

Take a Look INSIDE:

NETA Board Openings

NETA has four vacancies on the Board of Directors (three year term). Are you interested or do you know someone you would like to nominate?

See page..... 4

Student Contests and Teacher Opportunities

A mission of NETA is to provide recognition to outstanding Nebraska students, pre-service teachers and teachers, in part by providing contests, scholarships, and grants. Deadline for most contests is January 24, 2014.

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Mission: Possible

Request for sessions for NETA 2014

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 NETA spring conference, April 24–25, 2014 at the La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center

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Keynote and Featured Speakers

The Spring NETA Conference—*Mission: Possible*, April 24–25, 2014, will again feature great speakers from around the country!

- Angela Maiers
- Erin Klein
- Dean Shareski
- Dave Edyburn

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Message from the President

Jason Everett—ESU 10, Kearney, NE



The Power of Connecting

I RECENTLY OVERHEARD a teacher, Jeff Paige, telling another colleague about his trip to ISTE this summer. He was describing all the wonderful opportunities he encountered and learned about in San Antonio, and one statement popped out at me that inspired me to write about this topic. As he was pointing to the jack on the wall, he exclaimed, “If there is a network connection in the classroom, you are not the smartest person in the room!” That struck a chord with me. As I thought about it, there are seven billion people in this world who can share their unique experiences with your students. And those students have more than seven billion people they can share their unique talents and expertise with! A truly global and authentic audience for collaborating and learning.

Making connections is really about growing relationships. Finding others with similar interests, or even dissimilar interests. Finding others who agree with you and who don’t agree with you. Finding others who can empathize with you, or give you a good kick to get going! Finding others who are willing to share of themselves and who are willing to let you share your thoughts, opinions, passions, or perspectives. Finding others to collaborate with, who help you grow as a person—and as a professional. To me, these are critical keys to making connections.

In the world we currently live in, the virtual connections are seemingly endless. You can Tweet a fellow teacher or techie on Twitter. You can Hangout with a group of people in Google+. You can Skype with another classroom in a foreign land. You can dialog about a topic on a blog, and you can share projects with teachers on Pinterest. The sky’s the limit. Although it can seem daunting at first, start simply and just set a goal to make a connection. Talk to someone in your building, your district, or another NETA member who may be doing something similar. Then go out and do it!

Virtual field trips are an excellent opportunity to test the waters and get classrooms involved in connecting with the outside world. As educators, know that local or ESU distance learning coordinators

(Continued on page 15)

NETA Newsletter

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Contributions are welcome.

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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 2014 Spring Conference T-shirt.

Contact Julie Moore, phone (402) 540-1904 or email 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 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.

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- | | |
|--|--|
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Gregg Robke
ESU 4
Auburn, NE

IT WON'T BE LONG after you receive this NETA newsletter that Christmas break will be just around the corner. A few years ago, when my son was in middle school, here is what he did over his Christmas break. I documented this project and posted it to my blog (<http://grobke.blogspot.com>) on January 31, 2011.

For some of us, Christmas break is a time of relaxing and spending time with family and friends. For others, it involves projects of varying kinds. As parents, we find ourselves asking what to do to keep our kids occupied during their time off from school. We don't want our kids to necessarily sit around and do nothing, but we also don't want to make them do things they are not interested in doing. I would like to share with you how one of my sons chose to spend his break.

Motivation

It all began with a contest on *YouTube*. My son is a big fan of Legos, and was browsing videos of some neat Lego creations. Another kid about his age had issued a challenge for others to build a Lego candy machine and post a video of it to his *YouTube* channel.

Process

My son opted to build a Starburst candy machine that would give you a Starburst for a nickel. It took him several days of trial and error to build the machine, but when he finished, he had accomplished his goal—a Lego Starburst machine

Message from the President Elect

What My Son Did Over Christmas Break

that would take no other coin than a nickel. It even has a trash dispenser for the wrapper. He used his iPod Nano to record a video of the project; he used iMovie to edit the video; and then he published the video to *YouTube*.

Outcome

He won the contest! He was very pleased with the result of his hard work. The interesting part is, the prize was recognition—a recommendation from the contest host to “subscribe” to my son's *YouTube* channel, and there are over 2,000 views of his video to date. Of course, this success led to several other Lego creations with videos on his own *YouTube* channel.

What is the educational point?

This is a great example of how kids learn in the 21st century. In this case, video (*YouTube*) was used as the delivery of instruction in coming up with Lego project ideas. It was

also a tool in accomplishing his goal, and was an excellent method of evaluation from his peers.

How can teachers use video to motivate students?

The great thing about using video is it can be used cross-curriculum. From creating video book reports to viewing science experiments, from creating history reenactments to viewing specific steps in a building process, using video to deliver instruction or to record student work is a powerful technology tool! Teachers can create a *YouTube* channel for their classroom's videos with very little effort. Is *YouTube* blocked at your school? There are a host of very similar video sites available to educators for free, including schooltube.com, teachertube.com, and nextvista.org.

If you want to see my son's Starburst candy dispenser, you can see it here: <http://bit.ly/1f3X7XT> ❖

Wanted!

Judges for all contests!

We are looking for people willing to assist with the NETA contest judging, scheduled on Saturday, February 8, 2014 in Waverly. 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.



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 and web site.

Responsibilities:

- attend at least 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 (Dates: July 15–16, 2014)
- 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

- Record and archive the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and the NETA annual meeting.
- Make available a copy of the minutes to be made public within ten (10) working days of such meetings.
- See that actions requiring communication with members, other individuals or groups are promptly carried out.
- 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.

Deadline to submit information for ballot: December 6, 2013

Please go to the following online form and submit your nomination information.

<https://neta.wufoo.com/forms/neta-board-openings-2014/>. A digital picture for the ballot needs to be sent via email to Bob Goeman. 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: Bob Goeman
University of Nebraska Omaha
6001 Dodge St., Roskens Hall 405
Omaha, NE 68182
email: bgoeman@gmail.com



*Matt Lee,
Westside
Community
Schools*

AS TIME GOES BY, I often find myself overwhelmed with the amount of new apps, web sites, gizmos and gadgets that are released. How does one decide which to use? Which will be most effective? Should we even use them all? Luckily, there is a model for technology integration that helps teachers figure out the best uses of technology in their classrooms in order to transform learning. Dr. Ruben Puentedura developed it, and it is known as the SAMR model.

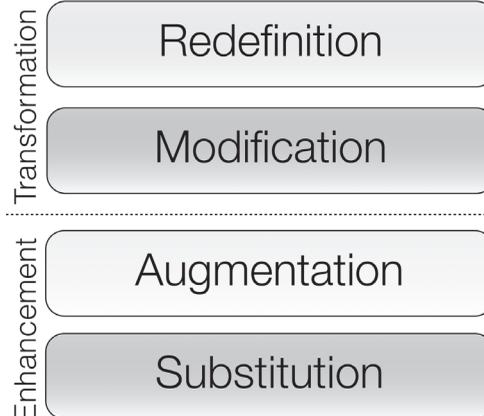
Substitution:

A technology tool that is employed at the substitution level is a direct replacement for something that is already done. A great example of this is switching from a physical book to a scanned PDF copy of the same book. There is little or no functional improvement with this change.

