What is Your Passion?

CALL IT WHATEVER YOU WISH—passion, creative expression, enthusiasm, frenzy, etc.—I believe we all have an inner desire to do something, to be something, great. Most of you reading this article are involved in education in some way. So why did you become a teacher? A technology enthusiast? What drives you to do what you do?

I think about these questions many times throughout the year, and in recent weeks it has come up again. The NETA board spent three outstanding days preparing for our two upcoming conferences. The fall conference in Kearney on Oct. 9th & 10th; and the spring conference in Omaha at our new venue, the CenturyLink Center, on April 23rd & 24th. We talked about many things during those three days, and those conversations revolved around a simple question—what drives NETA? What is it about the conference that people are passionate about? Why do you serve on the NETA board?

After sifting through the survey results from our 2014 conference, here are a few responses that I think illustrate what drives NETA:

- “Connecting with peers across the state and from Iowa! Having a variety of presentations to choose from! There is always something for everyone at NETA!”
- “Great sessions! Great vendors! Had one of the best NETAs so far!”
- “So many fabulous presenters! My brain is swimming. The location was very clean and comfortable.”
- “As an I.T. person working in higher ed, I appreciated getting to see and network with local Ed. Tech professionals.”
- “Wifi was great. Exceptional people. Loved the conversation sessions.”
- “All the sessions I attended were GREAT! I came away with many new things to use and share!”
- “The opportunity to network and collaborate with great people from across the state.”

(Continued on page 13)
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PO Box 484, Gretna, NE 68028
Phone (402) 540-1904
e-mail: executivedirector@netasite.org
http://netasite.org

NETA Officers and Board of Directors

Jason Everett ............. Past President
ESU 10
jason.everett@netasite.org

Gregg Robke ..................President
ESU 4
gregg.robke@netasite.org

Josh Allen ................. President Elect
Lewis Central Community Schools
josh.allen@netasite.org

Darci Lindgren ............. Secretary
Lindsay Holy Family School
darci.lindgren@netasite.org

Rich Molettieri .......... Treasurer
Omaha Public Schools
rich.molettiere@netasite.org

Craig Badura ............ Board 2015
Aurora Public Schools
craig.badura@netasite.org

Jackie Ediger ............ Board 2015
ESU 9
jackie.ediger@netasite.org

Patty Wolfe ............. Board 2015
Cozad Community Schools
patty.wolfe@netasite.org

Nick Ziegler ............ Board 2015
ESU 5
nick.ziegler@netasite.org

Heather Callihan ........ Board 2016
Northwest Public Schools
heather.callihan@netasite.org

Tina Sauser ............ Board 2016
Boone Central Schools
tina.sauser@netasite.org

Jason Schmidt ............ Board 2016
Bennington Public Schools
jason.schmidt@netasite.org

Angie Wassenmiller ...... Board 2016
Concordia University
angie.wassenmiller@netasite.org

Matthew Lee .......... Board 2017
Westside Community Schools
matthew.lee@netasite.org

Kristina Peters .......... Board 2017
Nebraska Department of Education
kristina.peters@netasite.org

Kent Steen .............. Board 2017
Lincoln Public Schools
kent.steen@netasite.org

Evi Wusk .................. Board 2017
Peru State College
evi.wusk@netasite.org

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If you can share a success story related to technology in the classroom, or a software solution review, we’d love to print it in a future newsletter. For making the contribution, you will receive a 2015 Spring Conference T-shirt.

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

NETA Executive Officers and Coordinators

Julie Moore ............ Executive Director
executivedirector@netasite.org

Lynn Behounek ........ Site Coordinator
Ralston Public Schools
lynn.behounek@netasite.org

Tom Roifes ............ Executive Liaison
Office of the CIO-NITC
tom.roifes@netasite.org

Lynne Herr ........ Contest Coordinator
ESU 6
lynn.herr@netasite.org

Bob Goeman ......... Co-Exhibitor Coordinator
exhibitorcoordinator@netasite.org

Lucas Bingham ....... Web Coordinator
School District 145 of Waverly
lucas.bingham@netasite.org

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September 2014
http://netasite.org
Message from the President Elect

Listening While On the Move

You always hear companies and organizations say “Oh yeah, we would love your feedback,” but how many really listen? Do you think that NETA has listened to feedback from our membership? While we cannot please everyone—because frankly, some of you contradict each other!—we learn a lot from your feedback on what you like and how we can improve the events that we hold. Especially within the past few years, I hope you have seen that.

During my first term on the Board, the two things that I heard most from members either face to face, via social media, or in conference surveys, was the need for an event farther west and more space during the spring conference. So, in the spring of 2013, we announced both! I mean, why ease into it, right?

NCSA Partnership

We partnered with the Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA; http://www.ncsa.org/) to hold our first fall conference in Kearney in October 2013. In its inaugural year, we reached the maximum number of registrations we could accept, a number in place due mainly to the logistics of serving lunch. The approval rating was extremely high, something we felt very proud of since it was our first event in a new town and location! Because of its success, we worked with the Younes Conference Center staff to reorganize some things, allowing us to raise that maximum number of participants to 800 for our second fall conference, which will be held October 9-10, 2014 (for more information, visit http://fall.netasite.org).

The Big Move

The other big announcement NETA made in the spring of 2013 was that our spring conference, the organization’s big event, was moving to the largest conference space on the Plains—the CenturyLink Center in downtown Omaha. When the conference moved to the La Vista Conference Center in 2009 (my first conference on the Board!), it quickly became apparent that we had already physically filled that space. It is a beautiful venue, easy to get to, and has a staff that bent over backward for us. However, all 2300+ of you took up too much room! As more educators kept attending the conference each year, we knew a change had to happen. As we move downtown to the CenturyLink, we know there are going to be questions.

Time to Plan

It was very exciting during our Board retreat in July to be able to take a day and let the Board wander, both physically and mentally, through the CenturyLink Center. You could see their wheels start turning as they began to take ownership of the new areas we get to work in. A lot of great ideas came out of those three days and we hope you will find that the 2015 Conference is both bigger and better.

Save the Date!

NETA Spring Conference
April 23-24, 2015

NETA...On the Move

CenturyLink Center Omaha
http://netasite.org
NETA News

NETA 2014 Photo Gallery
Reviews from the ISTE 2014 Experience!

Heather Callihan, Northwest Public Schools

ISTE as a Newbie

Tech Coaching—ISTE 2014 in Atlanta was a memorable and reflective experience for me. As an “ISTE Newbie” I had mixed emotions as to what I should expect. I was prepared to be overwhelmed and that was definitely my initial feeling upon arrival. This feeling did not change; however, the networking, learning and enthusiasm that radiated throughout the conference trumped any overwhelming feelings that lingered.

