired with a Math Education Student from University of Nebraska at Kearney. That college student is serving as a consultant for the high school calculus team. Each team has been assigned a different inquiry based math problem to solve. Using their digital writing pens, Skype, iPads and other types of technology, each team is collaborating and interacting to arrive at a solution to their problem. Each team will create a digital presentation through a variety of technology avenues to defend the reasoning used to arrive at their solution using mathematical proofs.

The technology of the pen allows students to write diagrams, formulas and proofs while recording audio input. The Livescribe pens have helped bridge the gap between mathematics and digital learning by allowing students to graph, draw, collaborate and express their ideas about the mathematical process with other students. The But Why Project has been challenging, exciting and already gone far beyond what we had hoped the project would accomplish!

Amanda Ganser, Ainsworth Community Schools

Classroom Touché: $5,000

The New Oxford American Dictionary defines the French word “touché” as literally being touched. Not only have our students been learning by touching the screens on our new iPod touch devices but their hearts and minds have been touched by realizing learning is fun!

In order to give our students at Ainsworth Community Schools a better, more enjoyable learning experience, I wanted to incorporate more technology into our daily routines. After receiving the grant we purchased 20 iPod touches, silicone cases, clear protective screen overlays and many educational apps with the grant money. The district provided a sync station and ear buds for every elementary student. By incorporating iPod touches to our intervention program, the students are guaranteed extra practice across the curriculum. The iPod applications that are available cover all subjects including reading, math, science, social studies, and creativity.

My main goal is to support our RTI (Response to Intervention) plan in allowing the students a tactile way to get more practice in their problem areas, whether on math facts or reading fluency. The iPods multi-touch and vivid graphics work well for our special education needs, and are very enjoyable for all students. I have introduced the iPods in my computer classes, and am hoping that the classroom teachers will incorporate them in their daily lessons for interactive, on-task, fun, focused, learning for all of our students. Students absolutely love learning and refreshing their skills using the iPods. In fact, I don't think they even realize that they are learning. They love this new way of practicing math facts and learning across the curriculum.

Deb Obermiller & Nicole Osnes
Valentine Elementary School

Baiting Instructional Hooks: $4,998

The purpose of “Baiting Instructional Hooks” was to provide technology that will impact student learning.
learning and provide instructional tools for teachers to utilize in their classrooms.

The CenturyLink/NETA (formerly Qwest Grant) was used to purchase document cameras and wireless slates for use in our elementary school. Four document cameras, three wireless slates, and two DLP projectors were purchased. The purchases were made in April 2011 and products arrived in May. David LaDay, from Engaging Technologies, provided training in April and August of 2011.

The technology has been easily integrated into the current curriculum. The document cameras are basically a plug-and-play camera. The cameras are easy for teachers to use and have been utilized since their arrival. A blog site has been developed for teachers to share their successes, ideas, and questions about the new technology.

The Mobi from eInstruction is the brand of wireless slate that was purchased. The Mobi allows the teacher to move around the room while writing on the board and gives the teacher the ability to operate their computer from anywhere in the room. This piece of technology and the mobility of the teacher help students to focus on concepts being taught and have changed instructional routines in the classroom.

CenturyLink and NETA have helped us create a digital media environment that allows students to communicate and work collaboratively to enhance their learning, while contributing to the learning of others. It also has hooked students’ interests and gained their attention for improved learning.

Glen S. Jagels, Westbrook Elementary School

iPod Cart for 1st and 2nd Grade: $5,000

Westbrook Elementary’s CenturyLink/NETA Grant was used to purchase an iPod Powersync Cart with 30 iPods to be used in the first and second grade classrooms. The three goals of our grant were to increase reading skills and strategies, increase knowledge of the overall math standards, and increase creativity and innovation by teaching students how to create content that they can share with other students, classes, or grades.

We were able to purchase our iPod cart quickly since we supplemented the CenturyLink/NETA Grant with other funds and then used the iPods in our summer school program in grades three through six. Students were motivated to work on math skills through several applications as well as other applications geared toward reading skills. The feedback from teachers was very positive and several requests were made to purchase iPods for the intermediate grades based on their experiences.

So far this school year, we have waited to introduce the iPods to the first and second grade students, as they have been spending the beginning of school doing the Daily Five process, and we wanted to have more training for our teachers in the use of the iPods. Now that these two steps have been accomplished, the iPods will be introduced to use during literacy stations for practice on reading and math skills. First grade students are excited as they were able to use iPods last year in kindergarten and are already knowledgeable in the use of this type of technology.

