Everything Old is New Again
or The Power of Stranger Things

Google Certified Educator: Our Experience
(Or How We Spent our Summer Vacation)
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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.

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

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

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Message from the President Elect

Everything Old is New Again
or the Power of Stranger Things

The Revolution
Then we had a revolution. It was amazing. The professionals moved in and created more educational apps then we could ever imagine. There are now over a billion apps out there that can do anything we would want to do (as well as a few things we don’t). Websites became drag and drop. Cell phones and tablets are just as powerful as laptops (some even more so). We stopped wondering HOW and WHY things worked and started to accept that they just did.

We stopped getting our digital hands dirty.

To that end, I’m heartened by recent developments in education technology. The ever-growing popularity of code.org and the Hour of Code have introduced millions of students to understanding how a computer works. Apps (Continued on page 6)

Getting back to dirty hands
So what do we do about it? We embrace the idea that everything old is new again and encourage student’s to get their hands dirty in digital bits. Not every student needs to be a programmer and not every student needs to go into a career where they use computer science. Every student DOES need to understand the world around them so they can make informed decisions and understand complex issues in business, politics and society.

Creating programs
When instructional technology first came on the scene, it was magical but complex. I remember going to the Apple IIe lab with my fifth grade teacher to experience computers for the first time. Yes, we played Oregon Trail, but we also learned the tools to create our own games using LogoWriter. We worked on basic programming structures to create these programs because what we wanted to do wasn’t available yet.

Our teacher wrote HyperCard stacks to interface with the laserdisc player because what he wanted to do with the tool wasn’t available either. We coded websites by hand to showcase what we learned. That’s just the way it was. If you wanted something and it didn’t exist you made it. The skills that we learned along the way were amazing. They hit all the buzzwords—critical thinking, grit and problem solving just to name a few. It also taught us math, social studies and science. In short, it made us think.

Anyone remember this?
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 the NETA organization, please consider submitting your name as a candidate for the NETA 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 multi-day strategic planning retreat in the summer each year (Dates: July 17–19, 2017).
• Provide at least one newsletter contribution during their term.
• Currently all Board members are members of the Outreach and Conference Committees. Board members self-select and will serve on other committees as well. Committees may do considerable discussion electronically between meetings when necessary.

Candidates must be members of NETA. Membership is free. To register as a member go to www.netasite.org.

Two officer positions are also available, Treasurer 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.

Treasurer
• Establish the account(s) of NETA, as approved by the Board of Directors.
• Establish procedures based on the NETA Board guidelines for the deposits of funds and the maintenance of Association properties.
• Receive and disburse all funds of NETA as authorized by the Board of Directors.
• Be re-elected on the odd numbered years.
• Be prepared to submit records for an annual internal and/or external review to a committee composed of the Executive Director, the President, the President Elect and one board member.
• Be bondable.

Deadline to submit information for ballot: December 2, 2016

Please go to the following online form and submit your nomination information. http://netasite.org/netaboardopenings. A digital picture for the ballot needs to be sent via email to Josh Allen. 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 the NETA Past President: Josh Allen email: josh.allen@netasite.org
You’ve seen the list of digital badges some of your colleagues have on their websites and in their email signature lines: Google Certified Educator, Remind Connected Educator, GoNoodle Ambassador, Common Sense Certified Educator…the list goes on. But what are these programs and why should educators consider pursuing them or learning more about them?

This article launches a new series that features NETA member educators who have chosen to pursue these programs. We’ll feature stories from teachers that include how the program has benefitted their classroom, their experience with the certification process and their honest opinions of the experience and program.

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

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

What are Google Certification Exams and Why Would You Take Them?
As ESU professional development specialists who spend a LOT of our professional focus and time teaching about technology tools, we had followed the various Google teacher certification programs since they first debuted. Google Teacher Academies, Google Certified Trainer, Google Certified Innovator—they all sounded like great opportunities that we had always had on our radar, but ultimately they were pushed off the to-do list by all of the Google (and iPad and Chromebook and, and, and…workshops) we were leading. And what would we learn? We co-lead the Great Plains Google Summit with Brian Fitzgerald at Lincoln Public Schools where we believe the best Google-focused learning happens in the state, and where all sessions are led by national and international Google Certified Trainers and Educators. Why was it important to be certified? We had no plans to hit the national presenter circuit.

