Message from the President—
We Are Listening

number one in the world for two years in a row. There is a reason for that! The staff goes above and beyond to assist us in anyway they can. The rooms are located on one floor and the vendors are in one room and easily accessible. The restrooms are always clean, hallways are inviting and rooms are furnished with the line audiovisual equipment. I believe the benefits we have at the Embassy far outweigh the few negatives that exist. We are the largest conference ever held at the La Vista site. We realize we have reached capacity at the La Vista Embassy Suites Conference Center and we will continue to work with staff to ease overcrowding if and when possible. Any comments or ideas you may have are always welcome. Please feel free to email me at rkopf@fallscityps.org.

Wireless
When we were at the Holiday Inn site, the network literally had to be “brought in.” Westside Community Schools staff set up routers, switches and cabling. There was at least a week's worth of work involved to support two T1 lines, and the capacity is nothing compared to what we have at the Embassy.

The first year at Embassy, the hotel had 20MB into the building and scalable up to 100MB. The technical staff had no idea what kind of load a technology conference with attendance over 2000 would have. NETA Board of Directors needed assurance our attendees would be served with a stable network so we brought in a third party vendor to assist. Enter Surety Technologies and co-owner Scott Isaacson. Scott worked with a technician from the

(Continued on page 12)
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NETA is an affiliate of ISTE—The International Society for Technology in Education.

September 2011
Message from the President Elect—

Imagine a World Without Internet?

Find a location to get away from it all! How soon will we be able to book: "Vacation away from it all! No Internet, No Cell Phone Service! Come and stay with us."

In today’s age, is there anything that is private? Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in, Four Square, etc. Are humans being tracked everywhere they go? Should we just have RFID tags embedded so we don’t have to take the extra time to tell everyone where we are or where we have been? I think secrets can still be kept, but only for a very short time. Is the brain on overload?

“To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.”—Anthony Robbins

3. Is there information overload?

Not only are the “big” players in the news world bombarding us with information, everyone can publish about anything at any time. Don’t get me wrong, publishing is great. Publishing is especially beneficial in education when young people can show off their work to the world. I also understand that when I ask my friend “Google” a question, I expect to get a variety of answers in which I can pick and choose which one is reliable and valid. I don’t know what I would do without this information at my fingertips. Without people publishing everything on the web, this would not exist. But I ask myself, “How much information is duplicated and reposted daily and has the potential of slowing everything else down?” How much time do humans spend daily sifting through all of this information sometimes looking for a needle in a haystack?

4. What’s the next Big Thing?

Finally, I am still seeking that next “Big Thing in Technology!” I have a feeling in will be something in the area of communication. If someone knows what it is, I would love to know. Will it be as big as our transition to the Internet? Will it affect the world around us? Will it effect the teaching environment? Will it be free? Will it help flatten the world?

I leave you with this, “Electric communication will never be a substitute for the face of someone who with their soul encourages another person to be brave and true.”—Charles Dickens

As I travel around to different meeting places and conferences, I am always looking for the next “Big Thing in Technology!” It wasn’t that many years ago that the Internet was introduced. In fact, do you remember the days before Internet? Could you go back? Will the amount of information ever slow down or at least level off? Here of some of my recent thoughts.

1. How do we communicate in today’s society?

In my mind, a traditional note with postage attached is an official communication that may or may not need a response. An email tells me that some information is important for me to know or asks a question that I need to respond to over the next 24 hours. A text tells me that a very brief piece of information is important to me and only if there is a quick brief question, do I need to respond right away. A telephone call tells me that the information is so important that I need to know right away or the question needs to be answered immediately. And finally, a post in social networking gives me the option to read, ignore, or reply if I feel the need or reply if directed at me. Take it or leave it—you have to start somewhere.

2. Should we always be connected?

It seems like just yesterday everyone was looking for wireless hotspots to get connected before the invention of the smart phone. Now it is more likely that you can’t
NETA 2011 Photo Gallery
Reviews from the ISTE 2011 Experience!

Creating Your Own Mobile Games and Interactive Tours

At ISTE’s SIGCT (Special Interest Group for Computing Teachers) Breakfast in Philadelphia this past June, I had the opportunity to hear David Gagnon speak. An instructional designer with the ENGAGE program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he consults with faculty about innovative teaching practices that leverage emerging media. He’s also an active member of the Games, Learning and Society (GLS) Research community where he directs the mobile learning team and ARIS Project.

His latest project, ARIS (Augmented Reality Interactive Storytelling), is an open source software application that allows anyone to create mobile games, tours and interactive stories. ARIS allows the creator to:

- Use GPS locations and QR codes to link to virtual characters, items and media
- Create and place virtual items that can be picked up by players, exchanged, used and moved around in a persistent AR world
- Author virtual characters that talk with your players, giving them information, exchanging items and responding to their choices
- Design “Quests” for players to find particular information/items, talk with characters and collect media recordings at particular locations

Anyone can create content for ARIS using an easy online authoring tool available for iPod Touch or iPhone FREE at the App Store. I can’t wait for my students to try creating their own mobile games!

To find out more information on ARIS, an emerging technology that you can use to design integrated gaming in your curricular area, go to these sites:

http://arisgames.org

http://www.gameslearning society.org

Happy Gaming!❖

The Past Meets the Future in Philadelphia

I was intrigued by the juxtaposition of ISTE’s cutting edge innovation and Philadelphia’s deep historical context at last summer’s conference. I hope we all take the best of what we’ve learned from past practice as we continue to push forward with new tools and teaching approaches.

As NETA contest chair, I appreciate the opportunity to attend a national conference to get ideas for new contests and other ways we can recognize and encourage teachers and students in the effective use of technology to facilitate learning. One new contest NETA will be offering this year, based on a teacher poster session I attended at ISTE, is a Point/Counterpoint 30-second video contest.

I was especially interested in the number of poster sessions that included a QR Code as part of their display. It made collecting information so much easier than taking notes, collecting business cards or flyers or searching for web addresses through the online ISTE program. With my Personal Learning Network (PLN) continuing to grow, I always appreciate the opportunity to meet “virtual” friends in person through informal conversations throughout the conference venue.

With some school policies now allowing students to use cell phones, I also attended several sessions on apps and tools to encourage learning smart phones.

Thanks to NETA for the opportunity to learn and grow through attendance at the ISTE conference.❖
**ISTE “Takeaways”**
Here are my top six takeaways from ISTE 2011:

1. It’s clear that teachers and schools must adapt to the reality that technology has its place in school and, certainly, in the lives of kids. This might sound obvious but look around your school—does it still resemble the school you attended? Teaching the same as we were taught in high school does not take full advantage of the learning potential of technology in the classroom. Why is it that too many classrooms still look the same as when I graduated in 1968?

2. Web 2.0 tools are here to stay. One problem implementing educational technology in the classroom is that there are simply too many new online tools for anyone to track, evaluate and effectively use. Coupled with the need to assess this and assess that, the bottom line is that you must keep your energy focused on a few new ideas rather than trying to drink from a fire hose—there simply isn’t enough time.

As an example, English teachers could use the FirstClass blogging feature (or another blog resource) to replace journaling either to a physical notebook or a word processing document. Where the journal entry was written by the student and read only by the teacher, blogging allows the students to be part of a class sub-group and have his/her work read by four or five peers as well as the teacher. We all know that kids write better when there is a wider audience than just the teacher so why not blog?

Math, science, social studies and others can use free sites like Khan Academy and PhET to further reinforce concepts for kids.

3. Teachers and sites doing the amazing things presented at conferences didn’t get there without lots of hard work. “Technology is not a free lunch.” It takes hard work concentrated to a specific purpose over a period of time to “get it.” Choose one or two or maybe three new technologies to concentrate on during 2011–2012 and make it work. Using tested, online simulations and videos is one step.

4. The increasing movement away from printed textbooks will only accelerate. Take this article as an example. When distributed on paper, none of the linked text will function; the “lesson” would be limited to the printed word and to my knowledge of the subject. Using email to distribute the content in this case or, at more and more schools, using Web 2.0 tools to house the links allows me to send the reader to multiple additional sites for further investigation. Imagine this as an online science lesson that, for additional help, references pertinent online Web 2.0 sites such as PhET and others to give kids just one more resource for understanding.

