



News

A Publication of the Nebraska Educational Technology Association

April 2018

Get Up, Speak Out, Share Your Story



NETA Newsletter

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Contributions are welcome.

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If you can share a success story related to technology in the classroom, or a software solution review, we'd love to print it in a future newsletter.

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



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

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*Matt Lee,
Westside
Community
Schools*

Message from the President

Get Up, Speak Out, Share Your Story

It's August and school just started. Can't try that right now.

September? We have parent teacher conferences.

October? It's Halloween.

November and December? The holidays are just not a good time.

January? We just got back to school.

February? What a depressing time to try something new.

March and April? Spring break...and of course my bracket...

May? Almost done. Maybe next year...

That's how the late Rick DuFour (Professional Learning Community expert) used to joke about trying something new or getting together to get done what's needed. Even the most well-intentioned educator can rationalize away an entire school year. Does that ring true for you? It certainly does for me.

Now, more than ever, educators need to be advocates for the amazing things that are going on in their classrooms. Over the past several years, standardization has supplanted innovation. Competition has overtaken collaboration and conformity has triumphed over diversity. How can we respond?

Speak up. Share your story!

Educators have a tendency to downplay the great things they do, saying things like, "well, we do that every day" or "that's nothing special, I learned it from so and so". We need to break out of that thinking. People outside our profession don't understand the

incredible work that gets done in our schools. Even our own peers are often unaware of all that is taking place outside of their classrooms, buildings, or districts.

Would public perception of our schools change if more people understood everything that takes place? Would we raise the bar for all teachers if we collaborated and exchanged ideas more often? I'd like to think so!

How do I get my story out there?

Here are five easy ways to share your story with others.

① Start a blog and let the world know where it is.

You don't need to pay money, or even commit to doing it full time, but putting your ideas in writing and sharing them with the world is powerful. It will not only help you reflect on what you do, it gives you a chance to share with the world all that is happening in your classroom.

② Check out the 2018 NETA Contest winners and consider entering next year.

Have you looked at the NETA contest webpage showcasing this year's winners? Stop right now and go check it out. It's amazing what Nebraska students and teachers have submitted this year. From early elementary coding projects, to middle school digital photographs to high school news reports and films, our kids are doing amazing things! After you look and get inspired, think about how you can work the NETA contests into your curriculum next year. Remember, winning entries get a free NETA registration and reimbursement of substitute costs. Be on the lookout for 2019 contest information in the fall.

③ Start a lunch and learn or coffee chat at your building.

Online interactions can be great, but so are face to face meetings. Share your story with others in your very own building over lunch or over a cup of coffee before school starts. Talk about one thing you are doing in your classroom that you are proud of. It's amazing what you can learn from each other!

④ Submit an article for the NETA newsletter.

You are reading the newsletter right now. Did you ever wonder what you need to do to get an article you have written published? It's easy—just contact our executive director, Julie

(Continued on page 6)



Heather
Callihan,
Northwest
Public Schools

AS AN EDUCATOR MOM who loves time with my girls, I LOVE summer break. As a tech integrationist, I also love working with teachers at a time when they are relaxed and away from the pressures of school, so summer can give some great opportunities for tech-focused professional development. So five years ago, I offered my first Summer WOW—*Wired on Wednesday*—PD sessions that I set up to be relaxed, fun and focused on tools that I knew teachers would appreciate and enjoy learning. All in all, attendance was great and the sessions were successful. But I also believe in growth mindset, and every summer I ask for feedback from our staff, then try to design sessions that best meet teachers where they are.

Over the past five years, I've learned a lot about the process and planning for tech-focused PD sessions. There have been bumps and there have been celebrations. These tips might help your summer PD—whether you are leading it or participating in it—be pain-free and power-packed.

As a leader: **Inspire Others**

- **Build in fun to any summer PD session.** Gamify your lesson. Have fun with the content. Teaching memes as a way to summarize or comment on a topic? Supply a set of fun photos to inspire people to get started.

Message from the President Elect

The Evolution of Summer PD

- **Think outside the box with your examples and activities.** Yes, you need to tie your work together to your district instructional models and elements. But how can you do that in novel ways that are engaging to both teachers and students?
- **Create products and examples to make connections.** Your colleagues want to learn with you, not just from you. Save drafts of a project to show how you honed it over time. Even as a skilled technologist, it usually takes several revisions to land on your best work. Share the process, not just the final products!

As a participant: **Own your learning.**

Just like our students, our learning journeys are all different. We all start at different spots. We all have different strengths, weaknesses and knowledge. Find your path, set your pace and be determined to make progress. Ask yourself:

- **What tool or strategy do I want to learn more about?** Think about something you have been curious about. What is something you have seen and just not taken time to learn? Embrace the challenge and conquer the opportunity.
- **What opportunities do I have to learn while still enjoying the down time of summer?** Sometimes I just love the early morning “Me” time before my family wakes up. Others prefer the late night time to yourself. A simple visit to Starbucks to

carve out the time can be a benefit too. By simply evaluating and creating those small learning opportunities, you can own your learning in small but mighty chunks of time.

- **Who are my contacts for support in the learning aka: pick your coaches?** Find your tribe. Find the group that keeps you challenged, supported. Communicate often, work together and provide and accept feedback. Remember together we are better.

Everyone: **Model Lifelong Learning**

Our learning journeys are never finished. With a growth mindset, a support system and a love for learning, you allow endless learning and growth. Just as we remind students, our own learning is about trying again, perseverance and experience.