Google announced new certification tests and we both decided it was time to take them. There would be two levels of certification for educators that would serve as the gateway to more advanced offerings. Level 1 certification is designed for the educator “who knows how to use Google tools in the classroom, this certification proves your proficiency.” Level 2 certification is designed for the “super user and enthusiast of Google tools in the classroom, this certification proves your expertise.” Once an educator passes these two exams, they can apply to be a certified trainer (new program requirements have recently been released) and a Google certified innovator.

We had considered the certification process for several years, but had never made it a priority. We decided it was time to bite the bullet and schedule days in our calendar to prepare for the exams and take them. Why? We wanted to deepen our skills with these apps and tools, and we wanted to tackle the challenge of the exams to prove we could do it. As a runner, Jackie always invests more in training when there is an upcoming race or when she is training with others for an event like the Market to Market relay she ran in earlier this fall. Accountability partners help you keep a goal in front of you. So we both made the commitment, even though the only days we had open to work on it were in July when we were, in theory, off-contract. It was important enough to us that we decided we’d be spending our vacation with Google!

What was the testing process like?
To prepare for the exams, there are well-designed online modules with practice exams to help you get a feel for the types of questions and topic areas that are on the exams. Since we both considered ourselves fairly well-versed on Google tools, we went straight to the practice exams at the end of each module. If we were unsure of the question, we went back to

(Continued on the next page)
(Everything Old, continued from p. 3) and introductory programming languages that utilize block programming such as Scratch Jr. and HopScotch allow even the youngest students the ability to create programs.

**HOPSCOTCH**

Apple has recently introduced their Everyone Can Code initiative aimed to teach students basic computer science skills through the use of Swift Playgrounds, a free app available on iPads. Each of these platforms expose students to that burst of gratification you get when you solve a problem for the first time and the joy you get when you see someone else enjoying something you have created.

**Everything old is new again.**

One thing that keeps coming up in reviews of Stranger Things is that while nostalgic, it isn’t nostalgic for nostalgia’s sake. It picked the best of the 1980s and used those concepts to tell a really great story. I think the current trend to re-embrace the early movement of having students use computers (and all digital devices) to create is much the same. It’s not coding for coding’s sake. It’s taking the ideals of the early computer movement to teach students skills that will help them be successful.

Even if students don’t become professional programmers, they will still have a base of understanding for how the new world they will be living in works. For that reason, I say let’s jump in and embrace the idea that everything old is new again. ❖

(Google Certification, continued) review that content in the module. We took notes of topics or questions that were a bit confusing or tricky for us. We bookmarked sites that would help us later. We spent about nine hours working through the modules independently, and discussing each one after we completed the module exam. We approached it as if we were back in college studying for a final exam, and after long, intense hours of study, we were ready to attempt the test.

We each took the exams within a few days of our study sessions. For both levels, there is a 3 hour time limit, from our experience, it would have been very difficult to finish the exams in the allotted time if you did not have the skills and knowledge to do so.

In short, we both passed both exams and felt we’d learned a lot of new content, refreshed our knowledge of tools we use less frequently and put ourselves through a rigorous test that we hadn’t been through in several years. Jackie compared it to the ACT test her youngest had taken a few times the year prior to going to college.

**Was it worth it?**

Yes, it was great to challenge ourselves, to persevere through the grueling hours of exam preparation and get validation that we each passed the exams. We both value that we now have the opportunity to pursue other more advanced opportunities with other Google educator programs. We’re excited to tackle the requirements for the Google Certified Trainer this fall, and for the opportunities it might open for us. And we’re pretty proud of those tiny digital badges in our email signature lines that prove we did it. ❖

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**Classroom Technology Showcase**

The annual Classroom Technology Showcase will be held on Friday, November 18, 2016, 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!
Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference Recap

The Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA) and the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) continued their partnership to provide another successful comprehensive and informative conference on technologies available and utilized in Nebraska schools. The Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference was held October 6–7, 2016 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. Pre-conference workshops were held on Thursday, October 6th, including: Break Out of Your Box with Breakout EDU!, Digging into Digital Tools, EdTech for Admin - Tools and Tips You Can Use!, and Implementing a Multi-layered Information Security Program. Thank you to those who lead the beneficial pre-conference workshops for your hard work and preparation!