Jerry W. Arnold
Valentine Rural High School

Technical Software for Mathematics Education: $5,000

The goal of this project is to use technical computing software and a tablet PC to improve student performance in dual credit Calculus and Precalculus mathematics classes taught at Valentine Rural High School. Classroom presentations will be enhanced by the ability of the software to quickly and easily calculate examples and recalculate answers when modifications are made to the original function. In addition, 2-D and 3-D graphs and graph animations can be quickly generated to improve students’ visualization of geometric connections.

Students will directly use the software in math lab sessions where software tutors will allow them to concentrate on problem solving and strategy by reducing the emphasis on mechanical manipulation of equations. Allowing students to learn the concepts first will speed assimilation of new ideas. This knowledge will then be incorporated with proper manipulation skills into complete problem solutions. Students will be encouraged to engage in independent exploration and discovery learning via software tutors and other resources.

CenturyLink/NETA Grant proceeds have been used to purchase a tablet PC for classroom presentations. Maple” software and supporting computerized eBooks and study guides have been purchased and installed in a school computer lab for student use. The tablet PC is used for daily hand-written lecture notes plus live demonstrations with Maple. The handwriting application (Continued on the next page)
(Grant reports, continued)
allows storage of all daily notes. This is used to refer back to previous work and for students who miss a class period. As there is no need to erase the board, nothing is ever lost. The graphing power of the software is used regularly to illustrate function behavior such as asymptotes, limits and graph animations while varying equation parameters.

Pam Van Fleet, Westside Community Schools/District 66

The Hillside Elementary School Project Based Learning and Technology Integration Project: $5,000

This project is aimed at improving first grade reading achievement in a Title-I school with technology integration (specifically iPad touch-screen technology) being the key component. Using a Project Based Learning approach and authentic learning strategies, students will strive to answer the driving question, “What Changes Affect Animal Adaptations?” As students explore real-world problems that span district and state standards in the areas of language arts, math, and science, the primary goal is to decrease the digital divide and increase literacy learning processes such as decoding and reading fluency.

From its inception, we knew we were embarking on a worthwhile trek as we witnessed the enthusiastic reaction of the class when the iPads were introduced. Parents and students alike expressed the same excitement when they learned about the project at our school’s “Sneak-A-Peek” night this past August.

With the grant, each pair of students will be sharing their own personal iPads for the rest of the year, the reality of all the logistics set in—setting up an account for purchasing apps, establishing a secure location with charging capabilities, and syncing each iPad. The thrill for me as a teacher is in knowing my students can’t wait to get started. I have already begun to meet and plan for curriculum development and assessment formats with my support team, so now the real work (and fun) begins.

Our project won’t officially begin until later in the fall, but the students will be using their iPads as soon as they are loaded with apps. For the first graders at Hillside Elementary, 2011–12 promises to be a year to remember thanks to everyone at NETA & Century Link!

Deb Holland and Joe Myers
Norfolk High School

The Whole World in Their Hands: $4,820

The goal of our project is to increase students’ ability to do scientific inquiry through the use of technology. By using data collection devices in science education our students will develop better analytical skills and be more organized in collecting useful and meaningful information. Vernier sensors connected to the computers will allow our students to capitalize on the potential of the computer for powerful scientific experimentation and analysis.

We have purchased eight Dell Latitude 2120 net-book computers to connect to the Vernier sensors that we currently have. Students have begun to use the technology to gather “real-world” data, which they can then graph and analyze using the software on the computers. We did not purchase a secure cart for transporting the computers because of the additional costs involved. Transportation is quite simple, however, because of the small size and portability of the net-books.

The students have been very excited to use the new technology and have been very engaged in the lab activities. The next lab that we are doing will use heart rate monitors to test the variable of body position (seated, standing, and lying down) to learn about independent variables, dependent variables, and controls. We look forward to reporting on our progress at the 2012 NETA Conference!

Tamara K. Gass
Valentine City Schools

21st Century Paperless Classroom: $5,000

My goal to create a 21st century paperless classroom before August of 2012 is underway. The NETA/CenturyLink grant allowed me to hand-down my old Classroom Performance System to colleagues, and purchase new CPS Pulse remotes and a MOBI for my classroom. In addition, I purchased two Echo Livescribe pens, a short throw Hitachi projector, and a Ladibug document camera.

My students collaborate and actively participate in my classes with the Pulse remotes and can’t wait to have their chance at using the MOBI. The MOBI allows me to manage my computer from any point in my classroom. I am where I need to be—next to my students—not stuck behind a computer or with my back to the students at the marker board. I have used the Livescribe Pens to take notes at conferences and clinics. My students use them in language lessons and we will be using them in our group and partner activities.