- **Make connections:** As mentioned above, we ARE better together. Learning comes from experiences both individually, collaboratively. Find those who share your passions and drive. Work together, communicate and collaborate.
- **Don't be afraid to FAIL (First Attempt in Learning):** As difficult as it may seem, failure can be positive. What sometimes seems to be the “perfect” lesson or activity may end up as a fail. As a lifelong learner it is important to evaluate the product and process and look for ways to improve and move forward.❖

The Election Results are In!

Announcing the New 2018 NETA Officers and Directors

MANY THANKS to all of you who voted during the online election. Thanks also to all of the candidates on the ballot for their willingness to serve. All candidates were certainly worthy and you will hopefully see some of them on the ballot again in the future! The following people were elected.

Officers



Stephanie Dannehl
President Elect
Bertrand Community School

The **President Elect** serves for one year in this position and then moves into the role of the president. The president elect is responsible for helping to plan the conference.



Darci Lindgren
Secretary
Lindsay Holy Family School

The Secretary is elected every two years. The secretary keeps records of the meetings of the Board of Directors, tracks meeting attendance and files and distributes changes in policy issues adopted at board meetings.

Congratulations to Stephanie and Darci for being elected to these offices!

Directors—Three-year term



Lisa Bohaty
Lincoln Public Schools
Director 2021



Cameron Hudson
High Plains
Community Schools
Director 2021



Jenna Krambeck-Reeh
Elkhorn Public Schools
Director 2021



Dr. Nick Ziegler
ESU 5
Director 2021

Leaving the Board this Year

Jackie Ediger, ESU 9—Jackie will be greatly missed on the NETA board of Directors. Throughout her years of service, Jackie has been an advocate for serving NETA members. She was active on the Contest Committee, Programming Committee, and in charge of the Leadership strand before moving into her roles as President Elect, President and Past President. In her President roles Jackie exemplified strong leadership qualities guiding the board to continue to grow membership and carry out the organization's goals. In addition, Jackie was always one of the first to volunteer for extra responsibilities including organizing the prize process and taking pictures during the conference. We wish Jackie the best as she leaves the NETA Board and sincerely thank her for her contributions to NETA and the Educational Technology community.

Craig Badura, Aurora Public Schools—Craig has served on

the NETA board for six years. His compassion and innovation for educational technology has helped move the NETA organization forward. Craig served on the Finance Committee, Logistics Committee, PR/Marketing Committee as well as helped organize the Digital Citizenship strand and Leadership strand for the NETA Spring Conferences throughout his six years of service. Thank you, Craig, for all of your hard work and dedication to NETA! You will be missed!

Ann Feldmann, Bellevue Public Schools—Ann has served on the NETA board for three years. Her knowledge and experience in educational technology have been an important contribution to the NETA board. Ann's smile and positive attitude are contagious. While on the NETA board Ann served on the Contest Committee, Programming Committee and Poster/Playground Committee. Ann also volunteered to co-lead NETA's workshops. Thank you, Ann, for all of your hard work and dedication to NETA! You will be missed!

Patty Wolfe, Cozad Community Schools—Patty has served on the NETA board for four years. Her hard work, compassion and dedication have helped move the NETA board forward. Throughout her years of service, Patty volunteered on the Logistics Committee and Finance Committee. In addition she helped with the Digital Citizenship strand and served on the Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference Planning committee.

(Continued on the next page)

NEW!—Virtual Field Trip Mini-grant Program

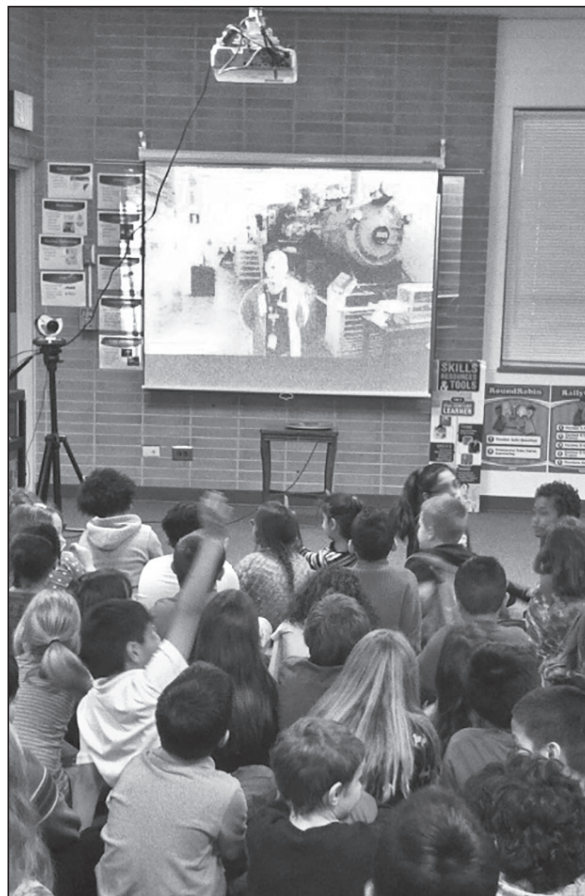
The NETA Board is excited to announce the launch of a brand new mini-grant opportunity for Nebraska public and private school teachers.

It is called the Virtual Field Trip Mini-grant Program and it allows for teachers to be reimbursed for the purchase of Virtual Field Trip program experiences for their students, when procured from either Nebraska non-profit content providers, through an ESUCC Nebraska Virtual Instruction Source (NVIS) Virtual Field Trip provider (<https://nvis.esucc.org/VFTList.aspx>), or any national content provider listed within the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (<https://www.cilc.org/Interactive-Content/Search-Content-Provider-Programs.aspx>).