The conference kicked off Friday morning, October 7th, with a keynote presented by Amber Teamann. Amber Teamann is the Principal of Whitt Elementary in Wylie, Texas. She spoke on “Digital Leadership and Responsibility.”

Over 300 people attended the Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference at the Younes Conference Center. Attendees were able to choose from more than 50 sessions on Friday, October 7th. They were able to visit over 30 vendors and explore and learn at a Maker Space sponsored by the Nebraska Public Power District. Thank you to all who helped make the conference a success!

For more information regarding the Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference and for presenter handouts, please visit http://www.fall.netasite.org

http://netasite.org
Trends come and go in all aspects of life. Remember when you used Lincoln logs and Legos to build something during indoor recess? In 2016 we now call that a makerspace. Vinyl records are making a comeback after being overtaken by “new technology: like eight tracks, cassette tapes, CDs and mp3s. We are seeing the same resurgence with podcasts.

After blogging and before YouTube, there was podcasting—audio files uploaded on a regular schedule to a website that users subscribe to. Around 2005, my La Vista West Student Technology Squad uploaded our weekly school announcements to Podomatic, which then sent them to iTunes. How cool it was to see our school logo in iTunes! We got the idea from a teacher from Millard Public Schools named Tony Vincent. I’m not sure if anyone reading this has ever heard of him (Hint: 2016 NETA Conference speaker).

The resurgence
In the last three years, podcasting has made a resurgence, thanks to a couple different factors. One factor is the ease of having a device for listening. More people have smartphones that connect to new cars via Bluetooth, making it easier to customize what you are listening to while driving. Podcast apps generally download files, so you don’t use streaming data like you may with a music service. Podcast apps clean themselves up by deleting played episodes when you’re finished, freeing up space for the next episode. But you also need some good content! After NPR released their hit podcast Serial (https://serialpodcast.org) in 2014, the format has seen a spike in creation. According to The Atlantic (https://goo.gl/wlvxOq), in the article “The 50 Best Podcasts of 2015,” over 300,000 podcasts existed at the end of 2015. Some are radio shows that post their content for on-demand listening; some are experts with fancy equipment, while others are everyday people using the computer’s built-in microphone to talk about their passions.

Audio recording for learning
Audio recording, whether it be a recurring podcast or just a simple upload, should be an option for students to share their learning in your class. Some kids don’t like to write. Others don’t like to see themselves on camera. Recording audio is a middle option. Audio files can be uploaded to your favorite file storage place and then shared publicly or via a link or QR code. What a great way to practice reading fluency! We have done this at conferences as one way to show parents what students have been working on.

Some of the tools
Listed in this article are just a few tools that you could use in your classroom to support podcasting. This is a miniscule sampling of what’s available, but they are all tools I use regularly:

Opinion Podcasts (https://goo.gl/yT6dsN; an iOS app)
We use this to record student audio and then export to Google Drive, where we can share the file. It’s simple to use and free for up to ten minutes of recording.

Soundtrap (https://www.soundtrap.com/edu; web based)

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Soundtrap (https://www.soundtrap.com/edu; web based)
(Podcasting, continued)
There are a variety of hosting sites, most of which have free and paid plans. For example, Podbean’s plans are based on file size but SoundCloud (http://soundcloud.com), which I have used in our district, is based on length of time. You’ll have to find one that’s best for what you want. If you are simply recording audio and not doing a full podcast, you don’t need a hosting site. Google Drive, OneDrive, Dropbox, etc., work just fine for sharing audio files.

Just looking to listen? Go to http://smore.com/rhws5 to get links to the podcasts below.

Or, if you’re looking for something outside of education, check out NPR’s http://earbud.fm/.

Regardless of whether you just want another outlet for student knowledge or the light has finally turned on to your next great project idea, take another look at podcasting! Just like those bell bottom jeans and ugly sweaters you have been hanging on to, they are new and hip again! ✤

Listen and Learn!

Find all of these podcasts links at smore.com/rhws5

Images are from their iTunes page or web site
**Helping the Settlers**

Craig Badura, 
Aurora Public Schools

I’m not a settler. Well, I’m not anymore. I used to be a settler.

You’ve seen the Direct TV commercial in which a modern family has “settled” for basic cable instead of upgrading to the supreme services of Direct TV. The first time I saw it I flashed back to my third year of teaching in 2002 and thought of how I was a “settler” in the field of education. I had settled into a comfortable routine in my classroom. I was comfortable doing the same thing for each unit. The routine was simple. Notes, worksheets, review, test. Repeat. It felt good. I was a settler.