Networking was a huge part of ISTE for me. Attendees were constantly connecting via Twitter, PLN Lounges and the ISTE Network game. These connections not only opened up learning opportunities during my time in Atlanta, but provided lasting opportunities for learning and collaborating from this point forward. I felt that I gained a new idea or tool standing in every waiting line. Whether I was waiting for my morning Starbucks, for the rain to subside or just waiting in line for a session, I had engaging conversations with complete strangers that were always full of ideas, tools and things I couldn’t wait to share.

It took me some time to sort out my notes of all that I “took away” from ISTE. I felt like a sponge in an ocean. I would absorb a bunch of new ideas or tools in a session, squeeze them out on a Google Document and then soak up more greatness from sessions, playgrounds, poster sessions, vendors and attendees, all while continuing to squeeze the greatness onto my Google Document. My sponge was quickly filling up and curating the greatness seemed overwhelming at times. In my recent read, “Teach Like a Pirate” by Dave Burgess, I was reminded the importance of curating my ideas. My sponge was filling up with links, apps, extensions and ideas that I must sort and share. As a technology integrationist/coach, I took away several Google, web, and app tools to use and share with teachers. I love learning new tools that give that “ohhhhhhh” response. Beyond helpful tools, sites and apps, I felt drawn to sessions focused on tech coaching. It was great to listen and gain ideas from other districts as Technology Integrationist/Coaching positions continue to grow and develop. Relationship, Relevance and Reflection, or the Three R’s of tech coaching, really seemed to summarize the mission behind this growing position. As technology advances and those in education are forced to stay on top of the technology trends, tech coaches are vital. I truly feel that it is the Relationships, Relevance and Reflection that guide the success and validity to this position. As we work together to stay on top of the latest and greatest with technology and engaging children, we must work as an education team as well. Building Relationships, finding Relevance to technology tools and ideas and truly Reflecting on the process is key. As the summer comes to an end and I start “squeezing” my sponge of knowledge, I look forward to sharing and growing with others in the changing world of education.

Until next ISTE...

(Reviews from ISTE 2014 Experiences continued on the next page)

NETA Reception at ISTE

NETA again sponsored a reception during the ISTE 2014 Conference in Atlanta, GA. Appreciation goes to Academic Superstore for helping to sponsor the event. Over 70 conference participants attended the event at the Hudson Grille Downtown and enjoyed networking and catching up with friends throughout Nebraska and beyond.

Please plan to join us June 28–July 1, 2015 at the ISTE Conference, to be held in Philadelphia, PA! ✍
The ConnectED Initiative

Educators attend the ISTE Conference for many different reasons—to take workshops, attend breakout sessions, visit the exhibition hall, network with colleagues, and for me, to get the latest, firsthand information about national policies and funding that will impact Nebraska students, teachers, and schools.

You may remember President Obama’s June 6, 2013 announcement about modernizing the E-rate program and connecting 99% of our nation’s students to high quality learning opportunities through technology. As of today, both initiatives are moving forward.

On July 11, 2014, the FCC voted 3-2 to approve the 7th Report & Order, which promises to make major changes to the E-rate program, not the least of which is to release $2 billion in one-time funding for internal WiFi connections for ALL schools and libraries. Download and read the actual Order from here: http://bit.ly/1r7ETfu (7/23/2014).

In addition to E-rate modernization, the ConnectED Initiative also included over $2 billion in pledges by 10 private companies to provide free or discounted services and products for K-12 students, teachers, and schools. I want to thank the State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA) for convening a private sector showcase at the ISTE Conference, highlighting each of these sponsors:

Adobe—Adobe will provide more than $300 million worth of free software to teachers and students, including Photoshop Elements and Premiere Elements for creative projects; Presenter and Captivate to amplify e-Learning; EchoSign for school workflow; and a range of teacher training resources. Apply online from this page http://edex.adobe.com/connected. Contact Linda Dickeson for further questions: ldickes@lps.org

Apple—Apple has pledged $100 million in iPads, MacBooks, and other products along with content and professional development to enrich learning in disadvantaged schools (>96% Free/reduced lunch), including interactive learning tools and ongoing support. Final applications were due July 25.

AT&T—AT&T has committed to providing a broad array of services that enable a comprehensive tablet-based education capability to 50,000 middle and high school students in Title I districts. Schools and districts can apply now for this AT&T Aspire program. Visit http://www.connectednation.org/attaspire

Autodesk—Autodesk is making available $250 million of 3D design software, project-based curricula, training and certification to every middle and high school in the United States in 2014. Educators may register at http://www.autodesk.com/campaigns/design-the-future-us/home

ESRI—ESRI will provide FREE access to ArcGIS Online software to every K–12 school in the United States. Press the Start button from this page http://connected.esri.com. Also please notify Harris Payne at the Nebraska Department of Education, harris.payne@nebraska.gov, once the school account is created.

Microsoft—Microsoft has created a new affordability program open to all U.S. K–12 public schools to connect 99 percent of America’s students to the digital age within five years. The program includes options for schools of all sizes and with varying levels of need for cost, technology, and services. Visit http://www.microsoft.com/education/ww/products/Pages/connected.aspx#

O’Reilly Media—O’Reilly Media is partnering with Safari Books Online to provide over $100 million of free online access for high school students to every book and video course O’Reilly Media has ever published, starting in September 2014. Visit http://k12.safari.do/

Prezi—Prezi has committed to provide Edu Pro, a program for creating memorable presentations, licenses for Title I high schools and all educators across America. Visit http://www.prezi.com/connected

Sprint—Sprint has committed to provide high-speed wireless broadband service for up to 50,000 students at schools across the country starting in August 2014 and over the next four years. Visit http://ecenter.custhelp.com/app/landing_page/ConnectEDHome_lp

Verizon—Verizon is investing up to $100 million in cash and in-kind services over the next three years to reach more than 1,000 schools across the United States. Applications for the Verizon Mobile Learning Academy begin in the Fall of 2014: http://www.iste.org/lead/verizon-mobile-learning-academy

I encourage you, as a NETA member, to take the lead in researching these opportunities for your district or school, and to apply where appropriate. ❖
ISTE Teacher Trek 2014 Reports

These articles have been submitted by the 2014 winners of the ISTE Teacher Trek Contest. Teachers received $1800 towards their expenses to attend the national conference in Atlanta, GA. See page 25 for details on this year’s contest.