5. Using technology is not the same thing as USING technology. During one conference session, a presenter, in trying to explain how to best use technology in the classroom, talked about a teacher observed using a PowerPoint presentation projected onto a screen. While there are sometimes issues with “Death by PowerPoint” and technology was being “used,” the real problem in this lesson was the requirement that the kids take notes by copying the presentation using pen and paper! Yes, technology was being “used,” but this isn’t exactly what we mean by USING technology. Even using a word processor to record the presentation notes would be a waste of time. Why not make the presentation accessible in a FirstClass conference or some other online resource and use the time to discuss and investigate the content rather than transcribe the information?

The bottom line—if something can be shared via email or using conferencing, blogging, or another Web 2.0 tool, do it but don’t require manual copying of text “using” technology. Taking precious class time to manually copy information harkens back to 1968 when the new technology was the overhead projector.

Do you have an Elmo in your classroom? Don’t use it to simply project onto the screen and have kids transcribe its contents. If the information is important enough, scan it and post it for later use by students. You can still discuss the document but why waste time transcribing it.

6. It’s better to be the master of a few skills rather than none. When leaving a conference or, for that matter, when planning the next school year, write down no more than three items or concepts to concentrate your energy. Post it somewhere “in front of your face” and periodically review your items, modify and modify again until you get it done.
Unlocking Potential

Jan Tell, Integration Specialist
Dodge Elementary
Grand Island Public Schools

“[Students] don’t want us to stand up here and be brilliant. They need us to see each of them and the brilliance in them.”
—Chris Lehmann, closing keynote

That quote encapsulates my recent experience at the ISTE conference in Philadelphia.

I FELT IT through Dr. John Medina’s powerful stories, challenging educators to think about what we might do with scientific facts, or *Brain Rules*, as he called them; one rule in particular being that every brain is wired differently and learns in unique ways to that wiring.

I EXPERIENCED IT after the sun went down in a parking lot where Mural in Motion was showing against a city building, making it Philadelphia’s first student-produced digital projection.

I WAS CONvinCED OF IT by a student group’s call to action, from the student showcase area.

I WITNESSED IT as two elementary students stood on stage expertly sharing their success with Stephen Covey’s leadership principles to an audience of 3,600.

I PLANNED FOR IT as I attended sessions like Lynell Burmark’s “They Snooze, You Lose: 10 Shots to Caffeinate Your Presentations,” while thinking of ways to adapt it for student use.

I IMAGINED IT giving a voice to different learning styles through ideas such as Blabberize, Turtle-pond Collection, Meet Me at the Corner, and Bernie Dodge’s WonderPoints.

I SCHEDULED IT after working in collaboration with a representative from a software company to create an active learning experience for students in the upcoming school year.

Maybe it’s just what I wanted to hear. I’m convinced that it should be heard loud and clear, by all educators. This conference truly illustrated innovative ways for unlocking potential in every student.

Thank you, NETA, for the unforgettable opportunity!

Here is a link to my visual version of this report, for those without a QR barcode reader:

http://www.gips.org/Projects_Dodge/ISTE/ISTE/ISTE.html

Technology Should be Like Oxygen

Kevin Morrow
O’Neill Public Schools

Whether is was Google Apps for Education or iPads, excitement was abuzz in Philadelphia at the ISTE 2011 Conference in late June. Many districts have adopted the free Google Apps for Education platform and numerous sessions demonstrated applications of these tools as time-efficient, cost-effective solutions for collaboration. It was also fun to learn about schools utilizing iPad and iPod touch in innovative ways both in small-scale and large-scale initiatives.

I spent many hours in the poster session areas, sharing my own two-hour poster on 21st Century Physical Education. Here it was obvious that teachers are really stepping it up with creative applications of technology integration in all subject areas.

But honestly, for me, the thing that stood out the most about my ISTE 2011 experience was really summed up in the closing keynote by Chris Lehman of the Philadelphia Science Academy. Before he even took the stage a team of students performed a poetry slam on school today. This set the tone for all. It’s about the students. Plain and simple. Focus on the students’ creativity and their passion. Create (continued on the next page)
NETA News

(ISTE Teacher Trek Reports, cont.)

connections with the students. “Technology,” he said, “should be like oxygen—invisible, ubiquitous, and necessary.”

So instead of focusing on the tools, focus on the learners, and this will be my greatest take-away from my ISTE 2011 experience.

Many thanks to NETA and the Teacher Trek grant for providing me the opportunity to have this experience.

An Amazing Experience

Jill Domina
Schuyler Middle School

What an amazing experience! ISTE was everything I expected and more. I came home with so many new ideas of how to integrate technology into my lessons and also came home more motivated than ever.

One of the best motivational speakers I had the pleasure of listening to was Ron Clark (a well known author, National Teacher of the Year in 2000, and founder of the Ron Clark Academy). Mr. Clark stressed the importance of finding a way to add a spark to our lessons. Whether it is through technology, music, movement or some other means, we have to find a way to get our students hooked onto and excited about learning. His presentation was a reflection of how he teaches—full of high energy and enthusiasm.

Everyone left the room smiling and more passionate than ever to get back to the classrooms and inspire students. Putting this new energy together with all of my new ideas makes me very excited and anxious for the new school year ahead!

NETA again sponsored a reception during the ISTE 2011 Conference in Philadelphia, PA. The sponsors were Academic Superstore and Engaging Technologies. Eighty conference participants attended the event at the Public House (photo at left) and enjoyed networking and catching up with friends throughout Nebraska and beyond.

Please plan to join us June 24–27, 2012 at the ISTE Conference, to be held in San Diego, CA!

The NETA reception was a great place to get off your feet after a long day of seeing new technology and talking to vendors in the massive ISTE Exhibit Hall.

The NETA reception at ISTE also provided a great chance to catch up with NETA friends that you would otherwise seldom see, except online of course!
NETA’s Technology Grant Program
Final Reports from 2010 Winners

In order to further encourage the linking of technology to the curriculum, NETA has continued to offer the technology grant opportunity. Please check page 28 for more details on this year’s grant program.

Tina Gentrup, Guardian Angels, West Point
Reading Enrichment for 21st Century Learners
Funds from the 2010 NETA Technology Grant were used to purchase the software Read Naturally. Throughout the year, our students used the program Read Naturally during their Reading class to improve their reading fluency, phonic skills, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. Our original intent was to use this program to help low reading ability students become more proficient and fluent readers. However, we discovered that it was a great program for students of all ability levels.

Despite this drawback, we found that this program helped our students become better readers. We felt this was largely due to the fact that the students were required to read a passage of writing over and over again until they were able to do it with just a few errors, if any. Students also benefited by receiving more one-on-one time with teachers and getting positive feedback about their reading skills. We also feel the students had a positive attitude towards Read Naturally and we witnessed many smiles as students passed a difficult story.

Our school is grateful to NETA for this opportunity! To learn more about this program, go to http://www.readnaturally.com.

Peter Grothaus
Lincoln Christian
Classrooms Without Textbooks
This NETA grant provided my senior level American Government class with a laptop computer, a projector and two Flip video cameras. The goal was to completely eliminate the need and the use of a textbook by the students and teacher. Standard lectures and textbook assignments would be replaced by primary source documents readily found on the world wide web, articles recently published in local, national and international publications, streaming video, local lectures and more. More importantly, the Flip video cameras have allowed the seniors to create "live" essays. These essays include interviews with members of the community, and when edited, become the focal point of student presentations to classmates.

The huge upside for all involved has been the elimination of approximately 80% of the class time that used to be devoted to textbook lecture and assignments. Classroom discussions, conversations, debates, simulations and student-produced presentations have filled that time and energized the classroom. Students have repeatedly indicated on surveys that they find themselves much more fully engaged in their textbook-free classroom while also noting that they find the overall experience much more rewarding.

Without the textbook, the responsibility for teaching/learning has slid dramatically onto the students. Their response, for the most part, has been dramatically greater and much more fulfilling than I imagined possible.

Marcia Duckworth
Scott Middle School, LPS
The Six Nutrients
The nutrition unit began with a web quest in the media center. Students were gathering information on the six nutrients and the food pyramid using web sites I had provided to them. After their research was complete they were given instructions on how to use their information in a brochure. The second part of the project was for the students to create a music video that would educate the audience the importance of the six nutrients and making wise food choices. They chose a tune that was familiar to the group and recorded using the flip cameras purchased with grant funds. Each group presented their video to the class. ✦

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Lincoln Christian
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Without the textbook, the responsibility for teaching/learning has slid dramatically onto the students. Their response, for the most part, has been dramatically greater and much more fulfilling than I imagined possible.
Farewell Michelle, Hello Lynn!