I had settled into doing what made me comfortable in my classroom. Luckily, I changed my way of thinking in regards to pedagogy and tried to make the learning experience in my classroom an event instead of a class. I had to do it. I realized I wasn’t doing what was best for my students, I was doing what was best for me.

Who is a pioneer? We all have “settlers” in the buildings that we teach in. No, I’m not saying that the settlers are bad teachers. They’re just comfortable. Too comfortable. How do we transform those settlers into “pioneer” teachers? Pioneer teachers being the ones that are on the bleeding edge when it comes to making sure each and every student is engaged in their classrooms?

The pioneer teachers are using various forms of educational technology, creative engagement strategies and are always looking for a way to make learning sticky in their classrooms.

So how do we help our settlers? Below are some strategies that I have used in my role as an Integration Specialist to try and help some of the teachers that I work with in and out of my building.

**Support Them**
Get in their classroom. Give them feedback and LOTS of suggestions and ideas on how to change or improve their lessons. Get your settlers in your classroom or the classrooms of your pioneer teachers. Let them develop a trust in what you are sharing with them is effective in the classroom. Share what works for you, don’t be an idea hoarder!

**Get them Connected**
Show your settlers how to harness the power of social media to transform the teaching and learning in their classrooms.

Let’s face it, isolation is a choice that we now make as teachers. Choosing not to use social media for educational purposes when the students sitting in our classrooms are all connected is no longer acceptable. Connected teachers that utilize Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, Facebook, etc., have a plethora of ideas and other teachers that are willing to help at any given time. Helping your settler develop and create a robust professional learning network will pay huge dividends.

**Be Honest**
Some settler teachers don’t even know that their style of teaching isn’t working. Once you are stuck in that rut, it’s hard to get out! You need to let them know, and that’s a hard thing to do! Yes, the conversation of maybe changing things up a bit should come from your building Principal, but they may have a better relationship with you so the discussion of needing to change things up a bit coming from you will be more meaningful.
Pearls of Wisdom—
Celebrating NETA’s 30th Anniversary

Request for Sessions for the NETA 2017 Spring Conference

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 20-21, 2017. 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, 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 area 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 a significantly reduced rate 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. A limit of three presenters per session may be submitted. Students are allowed to assist in a presentation as guests of the conference (limit of four, and must be supervised at all times).

Questions?
Questions should be directed to Matt Lee, President Elect/Conference Chair, by email at matthew.lee@netasite.org

Mark Your Calendar—Submission Deadline!
Sessions may only be submitted through the online submission form, and must be entered by the November 11, 2016 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!

http://netasite.org

November 2016
Pearls of Wisdom—Celebrating 30 Years

Keynote and Featured Speakers

The NETA Conference—Pearls of Wisdom—Celebrating 30 Years, April 20-21, 2017, will again feature great speakers from around the country!

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

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

Michelle Cordy
Michelle Cordy is a teacher and applied researcher. She began teaching in 2001, and has taught in both K-12 and higher education settings. Her focus has been on mathematics education and technology integration. Michelle also engages in classroom-based research with partners from academic institutions as well as industry partners. Currently, she teaches grade 3 with 1:1 iPad. She is a Google Certified Innovator, an Apple Distinguished Educator, and holds a Master of Education in Mathematics and Science education.

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

Greg Kulowiec
Greg Kulowiec is a nationally recognized instructor, presenter, author, award-winning teacher and authorized Google Education Trainer. He has been an early adopter of mobile devices in the classroom and coined the phrase “App Smashing.” Prior to joining EdTechTeacher, Greg spent eight years as a high school history teacher and one year as a technology integration specialist. He began integrating technology into his classroom with early mobile devices including iPods and cell phones. Those initial efforts focused on building capacity for students to create dynamic content with mobile devices to demonstrate their understanding of complex ideas. In his last year as a classroom teacher, Greg began the process of exploring how mobile devices and iPads could be effectively integrated into the classroom to support student learning and creativity.