Abby Fitzgerald
Bennington Elementary

When I think back on my first trip to ISTE this year, only one word comes to mind: AWESOME. There were so many things to see, sessions to attend, people to meet, and networking to be done. It was by far, one of the coolest educational experiences I have had thus far in my teaching career. After reading through the ten pages of notes that I took throughout the conference, here are a few big ideas that really inspired me:

Maker Spaces
I love the idea of creativity moving back into education. Allowing students to learn through creation and trial and error is such a powerful idea for both students and educators.

Personalized PD
The fact that education is moving away from a “one-size-fits-all” approach to professional development is inspiring to me. As a teacher, we should be able to pick an area of growth, and move in that direction.

Infographics
I am so excited to incorporate these in my classroom this year.

3D Printing
This is so cool, and bound to hook kids. There are so many applications and out-of-the-box ideas that can be connected in the classroom.

My first experience at ISTE is one that I will not soon forget. I am so fortunate and thankful for this wonderful opportunity provided by NETA. I met many amazing educators from all over the world, and cannot wait to incorporate the myriad of new ideas in my classroom this year. I also made numerous and beneficial connections with people from Nebraska that I may have never met otherwise. I was reminded of the power of connections, whether that is with someone in your city, or in another country.

We, as educators, can work together to truly make a difference in the lives of the students we work with every day. As one of the keynote speakers, Kevin Carroll stated, “When we bring our collective energy around, something—anything is possible. We can do magical things together; we can inspire others by our joined effort.”

James Reed
Southern Valley Jr/Sr High

I would like to thank the NETA board for selecting me to go to the ISTE 2014 conference in Atlanta. This was one of the best, if not the best, professional development events I have attended. I attended several outstanding sessions which will help me in teaching my history and technology classes.

One of the sessions I attended reinforced my belief that anyone can learn technology. I was sitting in a 3D Gaming workshop developing a “frogger” game and doing great following directions. I had my frog, the lanes on the highway, and the cars all created and was able to control their movements when a person walked in late and asked for help in catching up. I tried to help, but in doing so lost out on a couple of pieces of information, so my cars all stacked up at the “end” of the highway instead of disappearing and reappearing at the “beginning.”

The lesson I learned is that if we can follow directions, we can learn almost anything. I hope some of my “technology resistant” colleagues will see this and realize that technology is not something to fear, but something to embrace and add to the arsenal of tools they already use in the classroom. However, if we go too fast or don’t make sure all students are on task, and provide a good learning environment where students feel comfortable asking questions, they could end up with a similar experience to the one I had, almost completing a project.

I was also able to visit the vendors and the setup was quite impressive. I spent part of one day at Google in Education and learned more about Google Classroom. Other highlights included the NETA social gathering, as well as exploring Centennial Park in downtown Atlanta.

Now that I have attended ISTE, I can’t wait to go back! ❖
New Board Members

Farewell—Nicole Badgley and Brent Catlett left the NETA Board in April. Nicole has actively served on the NETA board helping with contests and the 1:1 community group. Brent served on the NETA board for one year participating in the facilities and finance committees. We wish both Nicole and Brent success in their individual future endeavors!

We would like to welcome Patty Wolfe and Nick Ziegler to the NETA board. They had the next highest number of votes from the NETA Board election last winter, so we asked both Patty and Nick to join the board to fill Nicole and Brent’s open positions. Patty and Nick attended the July retreat and have already been actively participating in committees. Patty Wolfe is a Technology Integration Coordinator for the Cozad Community School district. Nick Ziegler is a Technology Integration Specialist at Nebraska’s Educational Service Unit #5 in Beatrice. We look forward to working with you, Patty and Nick!

CenturyLink/NETA Grants

What about the grants?
If you are looking for the grant information for the CenturyLink/NETA grants, those are not being published at this time. CenturyLink is investigating funding options for the 2015 grants, but arrangements have not been finalized.

If CenturyLink/NETA grants are going to be available, we will publish the information in a newsletter, post the application forms on our web site, and notify you through our monthly NewsGrams sent to all NETA members.

Questions?
Please address any questions to Dr. Lynne Herr, NETA Contest Chair, at lynne.herr@netasite.org.

By Corey Dahl, Instructional Technology Facilitator, ESU #8—https://www.flickr.com/photos/coreydahl/
Tech Coordinators and 1:1 Community

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

The Tech Coordinators Meeting will be Thursday, October 9, 2014, from 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney.

Do you provide technical support for your district? The agendas for meetings focus 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. For questions, contact Lucas Bingham at lucas.bingham@netasite.org or follow the site http://netasite.org/techcoord.

The 1:1 Learning Community Meeting will be October 30th in Kearney at ESU 10 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Lunch will be provided by NETA. There will be a round-table discussion that will begin based on the agenda items that are submitted. There also may be a few remote sites throughout the state. Please check the website to see if a remote site may be more convenient.

The purpose of this community meeting is to provide a place for support, information sharing, and getting answers to questions. The districts involved are 1:1 with some kind of device (laptop or tablet). Those attending are going through similar situations, joys, obstacles and projects.

For more information: http://laptop.communities.esu10.org/ArticleList.aspx

Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference

The Nebraska Council of School Administrators (NCSA) and the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) are excited to partner to provide a comprehensive and informative conference on technologies available and utilized in Nebraska schools. Today’s students are actively engaged in using technology. They are early adopters of new technology and appear to be light-years ahead of the rest of the adult world. We challenge school leaders to understand and to successfully integrate technology to develop 21st century schools.

NETA’s membership asked for an additional conference farther west in the state. We listened, and hope you are able to join us at the Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference, October 9–10, 2014 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney.

Conference Schedule at a Glance:

Thursday, October 9th

Pre-Conference Workshops:
1:30–4:30 p.m.
(registration required)
- GAFE Circus Coming to a School Near You!
- Google Script Gallery Working For You!
- Minecraft is Meaningful: A Crash Course in Gamification
- Power Up Your Digital Classroom!
- Smash Learning in Your Classroom
- Using Meraki to Deploy and Manage iPads

Dinner/Keynote: 6:00 p.m.
(Keynote—Dr. Robert Dillon: http://apricipalspeaking.blogspot.com)

Tech Coordinators meet all day

Registration Costs:
- Pre-Conference Workshops: $50 per workshop
- Conference Registration: $125 (includes Thursday dinner and Friday lunch)
- Group Registration: $10 off each registration for groups registering six or more paid on the same check, credit card or PO.