I chose to purchase a document camera and projector rather than... (Continued on the next page)
I attended NETA and other training sessions have offered me ideas and ways to implement and use the new technology in my classroom. When I applied for the NETA/Century-Link grant, our school had two teachers who were using technology regularly in the classroom. This grant has served as a motivator for my colleagues and myself. Today our school has five MOBI’s and three sets of clickers being used throughout the school.

**Beth Williams**
**Humphrey St. Francis**

**Graphic Arts Studio: $4960.90**

Our school was interested in adding Graphic Arts to our higher level Art Classes to engage our students who have already excelled in our regular art classes. We have purchased two *Mac Desktops* and *Adobe CS5 Master Collection* licenses. With this our advanced art students will be able to work with programs used in the graphics industry and all art classes will benefit from the basic photo and editing software with these programs.

We are beginning to implement them into the classroom structure and more than art students are benefiting from them. To help them with drawing we also purchased two *Wacom* tablets so they can be writing with a pen as well as a mouse. We’ve purchased all the items and are creating a home for them in the art room. We plan on beginning to implement them full time in the art room starting in the 2nd quarter. Students are excited to have the new computers and are looking forward to exploring the new programs.

**Tony Brown**
**Norfolk Junior High**

**Working in the Zones—Heart Zones Education: $5,000**

We thought it was just like Christmas when we received the grant to move technology into our Physical Education Classroom. We also were in line with new directives from our School District focusing on moving our students into the 21st century and the technology necessary to accomplish those objectives. The day we received our Training System was Christmas all over again with the opening of packages.

The Norfolk Public Schools Foundation helped us with the expense over $5,000 and helped purchase a projector and laptop. We are ready to start putting in data and have our system up and running. We are hoping to have our students involved in the training system within the next couple of weeks. The software has been a challenge to get installed on our laptop and we have to enter beginning data on each student. The software then keeps a portfolio for each student as he or she progresses over the semester.

This will be great at Parent-Teacher Conferences to show parents how hard students have been working or not working, where they started with cardio-vascular fitness and where they are presently. The most exciting part of the package will be the ability of the students to see where they are in live time as it is projected up on the wall. The program also comes with several package lessons and templates for the students to gain cognitive information about heart healthy living.

**Denise McNeel**
**Northwest High School**

**Medical Interventions $4,999.16**

Medical Interventions—year three of the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences curriculum. The students have begun to investigate medical interventions used for the Smith family. Sue, a college student, has been diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. The MI students are looking at the various interventions used to prevent further spread of the meningitis on the college campus and to the families of those involved. The Smith family has a host of other issues the students will be investigating “will the baby have any birth defects” or a variety of different cancers affecting the family.

The items we were able to purchase from the receipt of this grant have all arrived and many of them have been or are in the process of being utilized. Students are in the process of conducting the ELISA test—an antibody-based test used to diagnose diseases. Students are wondering just how they will use some of the really fun items we received. Students will do some very creative critical thinking when they design and test their laparoscopic boxes and see just what it feels like to be a surgeon.

We certainly appreciate receiving the Century Link/NETA Grant. Project Lead the Way has a very unique and interesting curriculum, however it is quite costly to get up and going. Through the receipt of this grant, we have been able to purchase items for the class and reduce the expenditure of the school district.

*Note: See a summary description of this grant opportunity on page 11.*
Wallwisher: A Geeky Teacher’s Dream Tool

By Keith Ferrell

Wallwisher is my best friend. I realize this sounds terribly sad and geeky, but it’s not every day that a website comes along that is easy to use, innovative, collaborative, educational, and free. Beyond all that, Wallwisher is easy to moderate, and there are no ads. (I feel like I need to give one of those “I am in no way connected to, or affiliated with” disclaimers.)

If you have never seen Wallwisher, it is an online bulletin board where students place virtual post-its with textual information, photos, video, and audio. I can think of a zillion ways to use Wallwisher in the classroom, and below are a few projects I recently did with fourth and fifth grade classrooms that show the benefits of Web 2.0 collaboration.

A Mirage of Facts

Recently, the students in one of my fourth grade classes were learning about hot and cold deserts, and I wanted them to begin researching different types of desert environments. The initial plan was to gather facts and write them out in a Word document. However, instead of having them do this, I decided to create a desert fact wall that they could all collaborate on. As students located interesting facts, they posted them along with a picture. The motivation of seeing their facts and pictures on a collaborative website was amazing. I had students asking if they could add more. And more! As the research continued and students added additional facts to the wall, they began to find more obscure and unique facts to add, all without any direction or push from me.