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

**Hadi Partovi**

Hadi Partovi is a tech entrepreneur and investor, and CEO of the education non-profit *Code.org*. Born in Tehran, Iran, Hadi grew up during the Iran-Iraq war. His school did not offer computer science classes, so he taught himself to code at home on a Commodore 64. After immigrating to the United States, he spent his summers working as a software engineer to help pay his way through high school and college. Upon graduating from Harvard University with a computer science degree, Hadi pursued a career as a technologist at Microsoft, then as an entrepreneur at two startups—one which succeeded and one which failed, and finally as a tech investor.

In 2013 Hadi and his twin brother Ali launched the education nonprofit *Code.org*, which Hadi continues to lead full-time as CEO. *Code.org* has established computer science classes in 15% of US classrooms, created the most broadly used curriculum platform for K–12 computer science, and launched the global *Hour of Code* movement that has reached over 100 million students.

Hadi has served as an early advisor to numerous startups including Facebook and Dropbox, and as a tech investor his portfolio also includes airbnb, Uber, Zappos, IndieGogo, Change.org, and others. Hadi also serves as a Director on the boards of TASER International and Convoy.

**Kathy Schrock**

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

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

Kathy currently maintains these additional Web sites:

- [Kathy Schrock’s Guide to Everything](#)
- [iPads 4 Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Blog: Kathy Schrock’s Kaffeeklatsch](#)
- [Blog: Kathy Schrock’s Katch of the Month](#)

Kathy has written hundreds of articles dealing with technology and education and has also authored several books about educational technology topics. In addition, she has received numerous awards for her work, including a People’s Choice Webby, both the ISTE and MassCUE Making IT Happen Award, the NCTIES Service Learning Award, has served on the ISTE Board of Directors for two terms, and has worked with the US Department of Education on several educational technology initiatives. ✤
``Stories have power. They delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge. They help us understand. They imprint a picture on our minds. Want to make a point or raise an issue? Tell a story.”
~Janet Litherland

How would attending the spring NETA conference change your classroom story?

Everyone has a story, and the NETA board wants to know yours! In an effort to provide new scholarship support for educators (Pre-K through college) to attend the spring NETA conference, the Board is launching a new contest to cover the registration fee and substitute teacher cost for up to ten teachers to attend the spring 2017 NETA conference by asking this question: How would attending the spring NETA conference change your classroom story?

Are you hungry for new approaches to use technology tools to help connect students who feel isolated or alone? Do you need to be surrounded by positive people for two days to help you through the inevitable challenges that being a classroom teacher bring? Take up to two minutes to tell us your story so we can help you write a great next chapter!

In addition to this new contest specifically designed for educators, NETA continues to offer contests for teachers and students to showcase model projects, recognize outstanding student work and provide opportunities for teachers to attend the national ISTE summer conference to enhance professional practice. We also recognize outstanding leadership at the administrative and classroom levels through individual recognition awards. We do our best to truly have something for everyone!

Are you wondering what types of projects were selected as winning entries last year? Check out netasite.org to see outstanding student-produced digital art, a grant to support middle school students’ use of drones, and Abby Fitzgerald’s awesome parody of Let It Go that convinced us to Let Her Go to ISTE 2016 in Denver!

Last year launched the new digital contest submission system and it met with great success. The contest entry window will again be open from November 1, 2016–February 1, 2017, so start thinking now about how NETA contests can not only help you to share your story, but how you might also write a new chapter!

Questions?
Please email your questions to the Contest Chair, Lynne Herr (lynne.herr@netasite.org). We will post any questions and answers in our Frequently Asked Questions page in the Contests section of the NETA website.

Wanted! Judges for all contests!

We are looking for people willing to assist with the NETA contest judging, scheduled on Saturday, February 4, 2017 in Waverly. If you are interested, please contact Lynne Herr at lynne.herr@netasite.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 Student Contests

Eligibility
Student contests are open to Midwestern PK–12 students and pre-service teachers. All PK-12 student entries must include principal’s consent and contact information.

Contest Divisions
Each contest category will be judged by divisions.
• Grades PK–4
• Grades 5–8
• Grades 9–12
• Independent K–12
• Student Entry
• Pre-service Teacher

Contest Categories
Still Images:
This category allows students to showcase their work in the area of still images. Students will submit completed products such as, digital images, photographs, logos, graphic design, and infographics that were created as part of a classroom project.

Video:
This category allows students to showcase their work in the area of video. Students may submit completed non-interactive video projects. Examples of projects that could fall into this category include but are not limited to: newscasts, movies, video podcasts, and animations.

