

Set Sail for 2006

JENNIFER ROLAND

Today's closing session will mark the end of this whirlwind professional development and networking event we call NECC. The session will take place from 2:45-4 p.m. in the PACC Ballroom.

In addition to the usual giveaways and previews of next year's conference in San Diego, California, the closing session will also include videos taken by award-winning student videographers chronicling our time here in Philadelphia. These students are winners of the *eSchool News* and Discovery Channel's Student Video Discovery Awards. They are part of NECC's extra focus on student voices this year, along with the students who presented films at Tuesday's film festival, staffed The Doctor Is In tech support area and the free software center, and participated in sessions and the expanded student showcase. As ISTE's Deputy CEO and Conference Chair reminded us in her message to NDLE readers in Monday's issue, "Student voices are key."



NECC 2006 focuses on Charting an Intentional Future, which continues the work ISTE has been doing with its Futures project and the work Joel Barker touched on in his keynote address Wednesday morning, California

Computer Using Educators (CUE) is supporting ISTE in presenting NECC 2006. Their team has been shadowing PAECT's team at this year's conference to gain first-hand experience coordinating all the details necessary to put on the conference. CUE, founded in 1978, is one of ISTE's largest Affiliates, with 7,000 members.

The conference will begin on the Fourth of July at the San Diego Convention Center — the perfect venue for viewing the 11 fireworks displays in the harbor. You'll want to plan a family trip to spend this U.S. holiday in San Diego.

Until then, NECC 2006 is looking for session proposals covering such topics as:

- future learning environments,
- emerging technologies,
- technology planning and assessment,
- skills and knowledge students need to be highly successful in the future, and
- leadership skills.

Proposals are due October 5, so start planning now if the sessions you've attended here have motivated you to share your own experiences. If you're not planning to present next year, you can begin to think about the types of sessions you will want to attend next year.

Visions, Voices and Video



Author and Presenter Joel Barker.

THE STAFF OF
LEARNING & LEADING
WITH TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday's three keynote speakers touched on defining the vocabulary of the future, genuinely listening to student voices, and motivating at-risk youth through innovative uses of technology.

Many attendees had a hard time deciding which of the three simultaneous addresses to attend. It's a hard decision to make, said Sister Mary Therese Freyman from Our Lady of the Westside School in Chicago, IL. You "have to choose among three at the same time, and they're all good."

Fortunately, you can view the ones you didn't get to attend via posted Webcasts. Read "Extend NECC Learning" on page 7 for information how to access the videos.

Author Describes Five Visions of the Future

Joel Barker presented five remarkably detailed,

extremely optimistic visions of the future based on his TechnEcology concept. Each of these visions reflect how our core values will affect the future we choose.

To an almost capacity crowd in the PACC Ballroom, Barker quickly outlined his visions in a smooth, polished and easy-to-follow presentation based on his book *Five Regions of the Future*. His central assertion is that we need to be much more specific in describing technology.

Rather than focus on the origin of a technology, he suggests it is much more useful to describe technology in terms of how it is used. "Technologies can be divided into five ecologies," Barker said. "Each can deliver a strikingly different future."

The five technology systems he identifies are super technology, limits technology, local technology, nature technology, and human technology. These five visions are less about differences in technological

See KEYNOTES, page 2

NECC's Philadelphia Freedom

A conference as large and multifaceted as NECC 2005 simply can't be evaluated on the fly, yet some things seem obvious. People seem happy. Attendance was very good. Interest and excitement were strong in the exhibit hall, visitors enjoyed Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Convention Center is a nice facility.

"I've been very busy at the conference," ISTE CEO Don Knezek said, "but I've seen a lot of people with big smiles on their faces. I've seen large crowds and a lot of interaction. I think the conference has done very well."

Paul Katz, Exhibit and Registration Manager, backs up Knezek's impression of smiling faces and crowds. Katz says

more than 17,000 educators and exhibitors participated in this year's conference, firmly ranking NECC 2005 as one of the best attended. "The exhibitors are pleased," he said. "Exhibit space selection for next year's conference in San Diego is strong."

Further supporting the evidence of a strong exhibitor performance was NexLearn's Marty Boyzuck, who exclaimed, "It's huge! I've never seen anything like it."

Initial and anecdotal evidence also shows the program section of the conference has been successful. "I've been getting amazing feedback from people," said Regional Program Chair Carol Teitelman.