Good Luck Michelle!
Michelle Baldwin was elected to the NETA Board in 2009. She has been an active member—if you visited the PLN Plaza at the NETA conference, Michelle was most likely one of the people who helped you. She also contributed several articles in past issues of the NETA newsletter.

Michelle has accepted a new position in Colorado, so she has resigned from the NETA Board. She will be teaching at Anastasis Academy (http://anastasisacademy.com) in Lone Tree, Colorado (a suburb in the southern part of Denver). Anastasis, which is Greek for “stand again,” is the result of one person’s dream to recreate the idea of what a school ought to be for its students. Kelly Tenkely shares on her blog, Dreams of Education, her story of how a blog post started a school: http://goo.gl/QokBM.

Good luck to you, Michelle. We will miss having you on the NETA Board, but wish you well in your new adventure.

Welcome Lynn Behounek!
Lynn had the next highest number of votes from the NETA Board election last winter. We therefore asked Lynn to join the NETA Board to complete Michelle’s term, which ends in April 2012. Lynn attended the Board Retreat in July, so has already had a chance to get to know many board members.

In 1994 Lynn started teaching for Ralston Public Schools. After 8 years, she decided to leave the classroom to become a media/technology specialist for the district. She enjoys being able to share what she has learned through classes, from her colleagues, and local and national conferences. With being part of the NETA Board, Lynn states, “she will not only be able to continue to gain more knowledge, but also share with others what she has learned.” We look forward to working with you, Lynn.

Tech Coordinators & Laptop Community

The Tech Coordinators and Laptop Community (1:1) groups are supported by NETA as part of efforts to encourage technology initiatives across the state.

Tech Coordinators Meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2011 from 9am—4pm at ESU 10 in Kearney.

Do you provide technical support for your district? The agenda for meetings focuses on technology coordinator duties that are largely platform independent. This group also has a listserv. You can join the listserv by going to the site below and entering your name and address.

If you have questions check the web site: http://netasite.org/techcoord or contact Lucas Bingham at lbingham@esu3.org

Laptop Community Meeting will be October 24th in Kearney at ESU 10 from 9:00 AM–4:00 PM. Lunch will be provided by NETA, with no cost for registration. There will be a roundtable discussion that will begin based on the agenda items that are submitted.

The purpose of this community is to provide a place for support, information sharing, and getting answers to questions. The districts involved have laptop initiatives or are looking for information to begin one. Those attending are going through similar situations, joys, obstacles and projects.

For more information, check this web site: http://laptop.communities.esu10.org/ArticleList.aspx

Thanks to Corey Dahl, Instructional Technology Facilitator from ESU#8, for sharing his artistic talents with us and providing this cartoon. cdahl@esu8.org

http://netasite.org

September 2011
2011 Retreat
The NETA Board of Directors met in July at the La Vista Embassy Suites Conference Center for their annual two-day planning retreat. Board members reviewed attendee conference evaluations and dealt with many topics concerning the 2012 Conference. It will be the 25th Anniversary for NETA so be watching for celebration details in future newsletters.

(Listening, continued from page 1)
Hammons Corporation (Embassy) to separate the network for presenters, vendors and attendees. NETA put money on the table to get the network working at high capacity and Embassy is doing its share in assisting as well. This year in house technical configuration issues arose on opening morning but soon were reconfigured to have us quickly up and running. Those responsible for the network are at their desks monitoring traffic all hours of the conference, watching for load balancing and keeping the network stable. We look forward to working with Scott again next year.

Thank you for limiting your devices to one connection as we move forward. With your help, we can and will make this work.

And to pat ourselves on the back a bit, I would like to share a few of the Like the Most comments:
- Wednesday night registration
- Ask Me Volunteers
- Variety of topics
- Convenient location—by far the most mentioned “Like” item
- Classy Conference
- Nice facility

One attendee commented, “Accommodating and helpful Embassy staff and lots of NETA folks to direct and assist.”

Please keep in mind next year when you are filling out your survey! We are listening and working hard to make the NETA conference everything you want it to be!

Meeting Minutes on the Web
Last year the NETA Board decided to save print publishing costs by posting the minutes from the NETA Board meetings on the NETA website only.

You will find minutes from the April 2011 NETA Board meeting and the July NETA Retreat on the web at the following location:

http://netasite.org/resources.html

2011 Retreat
http://netasite.org
25 Years of Innovation

Request for Sessions for NETA 2011

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

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

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

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

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

“Like” us on Facebook!
NETA is looking for your involvement and ideas! As NETA members, please help support your organization by learning and sharing throughout the year by checking out our Fan page and adding your comments. You can find us either by accessing http://facebook.com/yourNETA or clicking the Facebook icon at http://netasite.org (bottom of the page).

Lots of Conversing
A Review of the NETA Conversation Strands
By Josh Allen, Papillion La Vista Schools

New at the 2011 Conference were Conversation Strands. Held in the Marriott Library, the presentations were designed to be less talk at you and more talk with you. The Library was chosen because of the layout and couches, as well as reserving rooms for all of the other great presentations. Those leading discussions did not always have the answer, but had questions for which they wanted answers.

The turnout was better than expected—we never had less than 15 people in a session. We regularly had 30–50 people in the Library, which caused it’s own problems. As one of the organizers, too many people was a great problem to have! While there are no plans to move away from the Library for the 2012 Conference, there is a plan to add a sound system to the area to help everyone hear what is being shared. We also are open to the idea of trying to move outside (weather permitting) to open up some more space. We want to keep the regular conference rooms open to allow for as many presentations as possible and want to keep a “conversational” environment for this strand. Do you have suggestions for the Conversation Strand?
Visit our Facebook page at http://facebook.com/yourNETA and let us know!

Questions can be emailed to Josh Allen at JoshAllen@paplv.org or Lucas Bingham at lucas.bingham@gmail.com.

http://netasite.org

September 2011
Internet Safety Month Proclaimed in April

On March 9, 2011, the Governor signed the proclamation designating April as Internet Safety Month in Nebraska. Pictured left to right: Jessica Gall, Lynn Herr, Robert Hays, Deb Hericks, Mike Kozak, Gov. Heineman, John Freudenberg, Daniel Santiago, Lois Hafer, Ed Sexton, and Alan Potash

Grades K-4
Hand-drawn Poster
Amanda from Washington Elementary, Holdrege—Grade 4

Computer-generated Poster
Aaron from Washington Elementary, Holdrege—Grade 4

Video PSA
Carrie, Karen, Ava, Saylor, Ethan, Spencer, Katelyn, Hailey, Tyler, & Marisol from Johnson County Central, Tecumseh—Grades K-4

Grades 5-8
Hand-drawn Poster
Dylan from Knickrehm Elementary, Grand Island—Grade 5

Computer-generated Poster (Tie)
Alec from Wilcox-Hildreth MS, Hildreth—Grade 6

Kristen from Cedar Hollow, Grand Island—Grade 6

Audio PSA
Tinca and Micah from Marris Magnet, Omaha—Grade 6

Video PSA
Alondra from Marris Magnet, Omaha—Grade 6

Open
Ivan from Trinity Lutheran, Grand Island—Grade 8

Grades 9-12
Computer-generated Poster
Taylor from Litchfield—Grade 10
(pictured at right)

Hand-drawn Poster
Vitoria from Lindsay Holy Family, Grade 12

Audio PSA
Chantel, Shawn, & Jacob from Lindsay Holy Family—Grade 12

Video PSA
Graham, Nathan, & Erin from Johnson-Brock, Johnson—Grade 12

April 2011 was proclaimed by Governor Dave Heineman as Internet Safety Month in Nebraska. Robert Hays (ESU#11), 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. 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 (winners listed below).

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:

CenturyLink and NETA Collaborate to Provide Teacher Grants

Applications for Due January 13, 2012

"CenturyLink is committed to making a positive difference in the communities where customers live and work, and we are proud to invest in Nebraska teachers and children."

The CenturyLink Foundation (formerly Qwest) and the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) have announced that the CenturyLink Foundation will provide at least $50,000 to support a grant program for teachers. The purpose of the program 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.

January 13, 2012, is the deadline for Nebraska public and private school teachers to apply for the grants of up to $5,000 each. Applicants will be asked to detail the goals of their project, as well as identify the hardware and software needed. The application packet will be available by September 15th for download from the NETA Web site at http://netasite.org/awards.html

Winning grant applicants will be notified prior to April 1, 2012, and will be recognized at the NETA Conference April 26, 2012.

NETA and the CenturyLink Foundation are excited to offer this opportunity to teachers across Nebraska. With school budgets tight, this provides an opportunity for teachers to implement a new, creative project into their classroom.