Audio:
This category allows students to showcase their work in the area of audio. Students will submit completed audio products such as podcasts, radio shows and original music/poetry.

Interactive Media:
This category allows students to showcase their work in the area of interactive media. As defined by wikipedia, interactive media normally refers to products and services on digital computer-based systems which respond to the user’s actions by presenting content such as text, graphics, animation, video, audio, games, etc. Examples of interactive media that may be submitted to this category include interactive iBooks, websites created by the student, apps developed by the student, and more.

Judging and Awards
Contest entries will be judged on criteria that include connection to curriculum, originality, creativity, quality of product and innovative use of technology. Up to three awards per category per age division will be given.

The winning teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher’s school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for the substitutes for both days.

All contest winners will be asked to submit poster sessions featuring their winning contest entries to present at the NETA Spring Conference.

Announcing winners
All entrants should refer to the NETA website (http://netasite.org) on or after March 1, 2017 for contest results. We request that teacher entrants do not register for the conference until winners are announced. Application materials will not be returned to entrants.

All submitted projects may be distributed freely by NETA. Educators submitting entries need to follow all of their district’s policies regarding the distribution of student work. The online submission form must be completed in full.

Awards will be mailed out to the teachers’ school districts following the NETA Spring Conference. All entries must be submitted online.

Submission Deadline:
The 2016–17 Contest submission window will be November 1, 2016–February 1, 2017.

All entries must be submitted through the contest submission system accessed via the NETA website (http://netasite.org).
NETA Educator Contests

Eligibility
NETA Educator contests are open to public and private educators in the Midwest, with preference given to Nebraska educators. In addition to any prizes specific to a particular contest, winning educators will receive a non-transferable, complimentary 2017 NETA Spring Conference registration and if a substitute is required, the winner’s school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for the substitute for both days of conference attendance.

Description of Educator Contest Categories

NETA Technology Grants
Classroom grants to support innovative technology use in the classroom will be awarded with a maximum of $1500 each. Each recipient will receive their award check at the NETA Spring Conference. Materials purchased with NETA grant money will belong to the recipient’s school district. A mid-term progress report is due by December 1, 2017, and a final report of less than 250 words that describes the activities, tools and student impact is due June 1, 2018.

Grant recipients will be required to present their project at the 2018 NETA Spring Conference as a poster/playground session, where handouts and information about the project will be shared with other NETA educators. Grants are to be awarded for original projects only and are not to sustain previous grant projects. The number of awards may vary depending upon the quantity and quality of entries.

Teachers may submit different applications over time. 2016 grant winners are not eligible to apply for this contest.

ISTE Trek Conference Scholarship
Up to four trips to the 2017 ISTE Conference in San Antonio, TX, will be awarded with a maximum of $1800 to pay for conference registration, coach class airfare, hotel, local transportation and meals. Entrants should use creative technology skills to submit a contest entry video explaining how you use technology to enhance student learning and how attending ISTE 2017 would strengthen what you already do or allow you to do something new. What are you hoping to learn or gain by attending sessions at ISTE 2017? Videos must be less than 90 seconds in length and will be entered via the online submission system. The winners will write a follow-up NETA newsletter article by July 15, 2017, explaining what projects or plans will be implemented in their classroom based upon what was learned through ISTE 2017 attendance. 2016 ISTE Trek winners are not eligible for this contest.

What’s Your Story?
Tell us for a chance to win a NETA conference scholarship!
Recognizing that many teachers pay for NETA conference attendance out of their own funds and often must use personal days to be able to leave their classrooms, the Board wants to offer assistance through a new contest. Entrants will be asked to answer the question: How will attending NETA change your classroom story? Winning teachers will receive free conference registration and have the actual costs of their substitute reimbursed. They may also be interviewed to share their story with the NETA community.

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 PK–12 public and private school administrators and technology coordinators whose primary job role does not include teaching students. All entries must include the superintendent’s consent for contest entry and superintendent’s contact information. If a superintendent is submitting his/her own application, the President of the local Board of Education may be used.

The winner will be awarded $600 for professional activities (which could include conference reimbursement, tuition, or subscriptions—to be (continued on the next page)
(Contests, continued) spent by April 30, 2018). The winner will also be invited to be a special guest at a Wednesday evening dinner with the NETA Board of Directors where they will be asked to give short remarks about their work with instructional technology.