Augmentation:

At the augmentation level, technology is a direct substitution for the old tool, but now there are functional improvements. In our book scenario, instead of a scanned PDF, all the books are given to the students in iBooks on an iPad. Now they can save weight in their backpacks, highlight passages (and keep track of where they are), underline and more; complete activities that were not possible with books checked out to them each year.

Mindful Technology Integration



Modification:

When technology is applied at the modification level, it allows for a significant redesign of the task at hand. Think about a digital book that has sections with content that is added from around the students' homes (i.e., loading pictures submitted by students) or having examples in the book come from live data on the web.

Redefinition:

At this level, the technology tools allow for many tasks that were

previously impossible. In our example, this means the students are becoming the producers of information, not just the consumer. Students are now able to create and publish their own books about the topic.

The SAMR model goal

When incorporating technology into the classroom, we should strive to incorporate technology tools so as

to have a transformational impact on learning. In the SAMR model, our goal is to apply technology where it modifies and redefines the activities we do with students. We want to be "above the line" as shown in the graphic. This does not happen overnight. One should think about the SAMR model as a continuum that starts with substitution and moves towards redefinition. Technology should be applied when and where it can move an activity to the next level. ❖

Classroom Technology Showcase



The annual Classroom Technology Showcase will be held on Friday, November 22, 2013, during the NASB State Conference in Omaha. Would you like to bring students to showcase technology uses in the classroom?

Please contact
Gregg Robke
(grobke@esu4.net)
for more information!



Ann Feldmann
Bellevue Public
Schools

Let Them Run to School

AS I LISTENED to @angela-meirs keynote at #ettipad in Atlanta this spring, I related to many things she said. At one point, she emphasized, “Don’t you wish school was a place that kids want to run to?” And then she popped a photo of her young kids beaming faces on the first day of elementary school and contrasted that with them on the first day of high school.

As a mother of four of my own kiddos, I can relate! I want each of them to run and skip to school and come home so enthralled with what they learn that they self start and keep learning. Students’ enthusiasm for school seems to decrease as their age increases. It begs the question, how can we create a school where kids want to get up and run to it each day?

Student centered learning

Creating a student centered learning environments is the key. Twitter was my go to place this summer to learn more about personalizing and individualizing instruction from experts around the world. I learned more about flipped classrooms, student centered classrooms, project based learning, authentic assessment, and genius hour. Thanks to my PLN, I joined a MOOC, read *Teach Like a Pirate*, and found the #tlap chats on Monday nights where I lurked as I sat at baseball games!

What did I learn?

Three things:

1. Kids need to be able to use tools from this century to explore, create, collaborate, and learn course objectives in the order they wish when they wish (asynchronously).
2. Teachers need to be able to individualize instruction and create a classroom environment to make this happen. Often this means letting go and allowing students to take the lead.
3. Time, revision, choice, trust, and collaboration are essential to student centered classrooms.

Creating this environment: iPads are the tool that can make this happen! We can provide students their own individualized learning plans (IEPS’s) and let them choose how they learn, what they learn, and when they learn. Teachers are the key to crafting the learning environment, conferencing with students, providing students the content to interact with, enabling them to teach others, share what they learn, and as a result, teach them to love to learn.

This means teaching and learning looks different.

| Instead of this.... | Transform to this... |
|---|---|
| lecture | teacher curates content and pushes it out to the iPads via iTunes U courses and iBooks |
| teacher in front of the room | teacher conferencing with students individually on creating artifacts that support their learning on the iPad while others are working independently |
| grading papers during plan time | assessing projects together, providing critical feedback, providing time for revision, and publishing to the web |
| failure is frowned upon | failure is the springboard to growth and risk taking is embraced |
| students in desks, sitting most of the period | students choose to learn where they will learn best, movement is encouraged |
| a few students share | a connected classroom where all students have a voice with back channels, collaborative docs, and connections to the world |
| covering objectives sequentially | freedom to work on any objective and move through the curriculum asynchronously |
| the teacher is the fountain of knowledge and the main person delivering information | reciprocal teaching a regular occurrence; teachers teaching students, students teaching students, and students teaching teachers. |
| working with classmates physically in the classroom | working with classmates virtually around the world; sharing and creating projects that are web worthy with others who may or may not be in the physical classroom |
| course work created for a teacher to assess | course work created, revised, discussed, revised again and published to the web |
| teacher centered | learner centered ♦ |



Darci Lindgren,
Lindsay Holy
Family School

Helping Everyone with Technology

DURING MY TRIP TO ISTE last summer, I was on the lookout for free and low cost tools for our school district. Budgets are tight enough without having to purchase every piece of software and app needed, so such options are nice to have. Anissa Fontenot's session titled, "Access Without Breaking the Bank" caught my eye, and it was right next to the poster sessions. She is an Assistive Technology Facilitator from Louisiana. Listed here are a few of the tools she presented.

Natural Reader

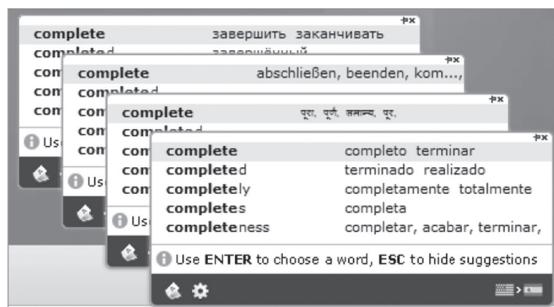
<http://www.naturalreaders.com>

Natural Reader is able to read any text on an open window out loud. This could really help with emerging readers and to help proof read anything you have typed yourself. The free version uses voices built into your computer, and more expensive upgrades include additional natural voices and saving as mp3 add-ons.

eType

<http://www.etype.com>

To also help emerging writers, *eType* will predict what word ending may be coming next. Their buzz phrase is, "We complete you." It also offers translations in other languages to help English Language Learners choose the correct word during composition. If you don't mind ads and using only two languages, the free version will work fine.



The Camera Mouse

<http://www.cameramouse.org>

The Camera Mouse really excited me. All you need is a webcam and this FREE software to make your nose direct the mouse pointer. I can see how this could help students with limited mobility. See videos of it in action at <http://www.cameramouse.org/videos.html>.

<http://netasite.org>



Along with the camera mouse, you can install the **Dynamic Keyboard** (<http://bit.ly/19vCLEM>) and students will be typing by only moving their head slightly. Even if you

don't have a quadriplegic student, other students would have fun controlling a computer without their hands.