Applications will be “continuously rolling”, which means that teachers can submit requests at any time. However, each teacher is limited to a maximum of five VFT programs per academic year, or \$500 of reimbursement per academic year, whichever comes first.

More information about the program and a link to the grant application is located here: <http://netasite.org/vft>

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact: Julie Moore, NETA Executive Director, executivedirector@netasite.org and/or Tom Rolfes, NETA Executive Liaison, tom.rolfes@netasite.org ❖



(Election results, continued)

Patty's participation, input and collaboration on all committees were much appreciated. Thank you, Patty, for all of your hard work and dedication to NETA! You will be missed!

Would you like to serve?

If you would like to get involved and be more active in NETA by serving on the NETA Board of Directors, consider being a nominee in 2019. Four Director positions are open each year, as well as the President Elect and either Secretary or Treasurer (elected every other year). Watch for the call for nominees in the fall newsletter. ❖

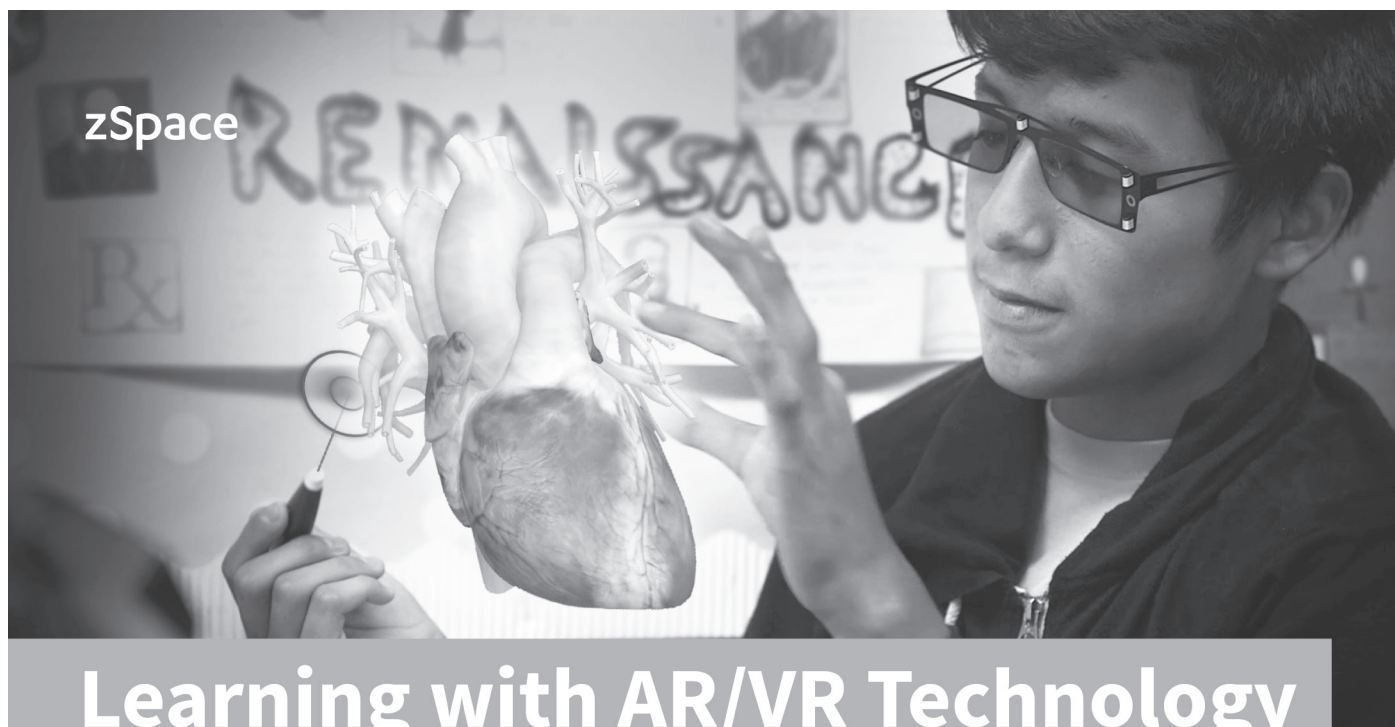
(Get up, Speak Out...continued from page 1)

Moore, and she will be able to get you information on when each article's deadline is. Topics can involve anything that would benefit the membership. Maybe you found a new tech tool that you want to share. Perhaps you want to start a conversation surrounding the use of technology in early childhood. Or you just might want to share an example of a project that worked well in your classroom. The NETA newsletter is a great place to share!

⑤ Make a friend at the NETA conference.

NETA events are a great place to network and seek out like-minded people. In a session on early childhood apps? Chances are the people sitting around you are interested in the same things you are. Take a chance and say “hi!” You never know where it will go.

I'm issuing a challenge to all of the 5,000+ NETA members. Over the next 12 months, take time to share your story with someone new. Don't wait. Remember, even with the best of intentions, it's easy to rationalize away the whole school year. Don't let that happen to you. Think about the five suggestions above and make time to share your story today! ❖



Learning with AR/VR Technology

As many K-12 school districts are undergoing a new phase of innovation and transformation with the creation of STEAM focused programs, zSpace has traveled to schools and district administration offices to demonstrate the latest in AR/VR learning experiences for science, technology, engineering, art and math curriculums. With labs placed in over 400 K12 districts, medical schools, and universities across the United States, zSpace is bringing a new way to inspire and engage students.



Booth #100

For more information,
contact **Brooke Cashion**
at bcashion@zspace.com



Visit us at the NETA Spring Conference in
Booth #100 to experience AR/VR technology!