Registration is limited to the first 800 people. Please plan to register a team of individuals for group planning or yourself to continue learning how to successfully integrate technology into your school and classrooms. For more information visit http://www.fall.netasite.org
**NETA... On the Move**

*Request for Sessions for the NETA 2015 Spring Conference*

NETA IS LOOKING FOR members and friends who are willing to share their classroom, school or district technology experiences with others from across the region by making a presentation at the NETA spring conference, April 23–24, 2015. Presenters who can address uses of technology in any discipline and at any educational level are encouraged to submit a presentation. Sessions are lecture/demonstration, conversation style, BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), or poster/playground sessions and last for 45 minutes.

**Poster/playground sessions**

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

**Presenter guidelines**

Lead presenters pay the significantly reduced rate of $25.00 and are expected to provide ample handouts or Web/email access to their information after the conference. A co-presenter may assist in the session. A co-presenter must, however, register for the conference as a regular attendee (Early Bird Pricing: $125.00 full conference or $100.00 for one day). A limit of three presenters per session will be printed in the program. Students are allowed to assist in a presentation as guests of the conference (limit of four, and must be supervised at all times).

Questions should be directed to Josh Allen, President Elect/Conference Chair, by email at josh.allen@netasite.org

**Mark Your Calendar—Submission Deadline!**

Sessions may only be submitted online, and must be entered by the **November 14, 2014 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! ❖

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**Transition of Exhibitor Coordinator**

**Mike Burns** has served on the NETA board since the beginning of the organization, 30 + years. We would like to thank Mike for his years of service as he leaves the NETA board. He has served in roles as the NETA President, Past President and most recently as NETA's Exhibitor Coordinator. Mike has helped to establish relationships with exhibitors throughout the years and helped to provide NETA members with an avenue to speak with vendors. We wish Mike the best of luck in his future endeavors. Thank you Mike for your dedicated service!

**New Co-Exhibitor Coordinators**

**Dr. Bob Goeman** is the IT Director for the Community Engagement Center at the University of Nebraska Omaha after serving many years in the College of Education. He has done several presentations and workshops around the use of technology in the classroom. Bob has served in the roles of board member, President Elect, President and Past President for NETA, and now transitions into the role of Co-Exhibitor Coordinator. Thank you Bob, for your continued support of NETA!

**Eliu Paopao** is currently the Director of Technology for Chadron Public Schools. At Chadron, Eliu has led a successful 1:1 iPad initiative and has been instrumental in helping to plan the Chadron Tech Conference for the past three years. He has presented at many conferences, including a NETA conference, and was this spring’s winner of the Excellence in Leading with Technology award. Eliu is now joining the NETA board as a Co-Exhibitor Coordinator. Thank you Eliu, for serving in this role! ❖
TO PROMOTE Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship the Nebraska Attorney General’s office and the state Educational Service Units (ESUs) hold an annual Poster and PSA (Public Service Announcement) contest. Within three grade level divisions (K–4, 5–8, 9–12), there are five categories: Hand-drawn posters, Computer-generated posters, Audio PSAs and Video PSAs (which must be under 30 seconds), and an Open category for brochures, documentaries, etc. (anything doesn’t fit in the other categories). Each district may submit one entry per category within each grade-level division.

The entries are judged at their regional ESU with the winning entries in each category moving on to the state ESU organization where they are judged once again. The state winning submissions are sent to the Nebraska State Attorney’s office for use in Internet Safety Campaigns throughout the year.

Entries by the following students were selected as winners at the state level. They can be viewed by clicking on the corresponding links at this web site: http://esu-internet-safety-psa-contest.wikispaces.com

**Grades K-4**

**Hand-drawn Poster**—Faith McDonald (Grade 4), Centura Elementary, Cairo NE (pictured at lower right)

**Computer-Generated Poster**—Jaci Larsen (Grade 3), Burwell Elementary, Burwell NE

**Open**—Southern Valley 1st Grade Class (Grade 1), Southern Valley Elementary, Oxford NE

**Grades 5-8**

**Hand-drawn Poster**—Esmeralda Maya (Grade 8), Columbus Middle School, Columbus NE

**Computer-Generated Poster**—Emily Pick (Grade 8), Columbus Middle School, Columbus NE

**Video PSA**—Kylee Munson, Trevan Rut, Colton Storer, Kate Miles, and Kasey Channer (Grade 7); Arthur County Public Schools, Arthur NE

**Grades 9-12**

**Hand-drawn Poster**—MacKenzie Brandl (Grade 9), Stanton High School, Stanton NE

**Computer-Generated Poster**—Lindsay Siegel (Grade 11), Litchfield High School, Litchfield NE

**Video PSA**—Riley Weller, Charlie Berney, Jayden Dvorak, and Joseph Kleier (Grade 10-12); Palmer Public Schools, Palmer NE

Congratulations to the state winners! In addition to this recognition, the winners were invited to attend the Governor’s signing of the Proclamation of June as Internet Safety month on April 9, 2014 at the State Capitol in Lincoln (image at left). The time, effort and creativity of ALL the students who entered the contest is greatly appreciated.

**Words to live by in a digital world:**

Respect and protect yourself.
Respect and protect others.
Respect and protect digital property.

The experience of learning from educators in the state. I strongly see a benefit from learning from peers, and choosing your session.”

“Love the content of the sessions. The shift from doing technology for the sake of doing technology to doing technology to enhance learning was fantastic.”

“I look forward to this conference every spring. I gain a lot of valuable information and contacts in a short amount of time.”

“Loved all the sessions I attended. There was a large variety which was great for those schools who brought their entire staff. I am hoping to do the same next year.”

“It’s easily accessible off the interstate. As for loving the conference, who doesn’t love coming to NETA?”

“Tight knit group. Love that my peers are teaching and leading with me. It shows me that I can be that awesome some day too.”

“It wasn’t until April that I went to the NETA conference that my eyes were opened to all the possibilities. A fire was lit for me at the conference.”

The Board does read all survey responses that are submitted. Reading them inspires us to make NETA even better. One way we are trying to improve the spring conference is moving to the CenturyLink Center this year. I certainly hope you are able to join us so that you begin to “love” coming to NETA, if you don’t already.

How can you help?
One goal we are striving for is to increase NETA membership. While that is a huge discussion and will take some time to develop, we have some interesting ideas on how to achieve this goal. As it currently stands, NETA is driven by you, the membership. The Board is made up of volunteers who serve in a three-year capacity. The only exception to that is our appointed positions as well as our Executive Director, Julie Moore. The appointed positions are filled by volunteers.