Tazti

<http://www.tazti.com>

Tazti is a low cost option for speech recognition. Anyone who has worked with dragon naturally speaking will recognize its potential. With it you can control the computer with your voice, not your nose, for only \$30.

Robobraille

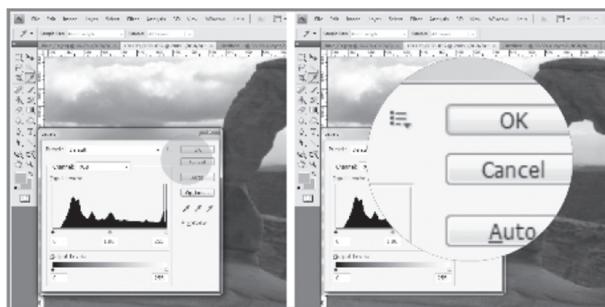
<http://www.robobraille.org>

For visually impaired students, Robobraille can convert documents to braille.

The Pointing Magnifier

<http://bit.ly/f3exvz>

The Pointing Magnifier would let them zoom in on an area of the screen, like holding a big magnifying glass up to help read things.



iPad apps

For iPad apps, she talked about *Tiny Tap*, *Voice Dream* and *Perfect OCR* for \$3.99. A full list of her resources, along with detailed descriptions and instructions can be found at this web site: <http://bb.lati.cpsb.org>. Select **AT Resources** on the left, and then choose **ISTE 2013**. ❖



*Brent Catlett,
Bellevue
Public Schools*

Have You Had a HANGOUT Lately?

SO I HAVE THIS IDEA.

I think it can help change the collaboration going on in classrooms across the world. I created the website <http://eduhangout.org>.



On eduhangout.org I have created a place for educators to connect! This site has several pages—one page is dedicated to ideas and you can even submit an idea to add to the site. Another page is a place to sign-up and another page is full of resources on Google Hangouts. There is a tips and tricks page, and make sure to check out the page linked to the Google Plus Community—G+eduhangout.

Join the community!

The site is a place where you can make easy connections with other educators or classrooms from all over the world. As I write this article about eduhangout.org, there are already over 113 educators signed up on the site itself and 502 members on the G+eduhangout Community on Google Plus.

Join the community! Get connected! Meet with someone or their class via a Google Hangout! That is what it's for! Maybe you just need to brainstorm about an idea with another educator. Maybe you want to connect your classroom and have interaction with another country or state. The possibilities are truly endless!



Personally, I love using Google Hangouts! They are so simple, easy, and I love how it's within my FREE Google account, and I don't have to log in to any other accounts or download anything else to my laptop or machine. I did have to install a simple plug-in on my MacBook the very first time that took less than a minute, but that has been it.

I hope to see you in a #eduhangout soon enough or sharing in the Google+ Community—G+eduhangout! ❖

All you have to do is post something in the Google Plus Community and ask for help, or invite others to join with you in doing something of interest to you or your students. Share an idea you have for using Google Hangout and see if anyone will join you. Educators are there and they are willing to connect and collaborate, just like you.

On eduhangout.org you can sign-up and leave specifics of what your connection or collaboration ideas are for using Google Hangouts. Either way, I hope this site can become a place for you to meet, connect, and grow your network of other educators, students and classrooms all over the world.



2013 Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship Contest Winners



JUNE 2013 WAS PROCLAIMED by Governor Dave Heineman as Internet Safety Month in Nebraska. The Attorney General Jon Bruning, and the statewide ESU Technology Affiliate Group have been major promoters of Internet safety in Nebraska schools. Students across Nebraska entered related contests to create posters and video or audio public service announcements (PSAs) promoting Internet safety and digital citizenship. The contests are jointly hosted by Nebraska Educational Service Units and Attorney General John Bruning's office. Students from across the state participated in this contest to help promote and understand the importance of Internet safety. In May eleven of the winners listed below (indicated with *) attended the Governor's proclamation at the State Capital Building and met with the Attorney General's staff to discuss the current state of digital citizenship in schools.

Grades K-4

Hand-drawn Poster

Cecelia Wonch* (Grade 4) Sandhills Elementary, Halsey

Computer-generated Poster

Vivian Slagle* (Grade 3) Sargent Public Schools, Sargent (*image below*)

Open

Sam Russell, Carter Hunt, Ann Bose, Sara Scarrow, Laurel Stadler, Sophie Grilli, Brenna Balderston, Teramyah Ruskamp, Aliyah Bowers, Mabel Olivas, Gabe Grove, Madeline Gudino, Kaylan Kappers, Sarah Holste, McKenzie Hunt, Jesse Hargett, Jack Benson, Maddy Whetstine (Grade 1) of Southern Valley Elementary, Oxford

Grades 5-8

Hand-drawn Poster

Jose Amaya* (Grade 5) Knickrehm Elem., Grand Island

Computer-generated Poster

McKenna Siegel (Grade 6) Litchfield Public, Litchfield

Video PSA

Allison Becker and Alexa Dougherty (Jr. High) O'Neill Junior High, O'Neill

Open

Kylie Broich, Kristen Setlik, Bailey Bryant, Andi Olson, Maddie Beran, Maddie Mazour, Emily Bykerh, Kelsey Plache* (Grade 8) Cedar Hollow (GI Northwest), Grand Island

Grades 9-12

Computer-generated Poster

Victoria Tuttle* (Grade 12) Tekamah-Herman Public School

Audio PSA

Nick Penteria (Grade 10) Lakeview Jr-Sr High School, Columbus

Video PSA

Makala Hladky (Grade 12) O'Neill High School, O'Neill

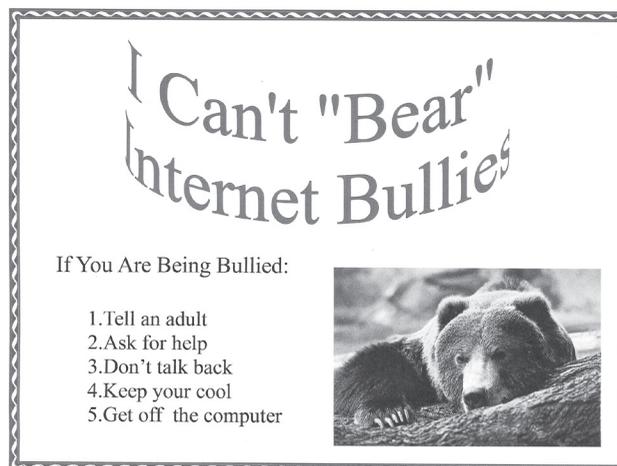
Open

Alex Atkins (Grade 11) O'Neill High School, O'Neill

To learn more

To learn more about Internet safety, see the posters, and access links to the winning video and audio files, visit the following web site:

<http://blog.esu10.org/internetsafety>. ❖



2014 Nebraska

Internet Safety & Digital Citizenship Contest

Poster and PSA Contest Guidelines

Sponsored by the Nebraska Attorney General and Educational Service Units of Nebraska

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

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 (CG) (pdf, tiff, jpg, or png)
- Poster** hand drawn (HD)
- 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 January 31, 2014** in care of:

Internet Safety & Digital Citizenship Contest Coordinator

ESU ##

Street/Postal Address

City, NE Zip

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. Winners will be invited to attend the Governor's Declaration of Internet Safety Month at the State Capitol Building.