*Jennifer Selting
Troester,
O'Neill Public
Schools*

THE WRITING PROCESS is not a solitary act. When writers share ideas and have an audience, the collaboration is the catalyst for growth; therefore, we launched the first online writing exchange between University of Nebraska-Lincoln preservice English teachers and O'Neill Public School eighth grade students in 2008. Students who participate in this exchange have a better understanding of the writing process and more confidence in analyzing writing. It also makes these students more conscientious of the writing they share because they have a wider audience than only their teacher, and this

Digital Collaborations Across Schools: How to Build a Strong Online Writing Exchange

motivates them to improve their writing. Over the years we have used different platforms to exchange writing. Currently, we use Google Docs as the space to create the online writing exchange.

The platform and process

To facilitate a successful exchange, expectations need to be in place for a positive collaboration. Each UNL preservice English teacher has a small group of two to three students to work with. Folders within Google Docs are set up by teachers and shared with the students. Using this platform has been successful because UNL students are able to comment in the margins of the writing eighth grade students share. Introductions and photos are exchanged here to kick off the

online writing exchange in order to build community. When eighth grade students post their writing for feedback, they are required to write an author's note which includes their evaluation of their writing as well as questions to facilitate feedback they desire based on the Six Traits of Writing and the rubric they are given.

Getting feedback

In a survey about the exchange, one middle schooler from the 2016 exchange wrote, "Some things that my person did for me was by saying, 'You could consider this, or maybe try this,' instead of saying, 'You need to change this, etc.'"

Another youth noted, "Nothing was ever demanded, it was always
(Continued on page 13)

ISTE 2018 in Chicago, IL

NETA Registration Options



PLAN NOW to attend ISTE 2018 on June 24-27, 2018 at the McCormick Place convention center in Chicago, IL. Join some of your NETA colleagues and more

than 16,000 educators from across the United States and several foreign countries to attend the largest educational technology conference of its type in the United States.

To register for the ISTE Conference, please go to isteconference.org. If you have any questions about registration for ISTE 2018, please contact Julie Moore at 402-540-1904 (executivedirector@netasite.org) ♦

Save the Date

Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference November 1-2, 2018

**Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE**

Pre-conference workshops will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018.



HOW CAN YOU INCREASE SECURITY WITHOUT ADDING COMPLEXITY?

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networks that can support their digital learning initiatives, students, and staff. Your network may be agile and fast, but with legacy systems, managing your security has become complex and time consuming.

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NETA Conference Site 2018

Welcome to the CenturyLink Center Omaha Convention Center!

The NETA 2018 annual spring conference will be held at the CenturyLink Center Omaha Convention Center. This location offers easy access, state of the art facilities, and more productive conference activities space.

Location

- 455 North 10th Street, Omaha, NE 68102
- <http://netasite.org/centurylinkcenteromahadirections>

Parking

Conference attendees may park in Lot B or D. Parking cost is \$8 per entry.

Lodging accommodations

NETA has agreements with three hotels in downtown Omaha for conference group rates: Hilton Omaha (connected to the CenturyLink Center Omaha), Hilton Garden Inn—Omaha Downtown Old Market, and Embassy Suite by Hilton—Omaha Downtown. For more information, please check the NETA website: <http://netasite.org/hotelregistrationmeta2018>

Conference Food Choices

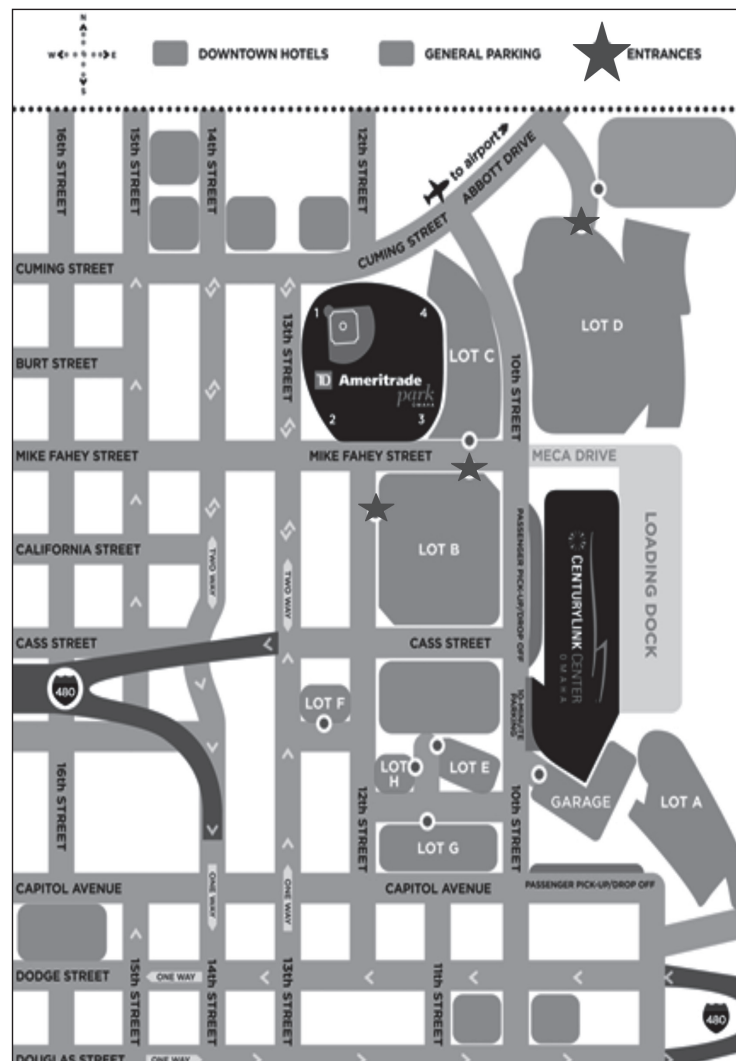
- Gourmet Coffee Cart
- Alexander's BBQ
- Philly Cheesesteak Cart

Concession stand located in Exhibit Hall:

- Smoked Andouille Sausage
- Chili Cheese Coney
- Nacho Grandeo
- Jumbo Hot Dog
- Nachos, Pretzels & Popcorn
- Beverages

NETA Conference T-shirts

During the conference, special "Share Your Story" T-shirts will be



on sale at the NETA Information booth. (Credit card purchases only.)