See WRAPUP, page 4

NECC NOTES

Bag It Now

Extra conference tote bags are now available for purchase for \$10 each (goodies not included). Pick them up at the Softwear Booth in the Grand Hall, which is open today until 3 p.m.

Last Day Luggage Storage Service

NECC is offering last day luggage storage in the Grand Hall, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$2 per item. You can also check with the doorman or bell captain in your hotel to see if they offer this service.

Lost & Found

Missing something? Check the Conference Info Booth between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. to see if someone turned it in.

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EDITORIAL

A Call for Action!

KURT A. STEINHAUS

As NECC comes to a close and we look ahead to the next school year, our conference experience has allowed us to put on a fresh pair of glasses. These glasses will allow us to identify new approaches for:

- taking advantage of personal learning services,
- building high-quality connections with parents and administrators,
- developing intelligent instruction, and
- realizing the promise of one-on-one computing.



Looking through these new lenses, I can see the potential and need for new funding strategies. Here are some signs on the horizon.

First, the executive summary of the U.S. Department of Education's National Education Technology Plan states, "Over the next decade, the United States will face ever-increasing competition in the global economy. To an overwhelming extent, this competition will involve the mastery and application of new technologies in virtually every field of human endeavor."

A second reason for hope is reflected in a shift in planning. Rather than developing stand-alone or separate ed tech plans, schools are including the application of technology as part of a single strategic plan for student success.

Third, Texas leads the rising wave of state legislatures looking at learning technology in a new way. Instead of talking about Web access and integrating technology, they are talking about effective e-learning and how to leverage technology to deliver instructional materials.

To fully fund ed tech, we need to dramatically increase the number of classroom visits from policy makers and business education leaders. We need to invite legislators, superintendents and principals into our classrooms — not once, but many times. By bringing decision makers on-site, we provide the opportunity and motive for them to refresh their view of learning by seeing and hearing what the Millennials do and have to say.

This is a call for action. During the visit, ask legislators, education officials and business education leaders to answer the question, "Exactly how does [fill in the activity, policy or practice] contribute to preparing our kids for real life, right now?"

ISTE President Kurt A. Steinhaus serves as Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Education at the New Mexico Public Education Department.

Keynotes

Continued from page 1

sophistication than they are about values, and the forces that drive advances within these technology ecosystems.

Barker identified the solutions offered by each of these visions of the future to many of the big issues confronting society, such as energy sources, population and housing — each grounded in recent and projected advances in technology.

Barker went on to challenge the audience as educators to take the new vocabulary he had presented and use it to frame our dialog about the future so that it reflects our values. Otherwise, he says, the choices will simply be made for us.

One-Woman Show Illustrates How Today's Students Think

In Salon G/H of the Marriott, actress and author Deneen Frazier Bowen brought her audience face to face with the educational attitudes learners face and the "digital natives" who are overcoming them.

In a one-woman performance that was alternately funny and touching, Bowen first emerged in the persona of Dr. Priscilla Normal, a staid, by-the-book education researcher who used dry but relevant statistics and data to make the point that education is vital to the nation's economic well being. However, her traditional PowerPoint presentation was quickly hijacked by enthusiastic and knowledgeable students who testified to the uses and possibilities of educational technology for learning.

Acting as Edy, a cool, streetwise eighth-grader, she showed the audience her blog, and stressed the importance of discovering — and respecting — what students think. "Today's students don't think with pen and paper," she said. Edy emphasized the importance of reaching every student. "So,



Actress and Author Deneen Frazier Bowen

95 percent of students are proficient? Proficiency is the *minimum*. And what about the *other* 5 percent? That's me. *I'm* the other 5 percent."

Edy's character then gave way to hyperactive sixth-grader Maria, who described her experiences creating her own Web site design company and presenting research on student technology use to her school board. "Kids are way above the national average in all areas of technology use," Maria said.

However, today's youth don't necessarily use technology in ways that researchers expect. For instance, although research shows negligible use of instant messaging among students, that only means they're doing it on their cell phones, Maria said. It's important for researchers to actually talk to kids so that they correctly interpret their data.

The last persona to be portrayed was Joanna, an entrepreneurial 11th-grader who honed her leadership and teamwork skills by playing multiplayer online video games. She later used those skills with other student leaders around the world in a project to provide used computers and software to impoverished countries.