Virtual Vocab Wall and Writing Tips

Students in one of my fifth grade classes are very much into building their vocabularies. I found that a lot of students were looking up the same words as their classmates and saving them in their own personal lists. There was no collaboration or working together to learn more. We now have a vocab word wall that allows students to post new words and definitions as they come across them from wherever they are. Another class decided to create a wall with a collection of their tips for becoming a good writer. The wall has several great tips from students, for students, and they have excitedly shared this with other classes in the spirit of collaboration and learning from one another.
Teacher Tip
When I first set up a wall, I leave it open to anyone and have my entire class add to it at the same time. After the session is over, I either close it entirely or moderate it so that any new additions to the wall have to be approved by me before they go live. Simply put, with Wallwisher, educators have a powerful friend to help students seamlessly collaborate and keep their information organized and accessible in a fun, motivating place. Students continue to add to the walls long after they are created, and others can benefit from the information displayed in a single, user-friendly place.

Resources
Desert Fact Wall:
www.wallwisher.com/wall/deserts

Vocabulary Wall:
www.wallwisher.com/wall/burkwork

Wallwisher in the Classroom:
https://docs.google.com/present/view?id=dhn2vcv5_436f8kscmdc

What Makes a Good Writer Wall:
www.wallwisher.com/wall/kimzey-good-writers

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Linda Dickeson was surprised on August 24 during a lunch with Sandy Blankenship by additional guests Dennis and Cheryl McIntyre, bearing a NETA President plaque for 1991-92 to replace the one lost in the Lincoln Public Schools District Offices fire in the spring.
When new technology comes out (which seems like everyday), I consider how it would best be used in education. I attend conferences and ask questions, listen to suggestions, and try to find out how and where the new technology could be used.

Recently, I was able to attend a LiveScribe training. When LiveScribe first came out, I was cautious thinking that it would be great for special education. After seeing the new features, I now know that it can be used in any educational setting (including college).

So, what’s new? As with any technology, if it doesn’t get frequent updates, then it gets outdated. LiveScribe has built connectors into its technology. Connectors allow the user to quickly take a pencast that’s been created and upload it to various sites such as Google Docs and Google Sites. The pencasts can also be uploaded to MyLiveScribe, which provides free storage. How cool is that?

At the link listed below, you’ll see how you have the option of embedding a pencast into web pages created for your classroom. Once I registered my pen, all I did was click one button, then linked it to my computer, and was given some html code. As updates come out, your pen gets automatically updated. You can also install apps on your pen found at the LiveScribe store.


More information about LiveScribe pens can be found at:
http://www.livescribe.com

Want to Talk? Do it at NETA 2012!
by Josh Allen, Papillion-La Vista Schools

Whether you are a seasoned NETA presenter or have never considered it in the past, try something new this year by submitting a presentation under the Conversation strand! If you recall, presentations in the Conversation strand are not necessarily lead by the experts—they are led by people who want to get a topic on the table and input from a group. Maybe you are the expert wanting more information from the group. Maybe you are implementing new curriculum or class structure in the upcoming year and want to see what suggestions others have. Maybe you are finishing up a “pilot” or first year of a new class or curriculum and want some of the brightest educators in the state (yes, that’s you NETA attendees!) to offer tips and suggestions. Whatever your topic, it can easily be made to fit the Conversation strand!

Conversation strands are held in the more relaxed setting of the Marriott Library. For more information, check out the last NETA newsletter (here: http://netasite.org/sept11) for an article reviewing last year’s Conversation strand and a blog post created prior to last year’s conference introducing the Conversation strand (here: http://netasite.org/conversations).

All presentations are due November 18th. More information can be found on the NETA website http://netasite.org.
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

January 2012

Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)
January 23–26, 2012
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
fetc.org

MacWorld Expo
January 26–28, 2012
The Moscone Center
San Francisco, CA
macworldexpo.com

February 2012

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)
February 6–10, 2012
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

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

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

March 2012

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

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

April 2012

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

National School Boards Association (NSBA)
(Since there are no more T+L events, this conference will have stronger tech strands!)
April 21–23, 2012
Boston, MA
annualconference.nsba.org

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

June 2012

Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)
June 5–7, 2012
Kearney, NE
nceeducators.org

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

August 2012

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

http://netasite.org
NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
P.O. Box 27
Waverly, NE 68462

Membership Form

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

Name ______________________________ Position ______________________________

Preferred Address ____________________________________________________________

City ______________________________ State ________ Zip ___________________________

Home Phone __________________________ Work Phone ____________________________

School/Agency Name __________________________ e-mail __________________________

If you attended the Spring Conference in April, 2011, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but could not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April, 2012. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

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

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

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