Conversation Strand

- In the Convention Center, room 209.
- Come learn from the group.

Registration

- Located in Exhibit Hall
- Wednesday night registration hours are 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Omaha

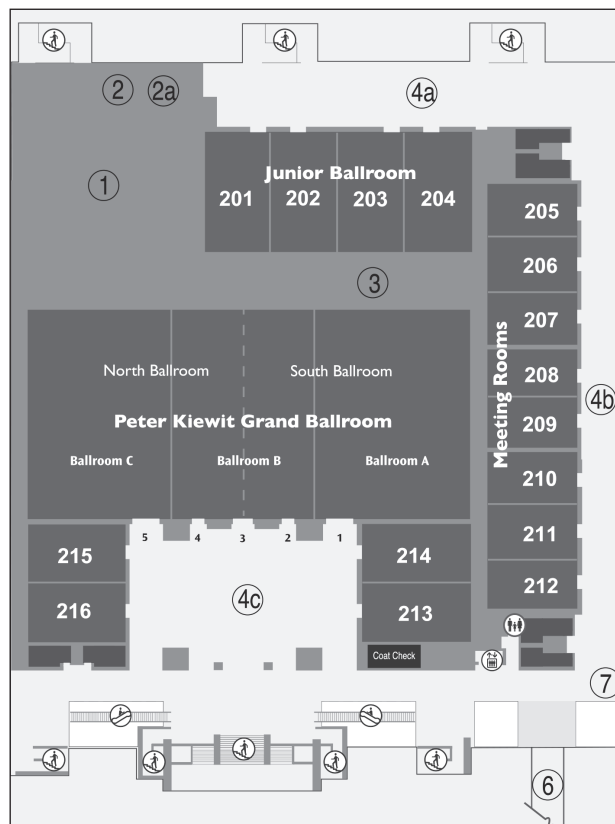
To find out more about Omaha, visit <http://netasite.org/visitomaha>.

Graduation Credit for NETA

Participants who attend both days of the NETA Conference can earn one hour of graduate credit through Peru State College. Interested participants will meet briefly with Julie Moore on Thursday morning at 9:30 outside of the Grand Ballroom, directly after the General Session. **Tuition:** Nebraska Residence—\$215 per credit hour + applicable fees of \$83.85. Non-Residence—\$430 per credit hour + applicable fees of \$83.85.

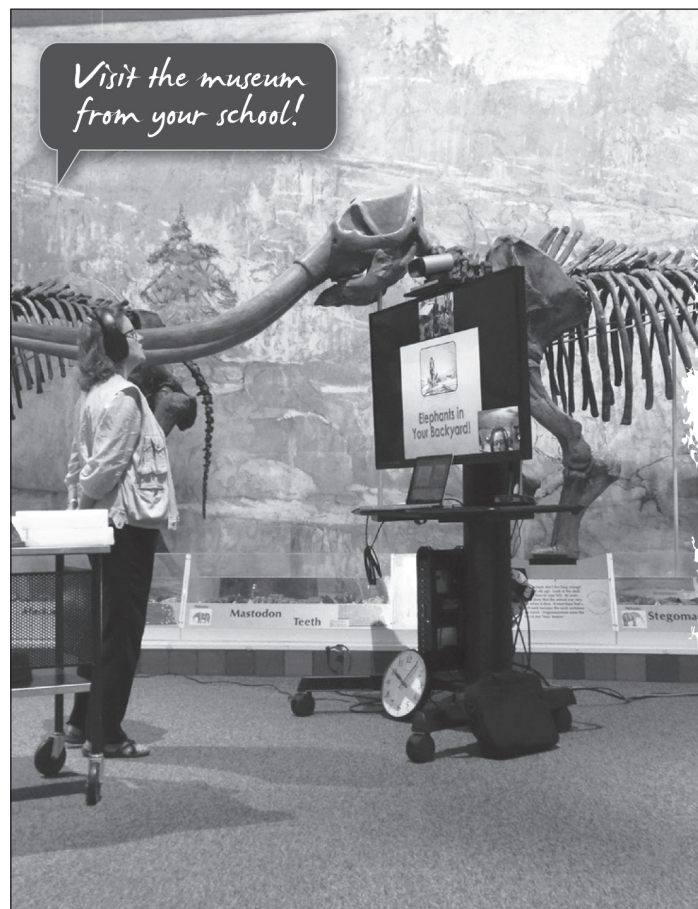
We look forward to welcoming you to the CenturyLink Center Omaha! ❖

CenturyLink Center Omaha Meeting Room Map



◄ The meeting room level of the CenturyLink Center Omaha offers 63,000 square feet of flexible meeting space all located on the second level. All rooms feature multiple outlets, telephone and data connections as well as individual programmable lighting. The facility's open, contemporary design allows for easy access to all areas.