We realize that it takes a lot of resources to send staff to the NETA conferences—travel, time, and substitutes to name a few. However, when I consider the responses above, I strive to find those people who have never attended NETA. Please consider inviting a friend to share in the NETA experience—maybe someone new to NETA, or someone who has not attended in several years. We are thinking of creative ways for you, a current member, to invite a friend to NETA in 2015. So please think of those teachers, peers, faculty members that you know and offer them an invitation. If you are out in the western part of the state, the fall conference is just around the corner, and the registration site is already open. The website for the fall conference is http://www.fall.netasite.org.

Drive Your Passion
Dr. Robert Dillon is scheduled as the fall conference keynote speaker, and these two outstanding keynoters in the spring will help inspire you to be great: Adam Bellow and George Couros. We’ve also invited Leslie Fisher back to NETA 2015 to share her passions.

No matter what you call it, I believe we all as educators have a passion that drives us to do our best for our students. It’s up to you to find that passion, encourage others to find theirs, and then see some amazing things happen in your classroom, school building, district, and community. And I hope that NETA helps to keep that flame alive!

Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding your experience, questions, and/or comments about NETA. You can connect with me on twitter (@grobke) or email me: gregg.robke@netasite.org.
**App Smashing** happens when you combine the power of more than one app to create something incredible. Below are five creative “go to” apps and fun ideas on how to smash them together with other fantastic apps to take awesome to a whole new level!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App</th>
<th>How You can Use it</th>
<th>App Smashing Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Buddy Poke           | The fun begins by selecting video and deciding upon one or two Avatars. Then select a background and add the recording. The videos can be saved to Photos (Camera Roll) or upload directly to YouTube. | Buddy Poke + iMovie + YouTube  
Import the clips into iMovie. Have students add a video introduction, music, text, and a conclusion. Upload the videos to a YouTube and add to a playlist to share with parents and students.  
Idea:  
Record vocabulary definitions. Create a separate video clip for each definition. Put the clips together in iMovie and use the movie as a study tool. |
| Notability and Skitch| Create engaging notes in Notability. Explore all the paper choices. Graph paper is a great choice to help line up objects. Even use Notability to “color” with the variety of colors in the palate. Annotate images easily in either Notability or Skitch taken from your camera roll or PDF’s from Drive. | Notability/Skitch + Explain Everything/iMovie + YouTube  
Go on a photo scavenger hunt. Import the images into Skitch, and annotate them. Drop the images into iMovie and let the creating continue.  
Idea:  
Mr. Sims had his students find real world examples of geometry. App smashing with iMovie and even including Garageband to make music resulted in this great project! |

**3D Avatar Creator—Send Animated BuddyPoke Emoji and Pictures to friends**

(Continued on the next page)
### Thinglink
http://bit.ly/1zF2X82

Create a thinglink on any topic. As users move their mouse over an image, text pops up giving the user details and facts about the image.

**Thinglink + Kidblog**

Write a blog post on http://www.kidblog.org and embed the image created at Thinglink into the post. Combine with Twitter and share on #comments4kids and see what happens when the world leaves a comment or two for your students.

**Idea:**

Create a thinglink over a state for a unit on state facts. Write a blog post with details about the state and include the Thinglink image.

Create a Thinglink on a historical event. Add it to iMovie and upload to YouTube and share your learning with the world.

### Explain Everything
http://bit.ly/1lwaO7j

Let your imagination run wild and create a digital story demonstrating mastery of a curriculum objective. Explain Everything allows you to import a variety of material: photos, websites, video, and files. Easily add slides with narration.

**Explain Everything + iMovie + YouTube**

Export the Explain Everything files to iMovie to add title slides, transitions, and special effects then upload to YouTube. A great way to showcase student work and an engaging way to share with others.

**Idea:**

Instead of and/or in addition to students writing a formal science lab report, create an oral presentation with Explain Everything. Have students create and upload content to their own YouTube channel. As the school year continues, the evidence learning will grow.

### Stop Motion HD
http://bit.ly/1tVqoIN

Record stop motion animations over a curriculum topic with narrations. Students find this a fun way to explain a curriculum topic and share with others.

**Stop Motion + iMovie + YouTube**

Import the Stop Motion videos into iMovie. Snazz it up with a video introduction, titles, music, and more.

**Idea:**

Share the video on YouTube, then link to online newsletters to easily share with the world.

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*(App Smashing Ideas, continued)*
The Best Ideas Belong to Someone Else Contest

Eligibility
This contest is open to PK−12 public and private school teachers and pre-service teachers. Entries must include principal consent and contact information. Teacher category is defined as one teacher.

Contest Entries
Have you taught a great lesson integrating technology into your curriculum that others should know about? Have you infused technology throughout a great unit that others could emulate? Be rewarded for what you do daily by sending us your best tech infused lesson or activity.

Judging and Awards
The top-three winning teachers or pre-service teachers of The Best Ideas Belong to Someone Else contest are encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The winning teachers or pre-service teachers will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and each winning 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 website (http://netasite.org) on or after March 1, 2015 for contest results.

Guidelines:
1. Lesson ideas should be kept simple and include: a title, short description, a list of the technology needed for the lesson, other supplies, steps other teachers should follow, and possible links to examples.
2. Submissions should show evidence of meeting Nebraska or national standards.
3. Contest submissions should be accessible online for judging and links should be active and working.
4. Lessons should be able to be judged in five minutes or less.
6. Submissions may appear on the NETA website and in NETA newsletters.

Submission deadline: Must be USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.

Direct contest questions to Tina Sauser at tina.sauser@netasite.org.

Submit to: NETA: The Best Ideas Belong to Someone Else Contest
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

(Please use the form found on the next page.)
The Best Ideas Belong to Someone Else Entry Form—Please Print!

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

Grade Level (check one):

☑ Elementary  ☐ Middle  ☐ High School  ☐ Pre-service Teacher

Teacher/Pre-service Teacher’s Name ____________________________________________________________

School/University __________________________________________________________________________

Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _______________________________________________________

School Address (Street, City, State, Zip) ______________________________________________________

Teacher/Pre-service Teacher’s Email ___________________________________________________________

School Phone _______________________________________________________________________________

The signatures below verify agreement that the entry was completely produced by the submitting teacher/pre-service teacher.

URL of Entry: http:// ________________________________________________________________________

Teacher/Pre-service Teacher’s Signature _______________________________________________________

Email ___________________________ Date _____________________________

Required for teachers, not pre-service teachers

Principal’s Printed Name ________________________________________________________________

Principal’s Signature _________________________________________________________________

Email ___________________________ Date _____________________________

1. Send your contest submission or URL and email to Tina Sauser at tina.sauser@netasite.org.

IN THE SUBJECT LINE please put: NETA: The Best Ideas Belong to Someone Else Contest.