“CenturyLink is committed to making a positive difference in the communities where customers live and work, and we are proud to invest in Nebraska teachers and children,” said Danny Pate of CenturyLink. “We’re excited to partner with NETA and create additional resources for teachers who are using technology to provide meaningful learning experiences for their students.”

Teachers serving in private or public school districts within the CenturyLink local service area are eligible to apply. Eligible communities are listed on the next page.

If you have any questions about eligibility please contact Danny Pate from CenturyLink for clarification (see contact info below).

Teachers who are awarded a CenturyLink Foundation grant will be asked to present at the NETA Conference in 2013 and share details regarding their grant project. Winners will also be asked to submit a 6-month and one-year report on their grant to NETA.

About the CenturyLink Foundation
The CenturyLink Foundation’s core principle is that investing in people and communities provides lasting value for the future. The CenturyLink Foundation awards grants to community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on K–12 education and economic development.

The CenturyLink Foundation’s philosophy is to help build strong communities through investing in people and the places where they live and work.

Contacts:
NETA Contact
(application details)
Lynne Herr, NETA Contest Chair
402 641-5161, lherr@esu6.org

CenturyLink Contact
(CenturyLink territory info)
Danny Pate
Danny.Pate@qwest.com

(Eligible districts on the next page)
Eligible districts
Eligible school districts for the CenturyLink Foundation grants are in the following Nebraska communities:

- Ainsworth
- Alda
- Alliance
- Ames
- Angora
- Antioch
- Atkinson
- Atlanta
- Axtell
- Bellevue
- Bennington
- Big Springs
- Boys Town
- Bridgeport
- Broken Bow
- Cairo
- Central City
- Chadron
- Clarkson
- Cornlea
- Crawford
- Creston
- Cushing
- Dakota City
- Elkhorn
- Ellsworth
- Elm Creek
- Elwood
- Emerson
- Emmet
- Farwell
- Fremont
- Fullerton
- Gering
- Gothenburg
- Grand Island
- Gretna
- Hadar
- Harrison
- Holdrege
- Homer
- Howells
- Humphrey
- Inglewood
- Kimball
- Lakeside
- Laurel
- La Vista
- Leshara
- Lexington
- Loup City
- Lyons
- McCook
- Marsland
- McCook
- McLean
- Minden
- Nickerson
- Norfolk
- North Platte
- Oakland
- Ogallala
- Omaha
- O’Neill
- Oskosh
- Oxford
- Papillion
- Pender
- Pilger
- Ralston
- Randolph
- Richfield
- Rogers
- Roscoe
- Saint Libory
- Saint Paul
- Schuyler
- Scottsbluff
- Sholes
- Sidney
- Silver Creek
- Smithfield
- South Sioux City
- Sparks
- Springfield
- Tekamah
- Thurston
- Valentine
- Valley
- Venice
- Wakefield
- Washington
- Waterloo
- Wayne
- Weissert
- West Point
- Whitney
- Wood River

Award Winners from April 2011

Amanda Ganser ........... Ainsworth Community Schools
Denise McNeel .. Grand Island Northwest High School
Polly Pearson ......................... Holdrege High School
Beth Williams ......................... Humphrey St. Francis
Tony Brown ......................... Norfolk Junior High
Debra Holland & Joe Myers ..................... Norfolk HS
Deb Obermiller & Nicole Osnes . Valentine Elementary
Tamara K. Gass ......................... Valentine Middle School
Jerry Arnold ......................... Valentine Rural High School
Glen Jagels ............................. Omaha Westside
Pam Van Fleet ... Hillside Elementary, Omaha Westside
Tips for Submitting a Great NETA Contest Entry

Submitted by NETA Board Directors Jane Davis & Dawn Prescott

Read the directions!
Each contest has specific directions to streamline the process for the submitter and for those who are judging. Carefully following all directions that are listed for your contest ensures that your submission will be given the full attention of the judges. Before submitting your entry, ask yourself, have I followed all of the directions that were given to me?

When submitting contest materials, please be mindful of the following areas:

Content
Evidence of educational value. Ask yourself; is the purpose of my submission clear? The purpose should be clear and its content should reflect its purpose, be it to entertain, persuade, educate or sell. Promoting social biases (gender, racial, religious, or other types) rather than enlarging the views of the student should not be considered worthwhile.

Clear, appropriate and correct information. Make sure your material is related to the topic and does not contain offensive material.

Functionality and value-added elements
If audio, video or sound is used, be sure that the timing, placement, volume and selection add value to your project.

Spelling, grammar, punctuation and sentence structure
Proofread and edit! A good project will be downgraded if there are errors.

Effective use of space
Is the project visually appealing? Does the size, shape and color of the text complement the project? The background should also be visually appealing—flashing fonts, moving backgrounds and dizzy color patterns detract from projects.

Sequence and navigation.
Make sure that the sequence is logical and that the navigation is easy for the viewer.

Creativity and Originality
• Creative and artistic use of elements
• Demonstration of an original, unique or new idea

Well-planned color choices
Appropriate use of contrast within the color scheme should be evident. Light color text, dark color background; dark color text, light color background.

Format & design consistency
Project should have uniform layout and balance. Does the project make good use of white space?

Credits/Citations
• All works properly credited to author or illustrator
• All project sources properly cited
• All entries to the contests must be completely created by the student (or by the teacher for teacher contests).
NEW Contest for Educators!

POINT/COUNTER POINT VIDEO: Social Media

Point/Counter Point Video: Social Media

Social media is becoming increasingly pervasive in today's classrooms.
Create a 30 second video taking a side on the issue of:
Should social media be allowed in the 21st Century classroom?

Eligibility
This contest is open to Nebraska K-12 public and private school teachers. All entries must include principal's consent for contest entry and principal's contact information. Teacher category is defined as one teacher.

Contest Entries
Contest submissions should be a 30 second video, accessible from the Internet and focused on one side of the issue.

Judging and Awards
Up to six awards will be given.

Divisions of Contest
The Point/Counter Point: Social Media Contest has divisions. Places and grade divisions may be adjusted based upon the number and quality of entries received. Decisions are made at the discretion of the judges.

Teacher Divisions
Elementary, Middle and High School

The winning teacher of the Point/Counter Point Video: Social Media contest is encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The winning teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher's school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher's substitute for both days.

All entrants should refer to the NETA web site (http://netasite.org) on or after February 15, 2012 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. The entry form must be completed in full. Certificates will be mailed out to the teachers' school districts following the NETA Spring Conference. All entries must be posted online.

Guidelines:
1. Video must either argue to support or argue against the use of social media in the classroom
2. Video must be available for viewing online.
3. URL Link (Website Address) should be active and working.
4. Only the individual whose name is on the entry form is eligible for the award.
5. Copyrighted material must follow copyright and fair use guidelines.
Submission deadline
Must be postmarked on or before January 13, 2012.

Submit to:
Matt Lee
c/o Westside High School
8701 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68114

Direct contest questions to Matt Lee at mlee@westside66.org.

POINT/COUNTER POINT

Point/Counter Point Video: Social Media—Entry Form

1. Please print legibly or download interactive PDF from http://netasite.org

Grade Level (check one):  ❏ Elementary  ❏ Middle  ❏ High School

Side Taken (check one):  ❏ Social Media SHOULD be allowed  ❏ Social Media SHOULD NOT be allowed

Teacher Name ____________________________________________________________

School ____________________________________________________________________

School City, State, Zip ___________________________________________________________________

Teacher e-mail ______________________________________________________________

School phone ______________________________________________________________

The signatures below verify agreement that the entry was completely produced by the submitting teacher.

URL of entry: http:// ____________________________________________________________________

Teacher’s printed name _________________________________________________________

Teacher’s signature __________________________________ Date ________________

Principal’s printed name _______________________________________________________

Principal’s signature __________________________________ Date ________________

Principal's email ____________________________________________________________

2. Send your URL (Website Address) to Matt Lee in an e-mail.

IN THE SUBJECT LINE please put POINT/COUNTER POINT CONTEST
Copy and paste your URL (Website Address) link and e-mail to mlee@westside66.org

Mail the form above for the official entry. Deadline-Postmark on or before January 13, 2012.
We are looking for your best original digitally created comic strips!

K-12 Students and Teachers—It’s time to get creative!

- **Students**—create a comic strip that highlights your learning or showcases curriculum topics.
- **Teachers**—share with us original classroom or technology humor. The winning comics will be published throughout the year in the NETA newsletter.