The Exhibit Hall level (not pictured here) encompasses over 194,00 square feet of contiguous space which is divisible into three separate halls. **NETA is using Hall A**, allowing an expanded number of exhibitors in this large space. Each hall features a concession stand, restrooms and a show office. ♦



Virtual Field Trips

University of Nebraska State Museum | Morrill Hall

Inquiry based learning with hands-on kit activities.

Look, listen and think **like a scientist** when you visit us **"live"** in our museum galleries.

For program and scholarship information go to:

 museum.unl.edu/virtualfieldtrips



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The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination.

Spring Conference Highlights and Information

Share Your Story**April 19-20, 2018****CenturyLink Center Omaha**“share
your
story”**Workshops**

Workshops will be held on Wednesday, April 18th and Thursday, April 19th at the Hilton Omaha. Workshops are optional and can be added on to the conference experience when registering. Workshop participants need not be registered for the conference in order to participate in a workshop, but either way pre-registration is required. There is limited seating in order to ensure the highest quality learning experience for participants, so don't wait to register! Check netasite.org for descriptions along with additional information about the workshops.

Online schedule by Sched

NETA is utilizing a personalized online conference schedule for the 2018 spring conference! Powered by *Sched*, attendee's will have the ability to browse the full schedule, see the list of registered exhibitors, search by strand or topic, plan out a customized schedule and connect with other attendees and presenters!



Visit <https://2018springnetaconference.sched.com/> to get started today!

There are numerous session types to choose from including, lecture/demonstration, conversation, and poster/playground sessions. Don't miss the NETA *Innovation Lab* on Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information regarding the Spring Conference or NETA, visit <http://netasite.org>. Please join us April 18-20th! ♦

Invited Speakers**Keynote Speaker Thursday:**

- Sabba Quidwai, Apple—
Raising The Bar for Learning with Technology

Keynote Speaker Friday:

- Joe Sanfelippo—
Telling Your School's Story

Featured Thursday:

- Michael Cohen
- Leslie Fisher

Featured Friday:

- Michael Matera
- Mark Ray
(Sponsored by Nebraska School Librarians Association)
- Tony Vincent

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GET SOCIAL WITH US



(Collaborations, cont. from page 8) suggested. They really understood how maybe we chose the specific word for a reason, or maybe we want our story to sound that way." Keeping their comments to the margins of the paper is a way for the college students to de-center their own ideas and keep the middle schooler's voice in the forefront. Without the ability to use online tools like Google Docs, students in O'Neill would not be able to access this kind of feedback for their writing with their own mentor.

The impact

After facilitating the online writing exchange since 2008, I argue that the partnership leaves an impact upon students' writing that will last a lifetime. Throughout the exchange the eighth grade students become more analytical of their work when writing author's notes and after receiving feedback as they revise their writing. This is apparent as

one student from the 2016 exchange describes:

The online writing exchange had a big impact on me. This really helped me better understand the skills you need to be a good writer. Having the older college student give us advice was very helpful because of the fact that they have way more experience.

In addition, this exchange of ideas follows student writers beyond the online writing exchange itself. The feedback students receive in the eighth grade writing exchange has a positive influence on their writing even after the exchange is over. As another student, who participated a year ago, wrote:

Something that impacted me on the online exchange writing was that I am a better writer than I was before we did this. These kids are older and know what they are talking about, so I took their

advice and now use it in my writing [even a year later]. For example, some feedback they gave me that was helpful was to give more description in my writing and now I try to use that to examine my word choice after I'm done writing to see if I could be using stronger words.

Giving eighth grade students the chance to analyze their writing and present it to an authentic audience who will give them feedback allows them to understand the process of writing and to operate like true writers themselves. It also motivates the eighth grade students to revise their writing and learn new skills they will use in the future. This real world opportunity to share through peer review improves the effectiveness of student writing. Using online tools to make this happen enables any teacher to create an online writing exchange that will improve students' writing. ♦

The Winners!

Complete Judging Results of NETA Student and Teacher Contests



▲ Grades PK-2 Digital Images

1st—by Zaden Lohman, C. Ray Gates Elementary

▼ Grades 6-8 Digital Images

1st—by Amaya Rockey, Southern Valley Jr/Sr High



Grades 9-12 Audio

1st—Thomas Bosmeniel, *Commentary on the Constitution*, Sponsor: Clark Kolterman, Seward High School

Grades PK-2 Digital Images

1st—Zaden Lohman, *My Monster*, Sponsor: Lacey Woitaszewski, C. Ray Gates Elementary

2nd—Max Lanik, *Fish at Public Market in Seattle*, Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik, Thayer Central Community Schools

3rd—Miyah Lemburg, *Life of Lincoln*, Sponsor: Kim Steffen, Centura Public School

Grades 3-5 Digital Images

1st—Faith Diaz, *Snail*, Sponsor: Kendra Harders, C. Ray Gates Elementary

2nd—Sarai Christensen, *One Point Perspective*, Sponsor: Jenny Nelson, C. Ray Gates Elementary

3rd—Edwin Ortiz Pascual, *Scientific Problem Graphic Design*, Sponsor: Jason Weseman, Howard Elementary

Grades 6-8 Digital Images

1st—Amaya Rockey, *Nebraska Days*, Sponsor: Meredith McQuay, Southern Valley Jr/Sr High

2nd—Kim Rodriguez, *Flight*, Sponsor: Abby Schukei, Ralston Middle School

3rd—Jordan Stumme, *Google Drawing Avatar*, Sponsor: Kyleigh Lewis, Dorchester

Grades 9-12 Digital Images

1st—Maddison Williams, *Reflection*, Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik, Thayer Central Community Schools