Entry Form

Download the interactive form from the NETA website *Resources* page at <http://netasite.org> 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. ❖

2014 Nebraska Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship Contest Entry Form

Attach the following completed form on the back side of each poster entry and submit it along with each audio and video entry. Label CDs and DVDs with District/School Name and Project Name.

Category (please check): Poster (HD or CG), PSA (Audio or Video), Open

Project Name: _____

Student(s) Name(s): _____

Student(s) Age(s): _____ Grade(s): _____

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

Teacher Signature

Date

Entries must be submitted to your local ESU by **January 31, 2014** in care of:

Internet Safety & Digital Citizenship Contest Coordinator

ESU ##

Street/Postal Address

City, NE Zip

Email executivedirector@netasite.org if you have questions regarding who or which ESU to contact. ❖

Student Contests and Teacher Opportunities

Guidelines & interactive forms for all contests and opportunities are at <http://netasite.org>

Deadline for all contests is January 24, 2014 EXCEPT for the Logo Contest with the deadline of December 6, 2013.

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, pre-service teachers 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, Teachers and Pre-service Teachers

Creative Comics

K–12 Students, teachers and pre-service 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 or pre-service teachers: share original classroom or technology humor. Contact Lucas Bingham with questions at lucas.bingham@dist145schools.org.

Point/Counter Point Video Contest: Web Filters

(For students grades 5–12, teachers and pre-service teachers) Web filtering is a fact of life in many schools. Create a 30 second video taking a side on this issue: *Should web filters in schools be as strict as possible?* Contact Matt Lee with questions at mlee@westside66.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.

NETA Conference Logo Contest

Create a design for the NETA Spring Conference 2014—**Mission: Possible**. Encourage students' creativity by entering artwork created with computers in the NETA Conference Logo Contest. This year there will be one winner chosen from each of the following age categories: K–3, 4–5, 6–8, 9–12, and Post-Secondary/College. One of the winning designs will be declared Overall Winner and will be used on the conference materials and T-shirts. All age category winners will also be published in the NETA newsletter and/or on the NETA web site.

NOTE: Earlier deadline for this contest—**December 6, 2013**. Contact Evi Wusk with questions at ewusk@peru.edu.

Apptivity Contest for Students—New This Year!

An “apptivity” is characterized as a specific learning activity using multiple apps on mobile devices. Examples can be found at <http://www.apptivities.org>. Student divisions: K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. Contact Heather Callihan with questions at hcallihan@ginorthwest.org.

K–12 Open Class Contest!

Write a great computer app? Create an awesome desktop publishing file? Digital story? Podcast? An original music composition? We want them all! Contact Craig Badura with questions at cbadura@4rhuskies.org.

Brand It Contest

Entries in the “Brand It” design contest could include any of the following: An original logo for a school-based business, a re-designed logo for your school building or district—include original design with your entry, or an original logo for a local area business. Contact Pam Krambeck with questions at pkrambeck@esu3.org.

Contests for Educators

Teacher contests are open to Nebraska public/private teachers, unless otherwise noted. Deadline for all teacher opportunities is **January 24, 2014!**

Opportunity to Attend NETA 2014!

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) teacher with three years or less teaching experience, 2) have not attended a 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 Lynne Herr with questions at lherr@esu6.org.

ISTE Teacher Trek Contest

Win a trip to ISTE 2014 in Atlanta next summer! We are asking you to use your creative technology skills to submit your contest entry video explaining how you use technology to enhance student learning and how attending ISTE 2014 would strengthen what you already do. What are you hoping to learn or gain by attending sessions at ISTE 2014? Trips will be awarded with a maximum of \$1800 each (total in awards not to exceed \$10,000). Contact Lynne Herr with questions at lherr@esu6.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 Jason Schmidt with questions at jaschmidt@bennps.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 Jason Schmidt with questions at jaschmidt@bennps.org.

Apptivity Contest for Teachers—New This Year!

An “apptivity” is characterized as a specific learning activity using multiple apps on mobile devices. Examples can be found at <http://www.apptivities.org>. This contest is open to Nebraska K-12 public and private school teachers, as well as pre-service teachers. 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 \$9,000). Contact Lynne Herr with questions at lherr@esu6.org.

CenturyLink Teacher Classroom 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 five grants of up to \$3,000 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 Karl Bieber at Karl.Bieber@centurylink.com.

Use This Lesson Tomorrow Contest—New This Year!

Have you taught a great lesson integrating technology into your curriculum that others should know about? Have you infused technology throughout a great unit that others could emulate? Send us your best tech infused lesson or activity. This contest is open to Nebraska K-12 public and private school teachers, as well as pre-service teachers. Contact Nicole Badgley with questions at nbadgley@esu10.org. ❖

Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference Recap



THE 1ST ANNUAL partnership between NCSA and NETA to hold a Fall Conference was a huge success. The conference was held in Kearney on October 2–3, 2013 at the Younes Conference Center. The pre-Conference Sessions were held on Oct. 2, including *Google Collaboration Tools*, *iBook for Creating Course Content*, and a *Social Media Bootcamp*. Apple also hosted a *Leadership and Learning Event* in the morning of Oct. 2 and the Tech Coordinators group (NETA sponsored) met during the day.

There were 170 people registered for the pre-conference workshops, which were a great success. The sessions for *Google Docs* and *iBook Author* were full and over capacity. The session for *Social Networking* had many excited participants who continued to share what they learned throughout the two days. Thanks to those pre-conference workshop presenters for their hard work and preparation. The goal of 500 conference attendees, which seemed like such a huge number during the planning phase, was met and exceeded. The conference itself had 582 registered attendees, and there were 42 vendors represented.

The full conference officially kicked off with a dinner the evening of October 2 with Patrick Larkin, from Burlington Public Schools (Massachusetts), as the keynote speaker. His topic was “Leading in a Learner-Centered Environment.” Mr. Larkin was so inspiring as he reminded participants of the quote by Steven Anderson, “Alone we are smart, together we are brilliant.” He referred to his many contacts in his social network and how to use social learning to impact education, and discussed his school’s move to a 1:1 solution and how this has helped to drive student learning.

On October 3rd, attendees were given a choice of selecting from 48 possible sessions. Each session was one hour in length. For each hour, there were eight sessions to choose from. There were six sessions offered throughout the day, plus a working lunch including more discussions with Patrick Larkin. A planning activity was scheduled during that time and schools were encouraged to develop and implement a strategy to use when they return to their district.

For more information regarding the Fall Conference and for presenter handouts, please check the website at <http://www.fall.netasite.org>.