2. Mail the form above for the official entry.

Deadline—USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.
“Brand It” Contest

**Contest Entries**
Entries in the “Brand It” design contest could include any of the following:

- A re-designed logo for your school building or district--include original design with your entry
- An original logo for a local area business
- An original logo for a school-based business

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

All entries should be original work created by the individual submitting the entry and should follow fair use copyright guidelines.

**Judging and Awards**
- Up to six awards will be given.
- This contest is open to two divisions: Grades 5-8 and Grades 9-12.
- All entries to the contest must be completely created by the student. First, second and third places will receive awards.

The sponsoring teacher of the Brand It contest is encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference. The teacher of the winning student will receive a non-transferable, complimentary conference registration and the teacher's school district will be reimbursed the actual cost for that teachers substitute for both days.

All entrants should refer to the NETA website (http://netasite.org) on or after March 1, 2015 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.

**Guidelines:**
2. The digital logo 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 cardstock or construction paper not to exceed 9” by 12”.
3. 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.
5. Entries will not be returned.
6. 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.
7. Only one entry per student is allowed.
Submission deadline:
Must be USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.

Submit to: NETA: Brand It
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

Direct contest questions to Matt Lee at matthew.lee@netasite.org

What’s Your Logo Design Contest—Entry Form

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

Please indicate your division: □ 5–8 □ 9–12

Student Name ____________________________________________________________

School _________________________________________________________________

School Street/PO Box Address ____________________________________________

School City, State, Zip ___________________________________________________

Teacher 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 _______________________________________________________

Teacher’s Printed Name __________________________________________________

Teacher’s Signature __________________________________________ Date __________

Principal’s Printed Name ________________________________________________

Principal’s Signature ______________________________________ Date __________

Principal’s Email _______________________________________________________

Mail the form above for the official entry.

Deadline: USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.
What’s Your Impact? Video Contest

How has technology impacted your ability to meet curricular needs? Create a video that features students, showcases their work, and explains how technology is enhancing teaching and learning in your classroom.

Eligibility
This contest is open to Midwestern PK–6 public and private school teachers. All entries must include principal consent and contact information. Teacher category is defined as one teacher.

Contest Entries
Contest submissions should be a 3 minute video, accessible from the Internet.

Judging and Awards
Three awards will be given in each division.

Divisions of Contest
The What’s Your Impact? Video Contest has 2 divisions: PK–2 and 3–6. Grade divisions may be adjusted based upon the number and quality of entries received. Decisions are made at the discretion of the judges.

The winning teachers of the What’s Your Impact? Video Contest are encouraged to attend the NETA Spring Conference with their students, if possible. 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.

All entrants should refer to the NETA website (http://netasite.org) on or after March 1, 2015 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. Video must show evidence of technology integration in the elementary classroom.
2. Video submission 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. Entrants are responsible for adhering to their district and/or school’s acceptable use policy when using video or images of students.
6. Entrants using copyrighted material must follow copyright and fair use guides available on a handy PDF chart available at http://www.umuc.edu/library/copy.shtml#guide

Submission deadline
Must be USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015

(Entry form on the next page.)
Submission deadline
Must be USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.

Submit to: NETA: What’s Your Impact? Video Contest
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028
Direct contest questions to Kristina Peters at kristina.peters@netasite.org

What’s Your Impact?

What’s Your Impact?—Video Contest Entry Form

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

Grade Level (check one): ❑ PK–2 ❑ 3–6

Teacher Name _____________________________________________________________________________________

School ____________________________________________________________________________________________

School Street Address ______________________________________________________________________________

School City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________________________________

Home Street Address _______________________________________________________________________________

Home City, State, Zip _______________________________________________________________________________

Teacher Email ____________________________ 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 _____________________________________________________________________________

Teacher’s Signature ____________________________ Date ________________________________

Principal’s Printed Name __________________________________________________________________________

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 Kristina Peters in an email.
   IN THE SUBJECT LINE please put WHAT’S YOUR IMPACT? VIDEO CONTEST
   Copy and paste your URL (Website Address) link and email to kristina.peters@netasite.org

Mail the form above for the official entry. Deadline—USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.
Teach us with the use of Infographics!

**PK-12 Students, show us what you have learned with an Infographic.**

- **Students**—create an Infographic that highlights your learning or showcases curriculum topics.

**Eligibility**
This contest is open to Midwestern PK-12 public and private school students. All entries must include principal’s consent for contest entries.

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

The sponsoring teachers of student winners of the Infographics Contest will be recognized at the opening session on Thursday April 23, 2015. The sponsoring teacher of the Infographics Contest 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 (if applicable).

All entrants are encouraged to check the NETA website (http://www.netasite.org) for results on or after March 1, 2015. The sponsors of the student winners will receive notification of contest results via the email address provided on the entry form. We request that teachers 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 Infographic 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 USPS postmarked by **January 23, 2015**.
4. Entries will not be returned.
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.
7. Only one entry per student is allowed.

(Continued on the next page)
8. All entries are to be mailed with the entry form below to:
   NETA: Infographics Contest
   PO Box 484
   Gretna, NE 68028

Direct questions to: lucas.bingham@netasite.org

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**Infographics Contest**

**Entry Form**

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

**Contest Category:**
- [ ] PK–5
- [ ] 6–8
- [ ] 9–12

**Entrant’s Name** ________________________________________________________________

**School** ________________________________________________________________

**School Street/PO Box Address** __________________________________________________

**School City, State, Zip** _______________________________________________________

**Teacher Email** ____________________________ **School Phone** ____________________________

**Project Name** _____________________________________________________________

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

**Entrant’s Signature** ____________________________ **Date** ____________________________

**Teacher’s Printed Name** ______________________________________________________

**Teacher’s Signature** _________________________________________________________

**Date** ____________________________

**Principal’s Printed Name** ____________________________________________________

**Principal’s Signature** _______________________________________________________

**Principal’s Email** ____________________________ **Date** ____________________________

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

**Deadline**—USPS postmarked on or before **January 23, 2015**. Send to the address above.
Opportunity to Attend NETA 2015
For Teachers Who Have Taught Three Years or Less!

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

Attention Midwestern PK–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 a 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 March 1, 2015 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 USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015. Direct contest questions to Lynne Herr at lynne.herr@netasite.org.