**Eligibility**
This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school students and teachers. All entries must include principal’s consent for contest entries and principal’s contact information.

**Divisions and Awards**
This year there will a maximum of four winners selected from K–12 students and teachers. The number of winners per category/age group is at the discretion of the judges.

The a) sponsoring teachers of student winners and b) teacher winners of the Creative Comics Contest will be recognized at the opening session on Thursday April 26, 2012. The sponsoring or winning teacher of the creative comics contest is encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The sponsoring or winning teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher’s school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher’s substitute for both days.

All entrants are encouraged to check the NETA Website (http://www.netasite.org) for results on or after February 15, 2012. The teacher winners and sponsors of the student winners will receive notification of contest results via the email address provided on the entry form. We request that teachers (entering contest or those with students entering contest) do not register for the conference until the winners are announced. All products submitted become property of NETA and will not be returned. By submitting you agree that products may be distributed freely.

**Guidelines**
1. The digital comic must be submitted on CD as one of the following file types: .pdf, .png, .jpg, .tiff AND the image must be printed and mounted on construction paper not to exceed 8.5” by 11”.
2. The entry form must be completed and taped to the back of the construction paper with the submitted CD. Each entry MUST be on its own CD or it will be disqualified.
3. Entries must be postmarked by **January 13, 2012**.
4. Entries will not be returned.
5. Copyrighted material must follow copyright and fair use guidelines.
6. Maximum number of student entries per teacher is THREE (3). Teachers may need to complete prejudging at the school level to determine the three entries that will represent their school.

(Continued on the next page)
(Creative Comics Contest Guidelines, continued)

7. Only one entry per student or teacher (submitting teacher comic entry) is allowed.

8. All entries are to be mailed with the entry form below to:
   Lucas Bingham
   Louisville Public Schools
   202 W. 3rd Street
   Louisville, NE 68037

Direct questions to: lbingham@esu3.org

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Creative Comics Contest

Entry Form for NETA’s

Please print legibly or go to http://netasite.org to download an interactive PDF form:

Contest Category:  □ Student  □ Teacher

Entrant’s Name ____________________________________________________________

School _________________________________________________________________

School Street/PO Box Address ____________________________________________

School City, State, Zip __________________________________________________

Teacher e-mail _________________________________________________________

School phone __________________________________________________________

Project Name __________________________________________________________

The signatures below verify agreement that the entry was completely produced by the submitting student or teacher.

Entrant’s signature __________________________ Date ________________________

Teacher’s printed name __________________________(only needed for student entries)

Teacher’s signature __________________________(only needed for student entries)

Date __________________________

Principal’s printed name __________________________ Date ______________________

Principal’s signature __________________________ Principal’s email _______________________

Include this form with the entry, as described on previous page.

Deadline—Postmark on or before **January 13, 2012**. Send to the address above.

http://netasite.org
Opportunity to Attend NETA 2012
For Teachers Who Have Taught Three Years or Less!

Put your name “in the hat” to possibly win a free NETA Registration

Attention Nebraska K–12 Public/Private Teachers who are in their first three years of teaching!
If you can answer “yes” to all of the following, please submit your name for the drawing: 1) teacher with 3 years or less teaching experience, 2) has not attended NETA Conference, 3) knows that school or district does not have the means to pay registration costs, 4) has strong interest in use of technology in the classroom, 5) has principal/supervisor support.

A maximum of three names will be drawn for free NETA Conference Registrations. Each winner will be registered at no cost for the full two-day conference and winner’s school district will receive sub reimbursement for both days of the conference. (Principal’s consent for attendance required.) All three winners drawn will receive notification via email by February 15, 2012 at the email address provided on the entry form. Teachers submitting their name for the drawing should NOT register for the conference until winners are announced.

Submission deadline
The drawing form below must be postmarked on or before January 13, 2012. Direct contest questions to Nicki Markut at nicki.markut@dist145schools.org.

Please Submit Your Entry to:
Nicki Markut
Waverly Middle School
13801 Amberly Road, Box 426
Waverly, NE 68462

NETA Free Conference Drawing Entry form—please print!
Print legibly on this form or go to the NETA website at http://netasite.org to download an interactive form.

Name _____________________________________ School __________________________________________
Position (content area and grade level) __________________________________________________________
Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip) __________________________________________________________
School Address (Street, City, State, Zip) __________________________________________________________
Home Phone _______________________________ School Phone ____________________________________
Teacher’s email _____________________________ Principal’s email ________________________________
Principal’s printed name_________________________________________________________________________
Principal’s signature ___________________________________________________________________________

Certify that you meet each item below by checking in the boxes:

☐ I am teacher with 3 years or less in classroom.
☐ I have not attended the NETA Conference.
☐ I know that my school or district will not be able to pay my registration.
☐ I have a strong interest in use of technology in the classroom.
☐ I have principal/supervisor support.

Signature of applicant _____________________________________________ Date ______________________
ISTE Teacher Trek Contest
Win a Trip to ISTE 2012 in San Diego Next Summer!

This opportunity to attend ISTE 2012 (http://www.isteconference.org/ISTE/2012, June 24-27) is open to Nebraska K–12 Public or Private School Teachers.

Judging and Awards
Trips will be awarded with a maximum of $1500 each (total in awards not to exceed $9000). The winning teachers are encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference, with winners recognized on Thursday, April 26, 2012. The winning teachers will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and each teacher’s school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher’s substitute for both days. (Principal’s consent required.)

All winners will receive notification of contest results via email by February 15, 2012 at the email address provided on the entry form. Teachers should NOT register for the conference until winners are announced. All products submitted become property of NETA, and may be distributed. Creativity in submissions is encouraged!

Guidelines:
• Up to $1500 will be awarded for conference registration, coach class airfare, hotel and meals to attend ISTE 2012 in San Diego, California.
• At least six winners will be chosen (see special note on page 29).
• We are asking you to use your creative technology skills to submit your contest entry explaining how you use technology to enhance student learning and how attending ISTE 2012 would strengthen what you already do. What are you hoping to learn or gain by attending sessions at ISTE 2012?
• Projects must be able to be judged in less than 2 minutes.
• The winners will write a follow-up NETA newsletter article by July 9, 2012, explaining what projects or plans will be implemented in their classroom based upon what was learned through ISTE 2012 attendance.
• Last years’ winners are not eligible for this contest.

Submission deadline
Must be postmarked on or before January 13, 2012.
Direct questions to Nicki Markut at nicki.markut@dist145schools.org
Submit to: Nicki Markut, Waverly Middle School, 13801 Amberly Road, Box 426, Waverly, NE 68462

ISTE 2012 Trip Contest Application Form
Entry form—please print clearly or download an interactive form at http://netasite.org:

Name ___________________________________________ School _______________________
Position (content area and grade level) ________________________________________________
Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip) ________________________________________________
School Address (Street, City, State, Zip) ________________________________________________
Home Phone ___________________________ School Phone ________________________________
Teacher’s email _____________________________________________________________________
Applicant’s signature ___________________________________________________________________
Principal’s printed name _______________________________ Date ___________________________
Principal’s signature ___________________________ Principal’s email ________________________

Submit this form with application narrative described above to: Nicki Markut, Waverly Middle School, 13801 Amberly Road, Box 426, Waverly, NE 68462

http://netasite.org September 2011
Purpose
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.

Eligibility
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. 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.

Judging and Awards
The winner will be determined by a panel of Directors from the NETA Board based on the following guidelines: (Note: Technology is assumed to mean more than just computers.)

a. The nominee is NOT a K–12 classroom teacher.
b. The nominee’s work has had a significant positive impact on technology use in teaching, learning or administration; locally, regionally, statewide or nationwide.
c. The nominee has made efforts to involve the community in their work or has facilitated partnerships with business and/or other organizations to advance the use of technology in teaching, learning or administration.
d. The nominee works tirelessly to genuinely improve the quality of education.
e. The nominee has integrated deliberate planning in an effort to improve education through the use of technology.
f. The quality of education and/or work experience has been significantly advanced in the nominee’s workplace as a result of the nominee’s efforts.
h. The nominee has contributed to the profession by presenting at professional conferences, seminars and/or workshops or publishing articles in print or through electronic media.
i. The nominee’s work can be used as a model.
j. The nominee’s work reflects the mission and purpose of NETA.

The winner will receive a $600 award for use by the recipient for professional activities, which could include conference reimbursement, tuition, or subscriptions (to be spent by April 30, 2013); a plaque and will be invited to the NETA Spring Conference on Thursday, April 26, 2012, to be recognized at the opening general session. In addition, the winner of this award will become Nebraska’s nominee for the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) “Outstanding Technology Leader Award.”