See photos from the event here: <http://bit.ly/160bW8Z>

Conference feedback from attendees:

“The time of the year!! Perfect, I’ve already been able to put things I learned to use and time to schedule things before last three weeks of school. Love love love the time of the year!”

“It was jam packed with ready to use web 2.0 tools that were immediately classroom-ready to use as soon as I got back to my school.”

“The timing of the conference was marvelous. It allows me time right now to make adjustments and give everything a trial run throughout the year, so by next year it can be part of my expectations and routine.”

“I left with a MUCH stronger idea of how to use Google. I am excited to get my students using this tool to streamline their learning.”

“I was pleasantly surprised at how much I learned and that the topics were such that they applied to whatever field one was teaching.”

“I liked being able to talk with other educators and swap ideas about what we had learned.” ❖

“ All of the sessions I attend at the fall conference focused on application. It was good for me as a first-time NETA conference attendee to see the multiple possibilities for technology as a tool for teacher education as well as its potential to infuse content in early childhood classrooms. This application focus helps teachers apply the new learning to whatever classroom they are in. You can learn from reading articles, but it’s good to hear and see how people are applying the technology. ”

Julie Jones-Branch, Ph.D.
School of Education
Peru State College



Mission: Possible

Request for Sessions for NETA 2014

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 NETA spring conference, April 24–25, 2014. 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, BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), or poster/playground sessions and last for 45 minutes.

Poster/playground sessions

A poster/playground session allows many presenters to set up in one large session room with poster boards, new technology for participants to try, or other resources. It is possible to bring a computer for the session 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 (Early Bird Pricing: \$125.00 full conference or \$100.00 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 Gregg Robke, President Elect/Conference Chair, by email at grobke@esu4.net

Mark Your Calendar—Submission Deadline!

Sessions may only be submitted online, and must be entered by the **November 15, 2013 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! ❖

(Power of Connecting, continued from page 1) are available to help uncover the hundreds of activities that may enhance curricular areas. In one classroom in Kearney, Graci sat riveted in her seat as she learned about Jesse James and his gang derailing a train in Iowa in 1873. Mike Irwin, from the Durham Museum, shows artifacts to the students, as they listen to the story of Engineer John Rafferty, dying in the crash and the outlaws taking \$2,337 from the train. The students do a present day crime scene investigation of the incident to learn more about train robbers of the old west.

Another option is connecting with other classrooms, teachers or experts around the world using a webcam or other video equipment. A student, Fernanda, and her class have been studying different cultures in their classroom and have been preparing questions they would like to ask people living in different countries. After connecting and interviewing people in Brazil, Kenya, Mexico and other locations, Fernanda and her class shared that they loved meeting new people from these countries and enjoyed the many new things about where they live.

Jeannette Carlson, from Bellevue, is introducing her students to entrepreneurship via experts on Google Hangouts. Alison Anderson is creating a global book club for her middle schools students. Will Deyamport is collaborating with other teachers on lesson plans for his class. Louise Morgan is participating in the International Dot Day project by sharing the World Museum's World Dots Project Scratch animation with her students. Teachers all over are using the power of connecting to others around the globe to give their students opportunities they would never have otherwise experienced.

My challenge to you is to connect to someone outside your classroom walls. Learn and collaborate with them. Find a mentor who can help you traverse this virtual world. Then, begin connecting your students. Help them realize the power of connecting with others. Let them learn from experts all around the globe and give them an opportunity to share and to shine in this new, ever-changing world. ❖

Meeting Minutes on the Web



The minutes for NETA Board meetings are available on our website. You will find minutes from the October 2013 NETA Board meeting, as well as PDF versions of past newsletters and links to other resources on the web at the following location: <http://netasite.org/resources.html> ❖



CenturyLink™
Stronger Connected™



CenturyLink/NETA Grant Winners & Reports

NETA SPONSORS A VARIETY OF CONTESTS for teachers and students. This year we were pleased to again receive funds from the CenturyLink Foundation to give out seven classroom CenturyLink/NETA grants to PreK–12 teachers who demonstrated an innovative use of technology with students.

The purpose of the grant is to:

- Recognize Nebraska PreK–12 teachers who are using technology in innovative ways with students
- Increase an awareness of how technology can enhance classroom learning
- Provide an avenue for classroom teachers to fund innovative technology projects
- Model best practices of technology integration that improve student achievement.

Grants are to be utilized by teachers to benefit the students in their classrooms. CenturyLink service was neither required nor considered in review of applications.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2013 CenturyLink/NETA Grants:

- Lee Brogie, Students Engaged in Science.....\$5,194
Wayne Junior/Senior High School
- Ann Darling, Visual Art Student Portfolio Assessment.....\$4,986
Sidney High School
- Miranda Hellbusch & Melinn Young, iPads Enhancing Students' Knowledge..... \$5,170.53
Humphrey St. Francis
- Kim Henry, Connecting History to Digital Learners.....\$3,995
Loup City Public Schools
- Maureen Hoy, iTell Storytellers\$5,232
Mary Our Queen
- Shauna Roberson, Digital Science Fair\$5,235
Garden County Schools
- Debora Williss, Taking One iPad to the Next Level.....\$5,133.96
St. Columbkille Catholic School

They were recognized on October 2, 2013 at the Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference in Kearney, sponsored by NETA and NCSA.

CenturyLink is investigating funding for 2014 CenturyLink/NETA grant opportunities, but arrangements have not been finalized. If CenturyLink/NETA grants are going to be available, we will publish the information in a newsletter, post the application forms on the NETA website and notify you through a monthly NewsGram sent to all NETA members.

The following reports will provide a glimpse into how these projects have progressed since districts received their checks in June.

Please check the NETA website (<http://netasite.org/2014contests>) to see if your district qualifies for these grants for 2014. With budget constraints, this is a great opportunity for those districts within the CenturyLink service area. Questions may be addressed to Dr. Lynne Herr, NETA Contest Chair (lherr@esu6.org).

Lee A. Brogie—Wayne Junior Senior High School

SEEDS: Students EngagED in Science: \$5194.00

This is an exciting time for science at Wayne Junior Senior High School. This year we are implementing a new science curriculum (Science Fusion), and I am creating labs for **SEEDS: Students EngagED in Science**. The goal of **SEEDS** is to incorporate 21st Century technology (Vernier's *LabQuest2*, Dual Range Force Sensors and Gas Pressure Sensors) into my 7th and 8th grade science curricula.

The typical science classroom relies on past technologies that require constant monitoring and limit the data that can be collected. *LabQuest2* is a standalone interface, that when connected to sensors, allows students to collect, analyze, and share data. Data can be shown in a table and on a graph, and can be analyzed using a built-in analysis application. *LabQuest2* gives students the opportunity to collect data as today's scientists are doing it. Its portability makes the world a research lab. Students can also use their Wi-Fi browser enabled devices to save data for future analysis or to share data when collaborating with others.