2nd—Morgan Morse, *Girl and Dripping Boy*, Sponsor: Colleen Childers, Grand Island Northwest

3rd—Brooklynne Mumford, *Sunflower*, Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik, Thayer Central Community Schools

(Continued on the next page)

(Contest Winners, continued)



▲ Grades 3-5 Digital Images

1st—by Faith Diaz, C. Ray Gates Elementary

Grades PK-2 Interactive Media

1st—Kalid Ali, *About Me by Kalid*, Sponsor: Melessia Rice, Dodge Elementary School

2nd—Garrett Bloodgood, *Scratch Jr.—A Whole Day of Fun*, Sponsor: Kim Steffen, Centura Public School

Grades 3-5 Interactive Media

1st—Tsjomme Liebgott-Osinga, *Farm Escape*, Sponsor: Charissa Widman, Prescott Elementary School

2nd—Class Project, *Haikus*, Sponsor: Caitlin Jensen, Dodge Elementary School

3rd—Danny Dobbs, *Dungeon Raider*, Sponsor: Charissa Widman, Prescott Elementary School

Grades 9-12 Digital Images ►

1st—by Maddison Williams, Thayer Central Community Schools

Grades 6-8 Interactive Media

1st—Marrissa Davey, *The Camera is Alive*, Sponsor: Abby Schukei, Ralston Middle School

2nd—Alyssa Moore, *Digital Portfolio*, Sponsor: Abby Schukei, Ralston Middle School

3rd—Trinity Brewer, *Learn About the Giver*, Sponsor: Randa Felske, Cedar Hollow (Northwest Public Schools)

Grades 9-12 Interactive Media

1st—Roberto Saavedra, *OW2D*, Sponsor: Lucas Hartman, Omaha South High School

2nd—Aubrey Fangmeier, *Thayer Central in Minecraft*, Sponsor: Stephanie Lanik, Thayer Central Community Schools

3rd—Chris Galusha, Austin Dobrusky, Jarod Harris, *Seward High School Website*, Sponsor: Russ Wissing, Seward High School

Pre-service Teacher/College Student Interactive Media

Winner—Brenna Backemeyer, *Blogging Hyperdocs*, Sponsor: Ramona Schoenrock, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Grades PK-2 Video

1st—Madison Wieczorek, Skylur Korbel, and Niala Alvarez Urquia, *The Girl's Treasure*, Sponsor: Melissa Sears, Wasmer Elementary

(Continued on the next page)



(Contest Winners, continued)

2nd—Miyah Lemburg, *My Christmas*, Sponsor: Kim Steffen, Centura Public School

3rd—Class Project, *What a Wonderful World*, Sponsor: Julie Vaughan, St Vincent de Paul School

Grades 3-5 Video

1st—Class Project, *The High Five of Doom*, Sponsor: Melissa Sears, Wasmer Elementary School

2nd—Liam Gallagher, *Black Holes*, Sponsor: Tracy Sheppard, Campbell Elementary

3rd—Mason Janda, *Wonder Unit Project*, Sponsor: Thomas Yoachim, Centura Elementary

Grades 6-8 Video

1st—Trinity Brewer and Sydney Fisher, *A Simple Smile*, Sponsor: Randa Felske, Cedar Hollow (Northwest Public Schools)

2nd—Sarah Simmons, *Fire Demon*, Sponsor: Emily Salie, Leonard Lawrence Elementary

3rd—Jacob Peacock, *Yearbook Commercial*, Sponsor: Jason Brewer, Louisville Middle School

Grades 9-12 Video

1st—LeAnne Bugay, Izzy Pineda, *Communicative & Fine Arts*, Sponsor: Aaron Eugene Stueve, Bellevue West High

2nd—Robert Wishart, *Darkest Night*, Sponsor: Natalie Runyon, Omaha North High Magnet School

3rd—Jonathan Svoboda, Jory Nelson, *The Note*, Sponsor: Craig Williams, Seward High School

Classroom Grants

Heather Osborn, *Malcolm Digital SmartCart*, Malcolm Public Schools (\$1,109.32)

Sharon Bennett, *Central Live*, McCook Public Schools (\$1,330.93)

Shelley Sheets, *Students "Kano" Code: A Love Triangle for the Ages*, Ralston Middle School/Ralston Public Schools (\$1,487.10)

Natasha Gault, *SOLAR: Students Objectively Learning About Radiation*, Norris Middle School/Norris School District #160 (\$1,469.67)

What's Your Story? NETA Conference Scholarship

Kimberly Remmers, *WHY?*, Hawthorne Elementary School

Arielle Levine, *Mrs. Levine & Dr. Wiggleworth's Technology Adventure*, Millard Public Schools

Charissa Widman, *Ignite the Spark for Learning*, Prescott Elementary School

(Continued on the next page)

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Excellence in *Leading with Technology* Award

THE PURPOSE of the 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.



NETA is proud to recognize **Keegan Korf** of Omaha Public Schools as the 2018 Leading with Technology award winner.

As Lead Teacher of Digital Citizenship for Omaha Public Schools and Common Sense Media, Keegan is an advocate for educational technology for all students. Keegan works in the Omaha community and across Nebraska to educate students, teachers, parents and community stakeholders through dialogue about digital citizenship, media literacy, and data privacy in order to help children foster technology use to its full potential. In addition to her work with OPS and Common Sense Media, Keegan auditioned and was selected to speak at TEDx Omaha 2017 and was named to the Leadership Omaha Class 40.