The presentation ended with Frazier Bowen re-emerging as herself to emphasize that the successful use of educational technology is not about data and demographics, but about nurturing and sustaining a genuine conversation with youth. "First, you need to ask questions," Frazier Bowen said. "Second, listen differently. And third, act with students" to promote learning.

Teacher Uses Tech, Writing To Motivate Inner-City Kids

Erin Gruwell told her story to a packed room in Salon E/F in the Marriott.

Gruwell walked in to her first day of teaching high school language arts full of lofty ideals with a syllabus packed with the classics, such as Homer and Shakespeare. She was greeted by 150 students thought by many of her fellow teachers to be too stupid to read a book.

They sat in segregated groups: black kids in the back corner, Latinos in another section, Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees in the front. There was also one dyslexic white kid scared out of his mind, hoping that he had read the room number wrong and wouldn't be stuck in this



Teacher and Author Erin Gruwell

room, with these kids.

Gruwell's syllabus was met with disdain. One boy, Darius, folded it into a paper airplane, threw it to the front of the room and asked, "Why should we have to read books by dead white guys in tights?" The other students quickly wadded up their syllabi and threw them to the floor.

This was in 1994. Today, these students are known as the Freedom Writers, taking their name from the Freedom Riders who fought for civil rights in the United States in the 1960s.

Gruwell threw out the rejected syllabus and found books written by kids who experienced the same violence in their everyday lives that these students did, kids who grew up in gang-infested east Long Beach, California. She used money from her father to buy 150 copies each of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, *Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo* by Zlata Filipovic, and *Night* by Elie Wiesel. These stories mirrored the students' own experiences, helping them understand their lives and the culture of violence in which they were growing up.

Using donated computers, students were able to write up their own stories in a way that could remain anonymous. Each story was written using the assigned random numbers rather than the author's name.

These stories were published as *The Freedom Writers Diary* in 1999. Paramount is in the early stages of bringing the book to the big screen, with Hilary Swank signed on to play Gruwell. Gruwell stayed to sign copies of the book after her keynote, then quickly left to fly to Hollywood to help cast actors to play Darius and her other Freedom Writers.



NECC Daily Leader

An ISTE Publication

The NECC Daily Leader publishes Monday through Thursday. Offices are located at PACC Rooms 308 and 309. You can contact the editors by phone at 1.215.418.2033 or via e-mail: NDL@iste.org.

- Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Roland
- Art Director Signe Landin
- Production Editor Tracy Cozzens
- Conference Editor J.V. Bolkan
- Exhibit Hall Editor Davis N. Smith
- Reporter Rachel Bannister
- Graphic Designers Tamara Kidd, Elizabeth Scandalios, Ronwin Ashton
- Photographers Jean Marie Hall, Amy Miller
- Copy Editors Kate Conley, Scott Harter
- Office Managers Diane Durrett, Amy Miller
- Director of Publishing Jean Marie Hall

Contributors: Leslie Conery, Don Knezek, Paul Reinhart, Kurt Steinhaus.

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EXHIBIT HALL HIGHLIGHTS

Vendors Vie for Attendee Eyes and Ears



Joel Peterson (left) and Laura Hannah (middle) are the netTrekker prize patrol. Here, they are photographing one of the lucky winners.

Get Benjamin

Attendees who visit the netTrekker d.i. booth and view their session receive a T-shirt that could be their ticket to a quick \$100. Anyone seen wearing the T-shirt by the netTrekker prize patrol will receive a crisp new \$100 bill. You simply have to stand still long enough for them to photograph you wearing your shirt and holding the bill.

A Chance to Win

Turn in your ISTE 100 Traffic Driving Tee (inside your Guide to the ISTE 100) to the ISTE Booth in the Grand Hall

before you leave the conference today for your chance to win one of three large gift baskets. (One of the baskets is on display in the ISTE Booth.) The drawing will be held after the conference closes down, and ISTE 100 representatives will contact

the winners and ship their prizes to them. You do not need to be present to win.

Tools for Teaching

Public television and radio station WHYH offer myriad resources for educators to use, including:

- PBS TeacherLine online professional development resources;
- streaming video content to integrate into classroom instruction;
- CourseStream, which allows users to integrate WHYH's video and that from other sources into online course

management systems;

- GED Connection, which makes GED preparation materials available through online and datacast video; and
 - custom television programming for schools and tools to help schools create their own programming.
- They are currently translating GED Connection into Spanish; the Spanish language version will be available in the next fiscal year.