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 do a short speech on their approach to integrating technology. The winner will receive a complimentary conference registration.

Please complete the nomination form and submit it along with the packet described on the next page. If you have any questions feel free to contact William Bolen by email at wbolen@esu10.org. Thank you very much for the application and we wish all of you the best of luck! ❖
Excellence in LEADING with Technology Award—Guidelines & nomination form

To nominate a technology leader, submit a nomination packet as described below. Please print legibly on this form or go to http://netasite.org to download an interactive form.

Part I: Contact Information
Nominator _____________________________________________________________
Relationship to the nominee ____________________________________________
Mailing Address ______________________________________________________
City/State/Zip ________________________________________________________
Daytime phone __________________________ E-mail address ____________________

Nominee Information
Name ________________________________________________________________
School ________________________________________________________________
Position (Please also specify building or district level) ______________________
Home address (Street, City, State, Zip) ____________________________________
School address (Street, City, State, Zip) __________________________________
Home phone ____________________________ School phone ____________________
Nominee e-mail __________________________ Superintendent's e-mail ____________
Nominee's signature __________________________ Date _________________________
Nominator's signature __________________________ Date _________________________
Superintendent's printed name __________________________________________
Superintendent's signature __________________________ Date _______________________

Part II: Nomination Statement
(To be completed by person(s) submitting the nomination.)
Please state your reasons for recommending the individual. Include a brief description of the nominee's achievements and service to teaching, learning or administration using educational technology. Discuss how the nominee has served the field in an exemplary manner. Please be as specific as possible.

Part III: Resume or Vitae
Please include a resume or vitae outlining the nominee's professional background and experience.

Part IV: Letters of Recommendation
Two to three letters of recommendation are strongly encouraged.

Submission deadline
Must be postmarked on or before January 13, 2012.

Submit to: NETA Excellence in Leading with Technology Award
c/o William Bolen
Educational Service Unit 10
76 Plaza Blvd.
Kearney, NE 68845

http://netasite.org

September 2011
Purpose
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.

Eligibility
This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school teachers. All entries must include principal's consent for contest entry and principal's contact information.

Judging and Awards
The winner will be determined by a panel of Directors from the NETA Board based on the following guidelines:
(Note: Technology is assumed to mean more than just computers.)

a. The nominee is a K–12 classroom teacher.
b. The nominee's work has had a significant positive impact on technology use in teaching and learning; locally, regionally, statewide.
c. The nominee has made efforts to involve the community in their work or has facilitated partnerships with business and/or other organizations to advance the use of technology in teaching and learning.
d. The nominee works tirelessly to genuinely improve the quality of education.
e. The nominee has integrated deliberate planning in an effort to improve education through the use of technology.
f. The quality of education and/or work experience has been significantly advanced in the nominee's workplace as a result of the nominee's efforts.
h. The nominee has contributed to the profession by presenting at professional conferences, seminars and/or workshops or publishing articles in print or through electronic media.
i. The nominee's work can be used as a model.
j. The nominee's work reflects the mission and purpose of NETA.

The winner will receive a $600 award for use by the recipient for professional activities, which could include conference reimbursement, tuition, or subscriptions (to be spent by April 30, 2013); a plaque and will be invited to the NETA Spring Conference on Thursday, April 26, 2012, to be recognized at the opening general session. In addition, the winner of this award will become Nebraska's nominee for the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) “Outstanding Technology Using Educator Award.”

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 do a short speech on their approach to integrating technology. The winning teacher of the Excellence in Teaching with Technology contest is encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The winning teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher's school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher's substitute for both days. (Principal's consent required)

Please complete the nomination form and submit it along with the packet described on the next page. If you have any questions feel free to contact William Bolen by e-mail at wbolen@esu10.org. Thank you very much for the application and we wish all of you the best of luck!
Excellence in *Teaching* with Technology Award—Guidelines & nomination form

To nominate a technology leader, submit a nomination packet as described below. Please print legibly on this form or go to [http://netasite.org](http://netasite.org) to download an interactive form.

**Part I: Contact Information**

Nominator _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Relationship to the nominee _______________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address _________________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip _______________________________ Daytime phone _______________________________ E-mail address _______________________________

**Nominee Information**

Name __________________________________________________________________________________________________

School __________________________________________________________________________________________________

Position (Content area and grade level) _____________________________________________________________________

Home address (Street, City, State, Zip) ______________________________________________________________________

School address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____________________________________________________________________

Home phone __________________________________________ School phone ____________________________________

Nominee e-mail _______________________________ Principal’s e-mail _______________________________

Nominee’s signature _______________________________ Date __________________

Nominator’s signature _______________________________ Date __________________

Principal’s printed name __________________________________________________________________________________

Principal’s signature _______________________________ Date __________________

**Part II: Nomination Statement**

(To be completed by person(s) submitting the nomination.)

Please state your reasons for recommending the individual. Include a brief description of the nominee’s achievements and service to educational technology. Discuss how the nominee has served the field in an exemplary manner. Please be as specific as possible.

**Part III: Resume or Vitae**

Please include a resume or vitae outlining the nominee’s professional background and experience.

**Part IV: Letters of Recommendation**

Two to three letters of recommendation are strongly encouraged.

**Submission deadline**

Must be postmarked on or before January 13, 2012.

**Submit to:** NETA Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award
c/o William Bolen
Educational Service Unit 10
76 Plaza Blvd.
Kearney, NE 68845
NETA’s 2012 Technology Grant Program

Purpose
To further encourage the linking of technology to the curriculum, NETA is proud to continue the Technology Grant Program. NETA wants to encourage projects that directly integrate different types of technology into different subject areas (including across the curriculum) and different grade levels. The desire would be that selected grant projects would be beneficial to many educators and students (not just one individual or situation).

Eligibility
This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school teachers. All entries must include the appropriate principal’s consent for contest entry and the principal’s contact information.

Judging and Awards
Grants will be awarded with a maximum of $1500 each (total in awards not to exceed $9000). Each winner will be invited to the NETA Spring Conference on April 26-27, 2012, to be recognized at Thursday’s opening general session. The sponsoring (winning) teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher’s school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher’s substitute for both days. (Principal’s consent required.)

All winners will receive notification of contest results via email by February 15, 2012 at the email address provided on the entry form. Teachers should NOT register for the conference until winners are announced.

All products submitted become property of NETA, and may be distributed freely.

Guidelines
· Grants awarded will have a maximum of $1500 each.
· Materials purchased with NETA grant money will belong to the recipient’s school district, not to the individual.
· A hard copy “midterm” progress report is due by December 1, 2012. (This is to keep the NETA Board up-to-date with the progress of the grants and aware of any problems that may arise.) Progress reports will be published in the NETA newsletter.
· Grant recipients will be required to present their project at the following NETA Conference as a poster session.
· Grant recipients will be announced at the NETA Conference Opening Session and in the NETA newsletter.
· Grant recipients will submit a hard copy final report by July 1, 2013, of less than 250 words that describes activities, software, and the impact on students that can be printed in NETA’s newsletter.
· 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. This decision will be made by the judges, and the judges’ decision is final. Teachers may submit different applications over time. However, a teacher may not win in consecutive years.

Submission deadline—Must be postmarked by January 13, 2012.

The Application
Using a maximum of three pages, please answer the following questions and be as specific as possible.
1) Describe your project in one paragraph or less
2) Include a month by month timeline.
3) Describe how the students will use the equipment and items purchased.
4) Discuss the goals or outcomes you hope to see in your students as result of implementing this project.
5) Itemize your budget needs in table format. Be sure to list vendors, shipping costs, and use exact numbers (not estimates or rounded numbers)
6) Describe your evaluation process and how you will determine the project’s success using the data collected.
7) Describe how you will share your results and successes beyond the classroom and with the NETA membership.

Direct contest questions to: nbadgley@esu10.org. Submit this application narrative with the form on the next page.
Technology Grant Application Form

Read the grant guidelines on the previous page and submit the required narrative with the form below.

Entry form

Please print legibly or go to http://netasite.org to download an interactive PDF form.

Name ________________________________________________________________

School __________________________________________________________________

Position (Content area and grade level) ____________________________________

Home address (Street, City, State, Zip) ______________________________________

School address (Street, City, State, Zip) ______________________________________

Home phone ___________________________ School phone________________________

Teacher's e-mail __________________________ Principal's e-mail__________________

Applicant's signature __________________________ Date ________________________

Principal's printed name __________________________ Date ______________________

Principal's signature __________________________ Principal's email ______________


Submit this form with application narrative described on previous page to:

Nicole Badgley
Arnold Public Schools
405 N Haskell
Arnold, NE 69120

Special Note about the NETA Grants and the ISTE Teacher Trek Contest

(ISTE contest described on page 23.)