(Continued on the next page)

(Grant reports, continued)

The LabQuest2s, gas pressure sensors, dual-force sensors, and sensors already in my lab, are giving me the opportunity to create 21st century lab experiences for my students; fully engaging them in the practice of being a scientist while reinforcing key scientific concepts.

Ann Darling Sidney High School

Visual Art Student Portfolio Assessment: \$4,986.00

I am pleased to report that we have a good start on the groundwork for our virtual sketchbook project. Students are presently becoming familiar with using the iPad and uploading a note and artist statement to Evernote. I have created a Livebinder for myself on technical details surrounding the deployment of iPads in a classroom. I have also added a virtual sketchbook assignment page to the class website. The first two sketchbook assignments have been completed and recorded into Evernote.

In addition to the artist statements, students have been doing research on contour line drawing prior to their Contour Line Drawing assignment and saving to Evernote. Students were directed to search for benchmark images that represented *Good*, *Better*, and *Best* contour line drawings to use in creating a rubric for self evaluation.

On the equipment end we are a bit challenged since the iPads were delivered the week of September 9th. We have been using the existing tablet devices, student owned tablets and phones, and the computer lab to create entries for the students' virtual sketchbook before the iPads, tablet covers and charging cabinet arrived. It looks like backup and deployment will happen the week of September 16th.

Miranda Hellbusch & Melinn Young—Humphrey St. Francis

iPads Enhancing Student Knowledge: \$5,170.53

In order to give students higher order thinking skills in this technology powered world, we have purchased a set of ten iPads to be incorporated in the classroom. So far we have installed many usable apps for students to meet the project goals.

The first goal that we have set is that students will use iPads to increase test scores in writing by creating digital stories and daily journaling. We are using the *Write about this* app for daily journaling. The second goal that we have set is that students will use the iPad technology to design informational graphs or presentations about a nonfiction article related to a language arts lesson, collaborate with classmates outlining a math or science concept to be mastered at the 4th grade level, and create an *iMovie* to highlight a famous Nebraskan. Due to our curriculum timeline, we will not meet this goal until spring.

We have found that our students have had a very positive reaction to the incorporation of this new technology. Our students are discovering features of these

educational apps that go beyond the teacher's eye.

Kim Henry Loup City Public Schools

Connecting History to Digital Learners: \$3995

Connecting History to Digital Learners will involve students from the 7th and 8th grade classes from Loup City Public Schools and the Sherman County Historical Society. The 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies classes at Loup City Public Schools will be working with the Sherman County Historical Society to collect an "oral history of Sherman County." This will be a community service learning project.

The students will conduct interviews to record Sherman County history and then share that with the SCHS as one more way to preserve the county's history. This will not be a one-year only project, but a project that will be ongoing each year so that precious history will not be lost.

They will learn how to use the iPads and different apps for projects to demonstrate the information, such as *Tourwrist*, *Aurasma*, *QR Codes* and *Songify*. Then the students will be able to explore other possible ways to use technology to present *(Reports continued on the next page)*



(Grant reports, continued)
their information that may benefit others in school, community and beyond. This will be accomplished through social media, such as websites, *Facebook*, *Twitter* and blogging.

The major items in the Connecting History to Digital Learners project will be the seven iPads, screen protectors and covers. By utilizing the current infrastructure at Loup City Public Schools, the necessary technology requirements needed for this project are already in place. The Apps that are planned to be used are free or a low cost.

This project will have an impact on student learning by allowing the students to use technology in a positive and innovative way. Students will learn how to use new software, Internet skills, research skills, methods of social media communication and collaboration, plus how to work in groups to accomplish goals that will benefit the Sherman County area.

Maureen Hoy
Mary Our Queen

iTell Storytellers: \$5232.00

iTellStorytellers is a project designed to teach second grade students the ancient art of sharing stories and events through words, sounds and visual images using 21st century technology. *iTellStorytellers* is a literature based project where art and science collide. This project allows students to use an iPad equipped with apps designed to develop critical skills to effectively capture the attention of listeners and accomplish the goal of telling a story as students simultaneously nurture a lifelong love and appreciation of stories and reading, and the confidence to communicate and share that love.

The second grade students are busy reading a variety of stories and working on orally retelling stories with a beginning, middle, and end. Students are building a strong vocabulary by collecting interesting words that will give them the “power” every good storyteller needs. While everyone is anxious to start using the iPads, we are currently developing routines and habits that build a strong and secure reading, writing and storytelling classroom community.

Nine iPads with care coverage, covers and screen protectors have been purchased. We are currently downloading the apps students will use to practice vocabulary and storytelling skills.

Shauna Roberson
Garden County Schools

Digital Science Fair: \$5,235

The primary goal of this project is to bring the traditional Garden County Junior High science fair into the 21st Century by going digital! The students’ projects would become paperless through the use of *Google Sites*.

Each inquiry project would have its own student-built site. Sites would include student created video and picture documentation of the process and collected data with the use of mini iPads. Another goal is to collaborate with alumni from Garden County working in the science field as well as with other science students and teachers. The mini iPads and cases have been purchased, and the students are beginning to use them. We have also started the process of selecting a topic. In training, Craig Hicks from ESU 13 has taught us how to make a Google Site and now each of the students have started a Google Site for their science fair projects.

We have connected in a *Google Hangout* with Annette Hynes, a biological oceanographer at the University of Georgia, who is originally from Garden County. We had guests from a couple of other Nebraska classrooms join us, and we are working out plans to visit with other Garden County alumni working in the science field.

Debora Willis
St. Columbkille School—
Papillion

Taking One iPad to the Next Level: \$5133.96

The goal of this project is to provide tools to multiple classrooms in our building that would help to maximize the impact the classroom iPad has on student learning. With the money from the grant, our school purchased Belkin *Tablet Stages*, Apple TV units and adapters to equip 15 of our 19 classrooms.

By having the Apple TVs in the classrooms, teachers and students have been able to interact as a whole group with a variety of apps using just one iPad. The *Tablet Stage*, Apple TV and iPad combo has been an amazing addition to the classrooms. It allows students and teachers to project images just as a document camera would.

This technology is being used daily to project math manipulatives, worksheets, student work and even an X-ray of a student’s broken arm. The teacher was able to put it right under the iPad in the *Tablet Stage* and project it on the screen. They had an impromptu lesson on the bones of the hand and arm. As one student said, “This is SO cool!” The teachers agree and are excited to come up with more ways to integrate those tools into daily lessons. ❖

NETA Conference—*Mission: Possible* Keynote and Featured Speakers

THE NETA CONFERENCE—*Mission: Possible*, April 24–25, 2014, will again feature great speakers from around the country!



Angela Maiers

Whether she is addressing an auditorium full of educators or sitting on the floor helping first graders find their

way into the pages of a great book, Angela Maiers' message is the same. Literacy changes lives. As a teacher educator, author and consultant, Angela has spent the past twenty-two years working diligently to help learners of all ages succeed by recognizing their powers as readers, writers, and global communicators.