Connie Wickham, Director of Educational Service Unit 19, says, "Prior to Keegan's participation in the Common Sense arena, our district was not keeping pace with the needs for educating our students and staff on the use of online resources. The success of this program and the relationships formed in our community and across the state are the direct result of the leadership of Keegan."

Keegan leads the OPS mobile learning unit initiative that engages

North Omaha communities by providing Common Sense Media programming during and after school, introducing digital citizenship while delivering digital access via the Wi-Fi bus. Merve Lapus, Director of Educational Outreach for Common Sense Media, commends Keegan's broad impact across the region and notes that Keegan "has trained hundreds of educators to empower critical thinkers and safe users through the application of technology in schools. With her knowledge and expertise, she has gone on to lead thousands more through state, national, and virtual professional development opportunities."

In just the short couple of years in her position, Keegan has already

progressed the district to receive the Common Sense Media District Certification. This effort has been accomplished through the Microsoft Innovative Educator Program that provides professional development to 200+ Microsoft Innovative Educators in Omaha Public Schools. Also, this past year Keegan helped develop a vetting tool with Microsoft that gives a process for applications and process for student data privacy.

Rob Dickson, OPS Executive Director of Technology for Omaha Public Schools, says, he has "worked with many national education leaders from across the country, and Keegan shows values that our educational system needs for the future. As a leader, I've witnessed outstanding qualities in her; as a friend, I haven't seen anyone that shows more empathy for student success." ❖



(Contest winners, continued)

ISTE Trek Conference Scholarships

Jen Schneider, *Finding My Purpose as an Educator*, Russell Middle School/Millard Public Schools (\$2100)

Kimberly Snodgrass, *Make Learning Sparkle with Technology*, York Middle School (\$2100)

Melissa Pilakowski, *Quest Based Learning*, Valentine Community Schools, (\$2100)

Karma Yantzie, *The Bold and the Techful*, Shickley Public School (\$2100)

Congratulations and Thanks!

Congratulations to all contest winners for submitting high-quality entries. In some cases, the choices were very difficult. Thanks so much to everyone who gave their free time to judge all the contests, and to those of you who entered or sponsored contest entries not listed among the winners. ❖

Excellence in *Teaching with Technology* Award

THE PURPOSE of the 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.



NETA proudly congratulates **Kyleigh Lewis**, Secondary Business Teacher at Dorchester Public Schools, as the 2018 Teach-

ing with Technology award winner. Patricia Arneson, Professor of Business Education at Wayne State College, Kyleigh's alma mater, says, "Kyleigh Lewis is the perfect example of the difference that one person can make in education."

In her fourth year teaching and coaching three sports at Dorchester, Kyleigh has expanded the school's curricular offerings and worked

diligently to expand student involvement in FBLA and her new coding club. Kyleigh is especially passionate about coding instruction, and she developed and offered a summer coding camp at Dorchester that enrolled more students than sports camps. She is partnering with a colleague to offer expanded coding camps for teachers across eastern Nebraska this summer.

Diane Houdek, the Dorchester guidance counselor, calls Kyleigh an "exemplary educator" who is always willing to try new things and lead by example. She commends Kyleigh for her "uncanny ability to find tools even non-techies can benefit from" and says she is "ALWAYS willing to

help anyone with any technology tool and is a patient teacher."

In addition to leading professional development sessions for her school and at events hosted by area school districts, Kyleigh has been selected to present at NETA, the National Business Education Association (NBEA) Conference, the UNL Personal Finance Institute and the Nebraska Career Education (NCE) conference. She has received awards from NETA and NCE recognizing her innovation and excellence, and she was chosen as the Student Teacher of the Year at Wayne State College.

Daryl Schrunk, the Dorchester Superintendent, recognizes Kyleigh for "her leadership at school and in the professional community," stating her leadership "has not only been a benefit to our school district, and community, but to many educators throughout Nebraska." ♦

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April 2018

National School Boards Association (NSBA)

April 7–9, 2018
San Antonio, TX
annualconference.nsba.org

NETA Spring Conference *Share Your Story*

April 18–20, 2018
CenturyLink Center Omaha
Omaha, NE
netasite.org



United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)

April 29–May 2, 2018
Indianapolis, IN
<http://www.usdla.org>

June 2018

Nebraska Career Education Conference (NCE)

June 4–7, 2018
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE
nceconference.com

ISTE Conference *The Epicenter of EdTech*

June 24–27, 2018
Chicago, IL
www.iste.org



July 2018

Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) Annual Conference

July 7–10, 2018
CenturyLink Center Omaha
Omaha, NE
www.csteachers.org

Great Plains Summit *featuring Google*

July 12–13, 2018
Southwest High School
Lincoln, NE
gpsummit.org



October 2018

iNACOL Symposium

October 21–24, 2018
Nashville, TN
www.inacol.org/symposium

November 2018

Nebraska Fall Ed Tech Conference

November 1–2, 2018 (tentative)
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, NE
fall.netasite.org



January 2019

Future of Educational Technology Conference (FETC)

January 27–30, 2019
Orange County Convention Ctr,
Orlando, FL
fetc.org

February 2019

Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA)

February 4–8, 2019
San Antonio, TX
convention.tcea.org/

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Membership Form

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

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If you attended the Spring Conference in April 2017, your membership is included with your registration. You will receive a printed newsletter. If you would like to receive a printed newsletter, but did not attend the Spring Conference, you may pay \$35 for a printed September, November, February and April newsletter. Make checks payable to NETA. To become a member, please fill out the above form and mail with check to:

NETA Membership
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