- The total amount of money allotted for BOTH the Grant Awards and the ISTE Trip awards is $9000.

- There will be at least six winners of up to $1500 from Grants and ISTE contests combined. The winners can be in any combination from the two opportunities, depending on the number and quality of entries.

- Questions should be directed to Lynne Herr, Contests Coordinator, at lherr@esu6.org
K-12 NETA Conference Logo Contest

Create a design for the NETA Spring Conference 2012—
25 Years of Innovation

Purpose
Encourage students' creativity by entering artwork created with computers in the NETA Conference Logo Contest.

Eligibility
This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school students. All entries must include principal's consent for contest entry and principal's contact information. Only individual entries will be accepted—no group entries.

Judging and Awards
The winning design will be used on the conference materials, T-shirts and will also be published in the NETA newsletter and/or on the NETA website and shown at the conference. The Logo Contest winner will receive an award and a complimentary T-shirt and Conference program featuring their design. Each contest entry must be sponsored by the entering student's current classroom teacher, and each teacher may sponsor a maximum of three entries. The sponsoring teacher of the Logo Contest Winner is encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The sponsoring teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher's school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher's substitute for both days.

All entrants are encouraged to check the NETA Website (http://www.netasite.org) for results on or after February 15, 2012. The Logo Contest winner and their teacher sponsor will receive notification of contest results via e-mail at the email address provided on the entry form. We request that sponsoring teachers do not register for the conference until the winner is announced. All products submitted become property of NETA and may be distributed freely. Decisions are at the discretion of the judges. Entries will not be returned.

Guidelines:
1. The graphic must be computer-generated from scratch (no clip art of any kind).
2. There is a four color maximum (black counts as one color, as does white). The entry may be printed in color or be printed in black on white paper with the design "colored" in, but students are encouraged to use a good color ink jet or color laser printer.
3. The design should contain "NETA," the conference theme "25 Years of Innovation" and the year 2012. All words contained in the graphics must be spelled correctly.
4. The design may be no larger than 8.5” by 11”.
5. The entry must be mounted on a 9” by 12” piece of construction paper.
6. The entry blank on the next page must be completed and scotch taped to the back of the construction paper.
7. The entry must also be sent on a CD in its original file format format (.psd, .ai, etc.), including layers (if applicable). Any fonts used in the entry should also be sent with the graphic.
9. The winner must be prepared to immediately submit the graphic and any fonts used by e-mail attachment immediately after judging.
10. All entries are to be mailed with the form on the following page to:
   Jason Rushing
   Humann Elementary
   6720 Rockwood Lane
   Lincoln NE 68516

Earlier Deadline
December 16, 2011
Note: Entries will not be returned. Maximum number of entries per teacher is THREE (3). You will need to do some prejudging at your school and only send in your three best entries.

Questions should be directed to the address on the form or e-mailed to the following address: jrushing@lps.org.

*NETA stands for Nebraska Educational Technology Association. Members are teachers, college students interested in teaching, technology specialists and college professors. NETA is committed to helping kids learn by using computers and any other kind of modern technology. Over 2200 members attend the spring conference each year.

K-12 NETA Conference Logo Contest

Entry Form

Please print legibly or go to http://netasite.org to download an interactive PDF form:

Student Name _____________________________________________________________

School ___________________________ Grade ________________________________

School Street/PO Box Address ______________________________________________

School City, State, Zip _____________________________________________________

Teacher e-mail ___________________________ Principal e-mail ___________________________

School phone ___________________________ Computer used ___________________________

The signatures below verify agreement that the entry was completely produced by the submitting student.

Student signature ___________________________ Date _____________________________

Teacher’s printed name _____________________________________________________

Teacher’s signature ___________________________ Date _____________________________

Principal’s printed name ____________________________________________________

Principal’s signature ___________________________ Date _____________________________

Include this form to the back of the entry, as described on previous page.

Deadline—Postmark on or before December 16, 2011.

Mail to:

Jason Rushing
Humann Elementary
6720 Rockwood Lane
Lincoln, NE 68516
Web 2.0 Tools Student Collaboration Contest

Web 2.0 Tools—Student Collaboration Contest

Web 2.0 tools are characterized as online tools to encourage and foster communication, information sharing and knowledge in a user-centered design, allowing the user to navigate through the information and therefore interact with it.

Eligibility
This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school students. All entries must include principal's consent for contest entry and principal's contact information.

Contest Examples
Examples of interactive entries: classroom blogs, wikis, web pages, online interactive classroom newsletters or educational social networking sites e.g. ning.

Judging and Awards
Up to three places will be awarded in each division of the contest. Certificates will be given to the winning student groups.

Each teacher may sponsor only one entry and each entry may be sponsored by only one teacher.

Divisions of Contest
The Web 2.0 Tools Contest has divisions. Places and grade divisions may be adjusted based upon the number and quality of entries received. Decisions are made at the discretion of the judges.

Student Divisions
Grades K–4, Grades 5–8, Grades 9–12

Each contest entry must be sponsored by the entering student’s classroom teacher. The sponsoring (winning) teacher of the Student Web 2.0 Tools contest is encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The sponsoring (winning) teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher’s school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher’s substitute for both days.

All entrants should refer to the NETA web site (http://netasite.org) on or after February 15, 2012 for contest results. We request that sponsoring teachers 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. The entry form must be completed in full. Awards will be mailed out to the students’ school districts following the NETA Spring Conference. All entries must be posted online.

Guidelines
1. Evidence of educational value.
2. Completely accessible online.
3. Any links, including audio or video, must be functional.
5. Copyrighted material must follow copyright and fair use guidelines.
6. Project is sustainable.
7. URL Link (Website Address) should be active and working.

(Entry form on the next page)
Submission deadline
Must be postmarked on or before January 13, 2012

Submit to: Jane Davis
c/o Hershey Public School
Box 369
Hershey, NE 69143

Direct contest questions to Jane Davis at jdavis@esu16.org

Web 2.0 Student Collaboration—Entry Form

Web 2.0 Tools Student

1. Please print legibly or download interactive PDF from http://netasite.org

Grade Level (check one): ❑ K–4 ❑ 5–8 ❑ 9–12

Student Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

School ____________________________________________________________

School Street Address ______________________________________________________

School City, State, Zip _______________________________________________________

Teacher e-mail ____________________________________________________________

School phone ___________________________ Project name __________________________

The signatures below verify agreement that the entry was completely produced by the submitting student(s).

URL of entry: http:// ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Student signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Teacher’s printed name ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Teacher’s signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Principal’s printed name ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Principal’s signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

Principal’s email ___________________________

2. Please include a short description of how your project was utilized in the curriculum.

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

3. URL and all links must work properly. Please test them before sending your email.

4. Send your URL (Website Address) to Jane Davis in an e-mail.

INTHE SUBJECT LINE please put STUDENT WEB 2.0 CONTEST
Copy and paste your URL (Website Address) link and e-mail to jdavis@esu16.org

Mail the form above for the official entry. Deadline—Postmark on or before January 13, 2012.
Web 2.0 Tools—Teacher Collaboration Project Contest

*Web 2.0 tools are characterized as tools to encourage and foster communication, information sharing and knowledge in a user-centered design, allowing the user to navigate through the information and therefore interact with it.*

**Eligibility**
This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school teachers. All entries must include principal’s consent for contest entry and principal’s contact information. Teacher category is defined as one teacher.

**Contest Examples**
Examples of interactive entries: classroom blogs, wikis, web pages, online interactive classroom newsletters or educational social networking sites e.g. ning.

**Judging and Awards**
Three awards will be given. The winning teachers of the Web 2.0 Tools Teacher contest are encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The winning teachers will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teachers’ school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for the teachers’ substitutes for both days.

**Divisions of Contest**
The Web 2.0 Tools Contest has divisions. Grade divisions may be adjusted based upon the number and quality of entries received. Decisions are made at the discretion of the judges.

**Teacher Divisions**
Grades K–4, Grades 5–8, Grades 9–12

All entrants should refer to the NETA web site ([http://netasite.org](http://netasite.org)) on or after February 15, 2012 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. The entry 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 posted online.