Please Submit Your Entry to:
NETA: Opportunity to Attend NETA 2015
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

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 a teacher with 3 years or less teaching experience in the 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 ________________________

Submit Your Entry to:
NETA: Opportunity to Attend NETA 2015
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028
Deadline: January 23, 2015
Opportunity to Attend ISTE 2015 in Philadelphia, PA

This opportunity to attend ISTE 2015 (http://www.isteconference.org/ISTE/2015, June 28–July 1) is open to Midwestern PK–12 Public or Private School Teachers, with preference given to Nebraska applicants.

Judging and Awards
Trips will be awarded with a maximum of $1800 each. The winning teachers are encouraged to attend the NETA spring conference, with winners recognized on Thursday, April 23, 2015. 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 March 1, 2015 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 $1800 will be awarded for conference registration, coach class airfare, hotel and meals to attend ISTE 2015 in Philadelphia, PA.
• A maximum of six winners will be awarded between the NETA grants and Opportunity to Attend ISTE 2015 contests combined.
• We are asking you to use your creative technology skills to submit your contest entry video explaining how you use technology to enhance student learning and how attending ISTE 2015 would strengthen what you already do. What are you hoping to learn or gain by attending sessions at ISTE 2015?
• Videos must be less than 90 seconds in length. Contest submissions should be accessible online for judging and links should be active and working.
• Entrants using copyrighted material must follow copyright and fair use guides available on a handy PDF chart available at http://www.umuc.edu/library/copy.shtml#guide.
• The winners will write a follow-up NETA newsletter article by July 15, 2015, explaining what projects or plans will be implemented in their classroom based upon what was learned through ISTE 2015 attendance.
• 2014 ISTE Trek winners are not eligible for this contest.

Submission deadline
Must be postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.
Direct questions to Lynne Herr at lynne.herr@netaite.org
Submit to: NETA: ISTE, PO Box 484, Gretna, NE 68028

ISTE 2015 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 video described above to: NETA: ISTE, PO Box 484, Gretna, NE 68028
Excellence in Leading with Technology Award

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

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 PK–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.
g. 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.
h. The nominee’s work can be used as a model.
i. 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, 2016), a plaque, and will be invited to the NETA spring conference on Thursday, April 23, 2015, to be recognized at the opening general session.

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 Jason Schmidt by email at jason.schmidt@netasite.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 _______________________________ Email 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’s Email _____________________________ Superintendent’s Email ______________________________

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 achieve-
ments 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

Please include a one-page resume 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 USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.

Submit to:  NETA: Excellence in Leading with Technology Award

PO Box 484

Gretna, NE 68028

http://netasite.org
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 PK–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 PK–12 classroom teacher.

b. The nominee's work has had a significant positive impact on technology use in teaching and learning; locally, regionally, or 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.

g. 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.

h. The nominee's work can be used as a model.

i. 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, 2016), a plaque, and will be invited to the NETA spring conference on Thursday, April 23, 2015, to be recognized at the opening general session.

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 Jason Schmidt by email at jason.schmidt@netasite.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 to download an interactive form.

**Part I: Contact Information**

Nominator _____________________________________________________________________________________________

Relationship to the Nominee ______________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address _________________________________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip _________________________________________________________________________________________

Daytime Phone ________________  Email 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’s Email _____________________  Principal’s Email _____________________________________________________________________________

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**

Please include a one-page resume 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 USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.

**Submit to:**  
NETA: Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award  
PO Box 484  
Gretta, NE 68028
NETA's 2015 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 Midwestern PK–12 public and private school teachers, with preference given to Nebraska applicants. Grant winners from 2014 are not eligible to apply this year. All entries must include the appropriate principal's consent and contact information.

Judging and Awards
Grants will be awarded with a maximum of $1500 each. Each winner will be invited to the NETA spring conference on April 23–24, 2015, 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 March 1, 2015 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. A maximum of six winners will be awarded between the NETA grants and Opportunity to Attend ISTE 2015 contests combined.

· Half of the awarded money will be given at the conference, the remaining amount will be disbursed after the final report is submitted to the NETA board.

· Materials purchased with NETA grant money will belong to the recipient’s school district, not to the individual.

· A hard copy mid-term progress report is due by December 1, 2015. (This is to keep the NETA Board up-to-date with the progress of the grants and aware of any problems that have been addressed.) Progress reports will be published in the NETA newsletter. The final report, due June 1, 2016, will be less than 250 words that describes the activities, software and student impact.

· Grant recipients will be required to present their project at the following NETA conference as a poster/playground session, where handouts and information about the project will be shared with other NETA educators.

· Grant recipients will be announced at the NETA conference opening session and in the NETA 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, 2014 grant winners are not eligible this year.

Submission deadline—Must be postmarked by January 23, 2015.

(Continued on the next page)
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: angie.wassenmiller@netasite.org. Submit this application narrative with the form below.

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 Email ____________________________________  Principal's Email ___________________________

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:

NETA: Technology Grant Program
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028
NETA Conference Logo Contest

Create a design for the NETA Spring Conference 2015—

NETA…On the Move

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

Eligibility
This contest is open to Midwestern 5–12 public and private school students and Midwestern Post Secondary/College students. All 5–12 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
This year there will be one winner chosen from each of the following age categories: 5–8, 9–12, and Post-Secondary/College. One of the winning designs will be declared Overall Winner and will be used on the conference materials and T-shirts. All age category winners will also be published in the NETA newsletter and/or on the NETA website. The overall 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 each 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 March 1, 2015. The sponsoring teacher of each winner will receive notification of contest results via email at the email address provided on the entry form. We request that sponsoring teachers do not register for the conference until the winners are 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 original and 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 “NETA…On the Move” and the year 2015. 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 (.psd, .ai, etc.), including layers (if applicable). Any fonts used in the entry should also be sent with the graphic.
8. Entries must be USPS postmarked by December 6, 2014.
9. The winner must be prepared to submit the graphic and any fonts used by email attachment immediately after judging.
10. All entries are to be mailed with the form on the following page to:
NETA: Logo Contest
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028
(Logo Contest Guidelines continued)

Note: Entries will not be returned. Maximum number of entries per teacher is THREE (3). You may 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 emailed to the following address: evi.wusk@netasite.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 2300 members attend the spring conference each year.

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 Email ___________________________________ Principal Email _____________________________

School Phone __________________________________________

Software Used (include version) ____________________________ Computer Used __________________________

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

NOTE: All entries submitted by Midwestern Post Secondary/College students need to have the student contact information and signature only.

Student’s Signature ___________________________________ Date ____________________________

Teacher’s Printed Name ________________________________________________________________

Teacher’s Signature ___________________________________ Date ____________________________

Principal’s Printed Name ______________________________________________________________

Principal’s Signature ___________________________________ Date ____________________________

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

Deadline—USPS postmarked on or before December 6, 2014.