Today, Angela is at the forefront of Web 2.0 technologies and keeping her eye toward Web 3.0. An active blogger and social media evangelist, she is deeply committed to helping learners of all ages understand the transformational power of literacy and the potential of technology as a vehicle and platform for their success in school and beyond.

Her outspoken and passionate advocacy for innovative education, has made her a featured contributor and author in the *Employee Engagement Handbook*, *The Age of Conversations 1, 2, and 3*, *The Social Media Explorer Forum and Blog*, a top contributor on Education Week's *LeaderTalk*. Her latest books, *The Habitudes* and *The Passion Driven Classroom*, have inspired readers everywhere with lessons and ideas necessary to find their way on the social web and this newly flattened world.



Erin Klein

Erin Klein is a teacher, author, and parent who has earned her Master's of Education in Curriculum and

Instruction and currently teaches second grade at Cranbrook Schools in Bloomfield Hills, MI. She has previously taught first, sixth, and seventh grade.

Erin is also the technology chairperson for the Michigan Reading Association, a national A Plus Workshop Presenter, SDE National Presenter, SMART Technologies Exemplary Educator, former Really Good Stuff Monthly Blogger, Edutopia Guest Blogger, Edudemic Guest Blogger and Magazine Contributor, National Writing Project member, and award-winning EduTech Blogger. Klein has most recently appeared in the *Scholastic Instructor Magazine* and co-authored *Amazing Grades* with experts from 13 countries around the world. Klein joined the elite team of Scholastic Top Teaching Bloggers this summer in New York.

Her work can be seen on her own site, *Kleinspiration*, and on the *Top Teaching Blog* from Scholastic.com.



Dean Shareski

Dean Shareski is the Community Manager for Discovery Education Canada. He taught grades 1–8 for 14 years

and spent nine as a digital learning consultant for Prairie South School Division in Moose Jaw, SK. In addition he teaches pre-service teachers at the University of Regina. His blog consistently ranks among the top educational blogs. Dean also blogs for *Tech Learning* and the *Huffington Post*. In 2010 he won the ISTE Award for Outstanding Leader of the Year. Dean has had the opportunity to speak to various education audiences both nationally and internationally. His passion remains helping teachers explore the affordances of technology for learning. Dean believes humor and humility go a long way in supporting and advocating transformational practices in teaching and learning.

(Dave Edyburn on the next page)

The NETA App!

Remember to download and visit the NETA app for information about NETA, our newsletters, member benefits, and information on NETA conferences!



(Invited speakers, continued)



Dave Edyburn

As a Professor in the Department of Exceptional Education at the University of Wisconsin School of

Education, Dave Edyburn teaches in the areas of mild disabilities related to learning and behavior. His research investigates the use of technology to enhance teaching, learning and performance.

Dave has authored over 150 articles and book chapters on the use of technology in special education. His work spans the 36-page booklet, *What Every Teacher Should Know About Assistive Technology* to the 900-page *Handbook of Special Education Technology Research and Practice*.

Edyburn is Co-Principal Investigator of the Universal Design Infusion of Technology and Evaluation for Accessible Campuses of Higher Education (UDITEACH) Project, a federally-funded model demonstration project that seeks to infuse universal design across college campuses.

He is also President-elect of the Special Education Technology special interest group (SIG) of the International Society for Technology in Education and a Past President of the Technology and Media (TAM) Division of the Council for Exceptional Children. Edyburn received an M.S. from Illinois State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. ❖

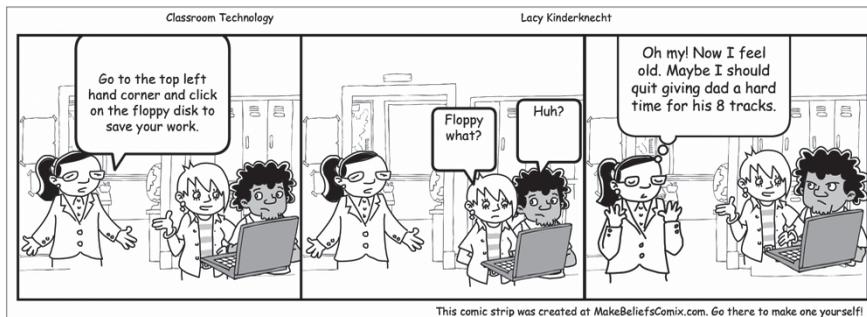
2012 Creative Comics Contest Winners

NETA asked for the best original digitally created comic strips in last year's Creative Comics contest for teachers and students. Please enjoy these prize winning comics!



Student Winner

Grady Griess, West Lawn Elementary—Getting the Teacher's Attention



Teacher Winner

Lacy Kinderknecht, Stapleton Elementary—Classroom Technology ❖



*Ann Feldmann
Bellevue Public
Schools*

Back to School with 13 Technology Ideas

Idea #1—Improve Google Search Skills

Have students hone Google Search Skills using **Google A Day** at <http://agoogleaday.com/>

Idea #2—Get Kids Blogging

Publish student work to a real audience using **KidBlog** at <http://kidblog.org/>.

Idea #3—Use Google Docs

Use **Google Docs** to create a running agenda of class work and assignments. The Doc is easy to update and available to students via **Google Drive**.

Idea #4—Pinterest

Join our collaborative district **Pinterest** boards! Pin resources you love and inspire others. <http://pinterest.com/bpstechies/>.

Idea #5—Twitter

Connecting professionally with other educators is a fantastic way to learn and grow. Some of the best FREE PD I receive is from **Twitter**. Get started by creating an account and follow a few hashtags like #tt4t, #bpsne, #edchat, #flippedlearning, and #nebedchat to name a few. You can also follow your tech trainers: @annfeldmann1, @jennykpbs, and @catlett1.

Idea #6—Google Drive Workflow

Go paperless with student writing using **Google Drive**. Have students create a folder for your class. Call it something fancy like writing or period 2 and their last name. Have them share the folder with you.

From this point on, they create a Google Doc in the folder and it is automatically shared with you. Grade these documents paperlessly by accessing the shared Google Drive folder and use the comment feature.

Idea #7—Google Forms and Flubaroo

Utilize **Google Forms** and **Flubaroo** for formative assessments to automatically grade quizzes. Results are e-mailed to students with feedback. They know within minutes how they performed. Spend time teaching what they don't know instead of what they do know. Check out details here: <http://bit.ly/psXAPC>.

Idea #8—Backchannel

Use <http://todaysmeet.com> to create a backchannel. What is this? It is a way to have a private class discussion in 140 characters. This gives all students a voice. It is easy to set up and use!

Idea #9—Screencasting

Create screencasts and team teach with yourself. Use **Quicktime Player** on the Mac and upload to your **YouTube** channel. Too complicated? Use **ScreenR.com** or **screencast-o-matic.com** and share the link to your videos on a Google Doc (your running agenda, see idea #3)! Here is a link to a blog post on **Four Great Tools for Screencasting**: <http://bit.ly/13Ljygb>.