**Guidelines:**
1. Evidence of educational value.
2. Accessible online.
3. Any links, including audio or video, must be functional.
5. Copyrighted material must follow copyright and fair use guidelines.
6. Project is sustainable.
7. URL Link (Website Address) should be active and working.

*(Entry form on the next page)*
**Web 2.0 Tools Teacher**

Web 2.0 Teacher Collaboration—Entry Form

1. Please print legibly or download interactive PDF from http://netasite.org

   Grade Level (check one):  ■ K–4  ■ 5–8  ■ 9–12

   Teacher Name(s) ___________________________________________________________________________________

   School __________________________________________________________________________________________

   School Street Address ______________________________________________________________________________

   School City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________________________________

   Teacher e-mail ____________________________________________________________________________________

   School phone ___________________________ Project name ________________________________

   The signatures below verify agreement that the entry was completely produced by the submitting teacher.

   URL of entry: http:// ________________________________________________________________________________

   Teacher’s printed name ________________________________________________ Date ____________________________

   Teacher’s signature ___________________________ Date ____________________________

   Principal’s printed name ________________________________________________ Date ____________________________

   Principal’s signature ___________________________ Date ____________________________

   Principal’s email ________________________________________________

2. Please include a short description of how your project was utilized in your curriculum.

   ________________________________________________________________________________________________

   ________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. URL and all links must work properly. Please test them before sending your email.

4. Send your URL (Website Address) to Dawn Prescott in an e-mail.

   IN THE SUBJECT LINE please put TEACHER WEB 2.0 CONTEST
   Copy and paste your URL (Website Address) link and e-mail to dprescot@esu7.org

   Mail the form above for the official entry. Deadline—Postmark on or before **January 13, 2012**.

   http://netasite.org
NETA’s 2012
K-12 Graphic Imagery Contest

Entries in the graphic imagery contest could include:
- digital photographs
- images that have been digitally enhanced
- hand drawn images
- others...be creative

All entries should be original work created by the individual submitting the entry—clip art should NOT be used.

Eligibility
This contest is open to Nebraska K–12 public and private school students. All entries must include principal's consent for contest entry and principal’s contact information.

Judging and Awards
- There will be a maximum of 12 winners for this contest. The number of winners per category/age group is at the discretion of the judges.
- The sponsoring teacher will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher’s school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teacher’s substitute for both days.
- Each contest entry must be sponsored by the student’s current classroom teacher.
- Each teacher may sponsor a maximum of three entries.

Divisions are as follows: Grades K–2, Grades 3–5, Grades 6–8, and Grades 9–12.
All entries to the contest must be completely created by the student. First, second and third places will receive awards.

All entrants should refer to the NETA website (http://www.netasite.org) on or after February 15, 2012, for contest results. Letters will be sent via US mail to winning teachers and students with conference information at a later date.

We request that sponsoring teachers do not register for the conference until winners are announced.
All products submitted become property of NETA and may be distributed freely. The graphic imagery contest has divisions. Places may be adjusted based on the number and quality of entries received. Decisions are at the discretion of the judges.

Guidelines:
1. Students shall digitally capture, create, enhance or draw the graphic image themselves as an original work. (No clip art or Creative Commons images. Must be original image made or taken by student.)
2. Students are permitted to create their image using a digital camera, image creation program, drawing tablet, or other digital device.
3. The digital image must be submitted on CD as one of the following file types: .pdf, .png, .jpg, .tiff AND the image must be printed and mounted on card stock or construction paper not to exceed 9” by 12”.
4. The entry blank must be completed and taped to the back of the construction paper with the submitted CD. Each entry MUST be on its own CD or it will be disqualified.
6. Entries will not be returned.

(Continued on the next page)
7. Maximum number of entries per teacher is THREE (3). Teachers may need to complete prejudging at the school level to determine the three entries submitted.

8. Only one entry per student is allowed.

9. All entries are to be mailed with the entry form below to:
   Jackie Ediger
   ESU#9
   1117 E South Street
   Hastings, Nebraska 68901

10. Direct questions to: jediger@esu9.org

NETA K-12 Graphic Imagery Contest
Entry Form—Please Print:
Entry form—please print legibly or download an interactive form at http://netasite.org

Student Name ____________________________________________________________

School ____________________________________________________ Grade ______________

School Street/PO Box Address ______________________________________________

School City, State, Zip _____________________________________________________

Teacher e-mail ____________________________ Principal email ____________________________

School phone ______________________________

Describe the software and process used in the creation of this project: ______________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________

The signatures below verify agreement that the entry was completely produced by the submitting student.

Student signature ______________________________ Date _____________________________

Teacher’s printed name _________________________________________________________

Teacher’s signature ______________________________ Date _____________________________

Principal’s printed name _________________________________________________________

Principal’s signature ______________________________ Date _____________________________

Deadline—Postmark on or before January 13, 2012.

Mail to:
   Jackie Ediger
   ESU#9
   1117 E South Street
   Hastings, Nebraska 68901

Checklist for Entry:
- Entry mounted on construction paper or cardstock
- The form below completed and on the back of the entry.
- One CD per entry as described in the guidelines
NETA News

NETA’s 2012

K–12 Open Class Contest

Write a great computer app? Send it to us! Create an awesome desktop publishing file? We’d love to see it! Do you have a digital story to tell? A cool animation? A podcast? An original music composition? We want them all!

The Rules? They’re simple: (1) Contest is open to K–12 students in Nebraska public or private schools. (2) Each student may enter a maximum of two projects in this contest. (3) Students do not require teacher sponsorship to enter this contest, but are required to list adult (teacher or parent) contact information. (4) Projects entered in this contest may NOT be entered in any other NETA contest. (5) Entries should be submitted under one of the four Contest categories (Audio, Video, Animation, Other). (6) If an entry is eligible to be submitted under any other NETA contest, it may not be submitted to Open Class Contest. (7) Entries become property of NETA and will not be returned.

Divisions and Awards: This year there will be three age group divisions: K–4, 5–8, and 9–12. The number of winners per category/age group is at the discretion of the judges. All entrants should check the NETA website (http://www.netasite.org) on or after February 15, 2012 to view the list of winners. Winners will be notified at the email(s) provided on the entry form by February 15, 2012.

Guidelines:
1. The type of digital media accepted is wide open. However, if you are using a program, please include a player for that program, or compress to one of these file formats (.mp3, .mov, .pdf, .jpg, .gif, .swf, or .html)
2. For judging purposes, entries must not take longer than 5 minutes to review.
4. For judging purposes, we are requiring only one entry per CD / DVD.
5. Entries must be accompanied by the form below.

Submission deadline
Must be postmarked on or before January 13, 2012. Direct questions to Jason Rushing at jrushing@lps.org

Submit to: Jason Rushing, c/o Humann Elementary, 6720 Rockwood Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516

Entry Form for NETA Open Class Digital Media Contest

Please print legibly or download an interactive PDF form from http://netasite.org

Student Name ____________________________________________________________________________________
Grade _____________________ School name _________________________________________________________
School address (City, State, Zip) ___________________________________________________________________
Contact Name _________________________________ Contact Email ___________________________________
Student Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _______________________________________________________

Select one: ( ) Audio ( ) Video ( ) Animation ( ) Other
Age Group: ( ) K–4 ( ) 5–8 ( ) 9–12
Describe the process and software used to create this project: ____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

The signature below verifies that the entry was completely produced by the submitting student.

Student signature ______________________________________ Date _____________________________________

Students: Please include this form with your entry. Deadline—Postmark on or before January 13, 2012.
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

October 2011

ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection)
October 16–18, 2011
Polk County Convention Center
Des Moines, IA
itec-ia.org/en/conference/

Nebraska Distance Learning Association (NDLA)
October 28, 2011
Durham Western Heritage Museum, Omaha
bit.ly/bPCXII

January 2012

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

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

February 2012

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

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

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

NETA Spring Conference
25 Years of Innovation!
April 26–27, 2012
La Vista Embassy Suites & Conference Center
LaVista, NE
http://netasite.org

March 2012

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

April 2012

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

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

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

June 2012

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

ISTE Conference
Expanding Horizons
June 24–27, 2012
San Diego, CA
www.isteconference.org/2011/
NETA Statement of Purpose: The Nebraska Educational Technology Association exists for the purpose of providing leadership and promoting the application of technology to the educational process. Its span of interest includes all levels and aspects of education.

Name ____________________________ Position ____________________________

Preferred Address ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ________ Zip _________________

Home Phone ____________________________ Work Phone ____________________________

School/Agency Name ____________________________ e-mail ____________________________

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

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

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

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