Winners will be determined by a panel of Directors from the NETA Board based on the following guidelines, determining the extent to which the nominee:

- positively impacts technology use in teaching, learning and administration; locally, regionally, or statewide.
- involves the local community in their work or has facilitated partnerships with business and/or other organizations to advance the use of technology in teaching and learning.
- integrates deliberate planning in an effort to improve education through the use of technology.
- works tirelessly to improve the quality of education and/or work experience in their own school.
- contributes to the profession by presenting at professional conferences, seminars and/or workshops or publishing articles in print or through electronic media.
- reflects the mission and purpose of NETA.

**Excellence in Teaching With Technology Award**

The purpose of the Nebraska Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award is to recognize and honor an individual teacher who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in implementing technology to improve PK-12 teaching and learning. This contest is open to Nebraska public and private school educators whose primary job role is classroom teaching directly with students. The winner will be awarded $600 for professional activities (which could include conference reimbursement, tuition, or subscriptions—to be spent by April 30, 2018). The winner will also be invited to be a special guest at a Wednesday evening dinner with the NETA Board of Directors where they will be asked to give short remarks about their work with leading technology initiatives.

Winners will be determined by a panel of Directors from the NETA Board based on the following guidelines, determining the extent to which the nominee:

- positively impacts technology use in teaching and learning; locally, regionally, or statewide.
- involves the local community in their work or has facilitated partnerships with business and/or other organizations to advance the use of technology in teaching and learning.
- integrates deliberate planning in an effort to improve education through the use of technology.
- works tirelessly to improve the quality of education and/or work experience in their own school.
- contributes to the profession by presenting at professional conferences, seminars and/or workshops or publishing articles in print or through electronic media.
- reflects the mission and purpose of NETA.

**Submission Deadline:**

The 2016–17 Contest submission window will be November 1, 2016—February 1, 2017. All entries must be submitted through the contest submission system accessed via the NETA website (http://netasite.org).

**Judging and Awards**

Contest entries will be judged on criteria that include connection to curriculum, originality, creativity, quality of product and innovative use of technology.

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All contest winners will be asked to submit poster sessions featuring their contest entries to present at the NETA Spring Conference.

**Announcing winners**

All entrants should refer to the NETA website (http://netasite.org) on or after March 1, 2017 for contest results. We request that teacher entrants do not register for the conference until winners are announced. Application materials will not be returned to entrants.

All submitted projects may be distributed freely by NETA. Educators submitting entries need to follow all of their district’s policies regarding the distribution of personal work. All fields in the online submission form must be completed.

Awards will be mailed out to the teachers’ school districts following the NETA Spring Conference. All entries must be submitted online through the contest submission system accessed via the NETA website (http://netasite.org).
2017 SPRING CONFERENCE
April 20 - 21, 2017 | CenturyLink Center, Omaha, NE

CONFERECE INFORMATION

100% ATTENDEE SATISFACTION RATE

100% WOULD RECOMMEND THE CONFERENCE TO SOMEONE ELSE

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

1 IN EVERY 15 NEBRASKA EDUCATORS ATTENDS the CONFERENCE

Attendance was over 2,500 Educators at 2016 Spring Conference

190+ BREAKOUT SESSIONS OFFERED

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Keynote/Featured Speakers

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

10% AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

Over the last 8 years

37% this PAST YEAR

MEMBERS from the FOLLOWING:
- Beijing
- Illinois
- Louisiana
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- North Carolina
- Rhode Island
- Wisconsin
- California
- Iowa
- Massachusetts
- Missouri
- Nevada
- Ohio
- South Dakota
- Colorado
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Montana
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Texas

PURPOSE

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

VISION

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

STAY IN TOUCH

@yourNETA  www.netasite.org

November 2016
http://netasite.org
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

January 2017
Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)
   January 24–27, 2017
   Orange County Convention Ctr,
   Orlando, FL
   fetc.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 2017
Great Plains Summit
   featuring Google
   July 13–14, 2017
   Southwest High School
   Lincoln, NE
   gpsummit.org
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 ___________________________ State ______ Zip ___________

Home Phone ___________________________ Work Phone ___________________________

School/Agency Name ___________________________ Email ___________________________

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

NETA Membership
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

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

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