Idea #10—Video Feedback

Use your screencasting skills and give students video feedback on electronically submitted work.

Idea #8—Create a Backchannel

Idea #11—Field Trips

Take your students outside of the classroom on a virtual field trip. Create a virtual field trip with a Google Doc and share it with students. Use links that take advantage of what the web has to offer. For example, link to **Google Maps** and utilize the powerful street view feature. Provide links to videos so students can see and feel the adventure.

Idea #12—Connect Globally

Connect your kids to other kids with **#comments4kids** and **#quadblogging**. Bring in experts with **Skype** and **Google Hangouts**. Collaborate with other classrooms via **Google Docs**. Host a classroom debate with classes from around the world. Check out <http://eduhangout.org> and get connected today! Hear @catlett1 talk about eduhangouts on EduSlam.me at: <http://bit.ly/19NAqBG>.

Idea #13—Create a YouTube Channel for your Classroom

Create a **YouTube** Channel for your classroom! Add those screencasts to your YouTube Channel and they are accessible anywhere Internet is! For details on creating a channel and organizing playlists, please visit <http://bit.ly/13cx21X>. ❖

Learn About Free Virtual Field Trips!

Get Registered! NEBRASKA DISTANCE LEARNING WEEK NOVEMBER 11-15, 2013

Each day, Monday–Thursday at 3:45 PM (Central), the Nebraska Distance Learning Association (NDLA) will offer FREE after school videoconference learning opportunities for Nebraska educators, serving the interests of different curricular areas through highlighting Nebraska Virtual Field Trip providers. **To register, go to <http://ndla.org>.**

MONDAY [November 11]

OMAHA HENRY DOORLY ZOO

Sign up for a 60-minute overview of the programs offered by the **zoo**. Bring live programs directly to your students through distance learning. Visit the Lied Jungle, Desert Dome, Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom Pavilion or the Center for Conservation and Research.



TUESDAY [November 12]

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM & THE DURHAM MUSEUM

Connect to this 60-minute program, hear about the newest Distance Learning program on elephants from Morrill Hall. This new program includes kits with manipulatives that will be distributed to schools with activities to use prior to the DL connection. Learn about the science based program and details from the Hall's educators. Tuesday also features an overview of programs offered at The Durham Museum including the ever popular "Transcontinental Railroad and Train Robbers," as well as new programs like "Art Deco in Architecture" for upper grades.



WEDNESDAY [November 13]

JOSLYN ART MUSEUM

This 30-minute program features information on **Joslyn's** distance learning programs offering teachers and students the opportunity to virtually visit the Museum to learn about the highlights of the collection. Find out all about the available 30 minute programs delivered at no cost to the schools.



WEDNESDAY [November 13]

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR

This event starts at 9:00 a.m. and lasts until 11:30 a.m., but attending the entire morning is not required. **Manhattan School of Music** would like to have two brass and two stringed instrument students available for the master classes listed below but student participation is not required for you to attend. If you have a student who would like the master class, please list their name, instrument and grade level in a special field on the registration.



Event schedule:

- 9-9:30 am** PEER TO PEER Q & A – Nebraska students can ask questions of current MSM students about student life, the MSM experience, living in New York City, why they chose MSM, etc.
- 9:30-10 am** SHORT MASTER CLASS with an MSM BRASS faculty member – (Two Nebraska students to play in class requested)
- 10-10:30 am** SHORT MASTER CLASS with a STRING faculty member – (Two Nebraska students to play in class requested)
- 10:30-11 am** ADMISSIONS – chat with MSM admissions rep to find out what's involved in applying to MSM.
- 11-11:20 am** MSM ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE – Enjoy a musical performance live from New York!
- 11:20-11:30 am** WRAP UP

SPOTLIGHT SESSION

THURSDAY [November 14]

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL PARK

In this 60-minute program, **Homestead National Park** ranger and educational staff member will discuss the new Nation Parks Portal featuring a searchable database of over 55 distance learning opportunities available for students. They will also focus on distance learning programs available from Homestead.



REGISTRATION

Participation is free for these after school events and registration is limited to eight dial-in sites per event. The allotted spaces will be confirmed on a first come first served basis. **To register, go to <http://ndla.org>.** Dial-up instructions will be sent after registration prior to the day's event. Test calls will be available. Participation requires access to H.323 videoconferencing equipment. If you have questions about the ability to participate, please contact your distance learning coordinator or your local ESU.

NDLW is brought to you by NDLA in conjunction with United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) National Distance Learning Week.

For more information, email Linda Dickeson (ldickes@lps.org), or go to the NDLA website—<http://ndla.org>



CALENDAR OF TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

January 2014

Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)

January 28–31, 2014
Orange County Convention Ctr,
Orlando, FL
fetc.org

February 2014

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)

February 3–7, 2014
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)

February 10–12, 2014
St. Charles, MO
metconference.org

Nebraska Association for the Gifted (NAG) Conference

February 20–21, 2014
Embassy Suites, Old Market
Omaha, NE
www.negifted.org

March 2014

NDLA (Nebraska Distance Learning Association)

March 6–7, 2014
Holiday Inn Downtown
Lincoln, NE
ndla.org

CoSN's School Networking Conference

March 19–22, 2014
Washington, DC
www.cosn.org/events/

Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE)

March 17–21, 2014
Jacksonville, FL
site.aace.org/conf/

MacWorld Expo

March 27–29, 2014
Moscone Center North
San Francisco, CA
macworldexpo.com

April 2014

National School Boards Association (NSBA)

April 5–7, 2014
New Orleans, LA
annualconference.nsba.org

Infotec (by the AIM Inst.)

April 15–16, 2014
CenturyLink Center
Omaha, NE
infotec.org

NETA Spring Conference Mission: Possible

April 24–25, 2014
La Vista Embassy Suites &
Conference Center
La Vista, NE
netasite.org

United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)

May 4–7, 2014
St. Louis, MO
<http://www.usdla.org>

June 2014

Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)

June 3–5, 2014
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE
nceconference.com

Innovative Education Colorado (InnEdCO)

(Formerly Technology in Education T.I.E.)
June 17–19, 2014
Copper Mountain, CO
innedco.org

ISTE Conference Connected Learning. Connected World.

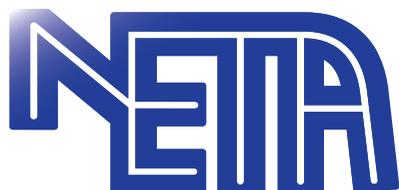
June 28–July 1, 2014
Atlanta, GA
www.isteconference.org/2014/

ISTE
ATLANTA
JUNE 28 THRU JULY 1
2014

NETA

Nebraska Educational Technology Association
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

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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 2013, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but can not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are \$25 .00 and are good through April 2014. 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