Mail to: NETA: Logo Contest 
PO Box 484 
Gretna, NE 68028
**App Smashing** is the process of using multiple apps in conjunction with one another to complete a final task or project.

**Eligibility**
This contest is open to Midwestern PK–12 public and private school teachers, as well as pre-service teachers. All entries must include principal’s consent and contact information.

**Contest Examples**
Examples can be found at http://goo.gl/gl5jeP

**Judging and Awards**
Up to six awards will be given. The winning teachers of the App Smash 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 App Smash 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.

**Divisions**
Grades PK–4, Grades 5–8, Grades 9–12, Pre-service

All entrants should refer to the NETA website (http://netasite.org) on or after March 1, 2015 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. Apps used must be free and listed in the entry description.
2. Project should show evidence of meeting state or national standards.
3. Contest submission should be accessible online and must be active and working.
4. Objectives, steps and outcomes must be clearly worded and classroom tested.

**Submission deadline**
Must be USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015

**Submit to:**
NETA: App Smash Contest
PO Box 484
Gretna, NE 68028

Direct contest questions to Heather Callihan at heather.callihan@netasite.org

*(Entry form on the next page)*
App Smash Contest—Entry Form

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

Grade Level (check one): [ ] PK–4 [ ] 5–8 [ ] 9–12 [ ] Pre-service

Teacher Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

School/University ____________________________________________________________

School/University Street Address ________________________________________________

School/University City, State, Zip ________________________________________________

Home Street Address ___________________________________________________________

Home City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________

Teacher Email ________________________________________________________________

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 __________________________________________________________

Teacher’s Signature ___________________________ Date ____________________________

**Required for teachers, not pre-service teachers**

Principal’s Printed Name ________________________________________________________

Principal’s Signature __________________________________________________________

Email ___________________________ Date __________________________

2. Please include a short description (including apps used) 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 Heather Callihan in an email.

IN THE SUBJECT LINE please put **NETA App Smash Contest**

Copy and paste your URL (Website Address) link and email to heather.callihan@netasite.org

*Mail the form above for the official entry. Deadline—USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.*
NETA’s 2015

PK-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. Hand drawn entries accepted, but they must be digitally enhanced.

Eligibility
This contest is open to Midwestern PK–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 PK–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 March 1, 2015, for contest results.

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 or create the graphic image 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 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.
5. Entries must be postmarked by January 23, 2015.
6. Entries will not be returned.
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.

(Continued on the next page)
NETA News

September 2014

NETA PK-12 Graphic Imagery Contest

Entry Form—Please Print:

Entry form—please print legibly or download an interactive form at http://netasite.org

Student’s Name _______________________________________________________________________________

School __________________________________________ Grade __________________________

School Street/PO Box Address __________________________________________________________________

School City, State, Zip  _________________________________________________________________________

Teacher Email ___________________________ Principal Email ____________________________

School Phone ____________________________

Describe the software and process you used in the creation of this project (Ex: software used, where was the
photo taken? What was the inspiration for this image? For what class was the work done? If you did enhance the
picture, tell us more.) We will take this into consideration when judging.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________________

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—USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.

Mail to: NETA: Graphic Imagery Contest

PO Box 484

Gretna, NE 68028

http://netasite.org

Checklist for Entry:

- Entry mounted on cardstock
- The form below completed and on the back of the entry
- One CD per entry as described in the guidelines
NETA’s 2015 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 or an epub to share? A cool animation? A podcast? An original music composition? We want them all!

The Rules? They’re simple: (1) Contest is open to PK–12 students in Midwestern public or private schools as well as pre-service teachers. (2) Each student may enter a maximum of two projects in this contest. (3) Students do not require teacher sponsorship to enter this contest, (nor is the adult listed awarded NETA conference registration or substitute reimbursement), but they 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 four age group divisions: PK–4, 5–8, 9–12 and pre-service. 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 March 1, 2015 to view the list of winners. Winners will be notified at the email(s) provided on the entry form by March 1, 2015.

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 USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015. Direct questions to Evi Wusk at evi.wusk@netasite.org

Submit to: NETA: Open Class, PO Box 484, Gretna, NE 68028

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: ( ) PK–4   ( ) 5-8   ( ) 9-12   ( ) Pre-service

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—USPS postmarked on or before January 23, 2015.
Calendar of Technology Conferences & Seminars

Events of every type for educators, technicians & administrators

**October 2014**

Fall Ed Tech Conference
October 9–10, 2014
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE
www.fall.netasite.org

ITEC (Iowa Technology Education Connection) Conference
October 12–14, 2014
Iowa Events Center
Des Moines, IA
itec-ia.org/itec-conference

**January 2015**

Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC)
January 20–23, 2015
Orange County Convention Ctr, Orlando, FL
fetc.org

**February 2015**

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)
February 2–6, 2015
Austin, TX
www.tcea.org

Midwest Educational Technology Conference (METC)
February 9–11, 2015
St. Charles, MO
metcconference.org

Nebraska Association for the Gifted (NAG) Conference
February 26–27, 2015
Omaha, NE
www.negifted.org

**March 2015**

NDLA (Nebraska Distance Learning Association)
March 5–6, 2015
Holiday Inn Downtown
Lincoln, NE
ndl.org

MacWorld Expo
March 12–14, 2015
San Francisco, CA
macworldexpo.com

CoSN’s School Networking Conference
March 16–19, 2015
Atlanta, GA
www.cosn.org/events/

National School Boards Association (NSBA)
March 21–23, 2015
Nashville, TN
annualconference.nsba.org

**April 2015**

Infotec (by the AIM Inst.)
April 21–22, 2015
CenturyLink Center
Omaha, NE
infotec.org

NETA Spring Conference
NETA...On the Move
April 23–24, 2015
CenturyLink Center
Omaha, NE
netasite.org

United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)
April 26–29, 2015
St. Louis, MO
http://www.usdla.org

**June 2015**

Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)
June 2–4, 2015
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE
nceconference.com

ISTE Conference
June 28–July 1, 2015
Philadelphia, PA
www.isteconference.org/2015/
**NETA Statement of Purpose:** The Nebraska Educational Technology Association exists for the purpose of providing leadership and promoting the application of technology to the educational process. Its span of interest includes all levels and aspects of education.

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If you attended the Spring Conference in April 2014, one year of membership was included with your registration. If you would like to be a member, but can not attend the Spring Conference, membership dues are $25.00 and are good through April 2015. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

- NETA Membership
- PO Box 484
- Gretna, NE 68028

- [ ] I am a new member
- [ ] I was recruited by this current NETA member

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