WHYY and other partner booths are located in the PACC West Concourse, just inside from the transportation area.

Bursting with Resources

Sunburst Technology introduced MyTeacherAssistant.com, an online portal offering 30,000 classroom tools and resources for teachers. The company says the new site is perfect for teachers who are new to the Internet and need to build confidence in their navigation skills. Visit Sunburst Technology in booth #1822.

Reaching Out

Mentoring experts My eCoach announced that their Web-based product My eCoach Online will be the primary online telecommunication resource between students and teachers in an ISTE Affiliate classroom environmental project involving Aboriginal students in Queensland, Australia, Maori students in New Zealand, and Lummi Nation

native American students in Washington State. The company will work with teachers in five classrooms in each location to provide communication, coaching and curriculum tools, allowing students to share images and stories about their history and culture with each other. Find My eCoach in booth #73.

—Compiled by Davis N. Smith and Jennifer Roland

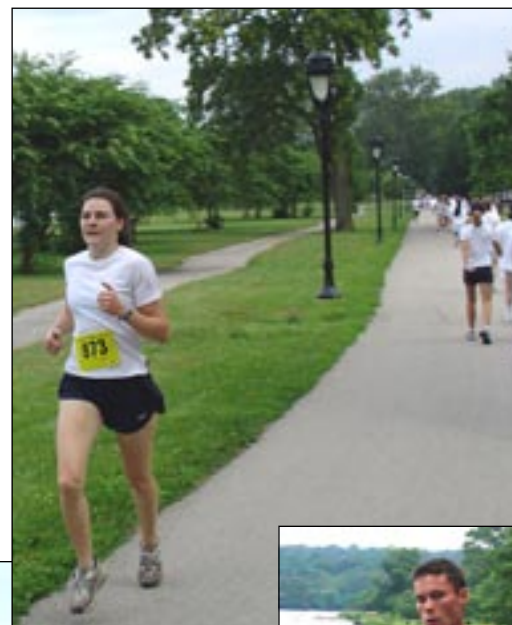


In addition to the usual pile of pens, forest of notepads, feast of candies and mountains of free software, this year's NECC exhibit booths featured a wide variety of stress sponges, from race cars to building blocks. T-shirts also featured prominently. The folks at HotChalk gave away 2,240 black tees during the first three days of the show.

Runners Breeze to Finish Line



A cool summer breeze greeted 159 runners and walkers Wednesday as they gathered by the Schuylkill River in Fairmount Park for the annual NECC 5K Fun Run/Walk (top left). After the starting signal (bottom left), runners departed the Lloyd Hall area and raced down Kelly Drive past historic Boathouse Row to the finish line.



Winner of the men's race was Mike Horan of Eastern High School, Louisville, KY (bottom right), while the women's winner was Emily Rimas, Microsoft, Seattle, WA (top right). Second place in each race went to Johnathan Leavitt and Crystal Smith. Third place was won by Tom Korta and Kala Flentie.



PHOTOS BY DAVID FALVO, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

From Rhymes to Ancient Rites, Showcasers Strut Stuff



Carolyn Gerber (left) and Alyssa Adams show off their Student Showcase display, which they spent two weeks creating.

PA Showcases Its Best and Brightest

One of the groups highlighted in the Pennsylvania Showcase in PACC Room 203B Wednesday was St. Andrew School. Its fourth-graders participated in a week-long handheld computing project, and they presented the results at NECC.

Students Carolyn Gerber and Alyssa Adams and teacher Barbara Smith described the project to attendees. Gerber says they started by learning the basics of the handheld, how to charge it, how to use the apps, and how to use the Graffiti handwriting-recognition software. "We played Giraffe" to learn Graffiti, she

said, "which made it funner." Their teacher beamed a book to them that described limericks, then asked them to write a limerick and illustrate it as their home work. They used Sketchy to draw pictures to illustrate their limericks and beamed them to the teacher. Adams says she thinks handhelds are "really good for learning." Both Adams and Gerber said they enjoyed using the handhelds. "As our world gets more advanced in technology, it is good for us to use different things," Gerber continued. Adams said she wants to have them back in the classroom. She asked her parents to buy her one, but they said no, much to her disappointment.

Native Dancers Excite and Inform

Traffic came to a standstill in front of the Student Showcase area as kids from the Theodore Roosevelt School in Fort Apache, AZ, performed the Crown Dance. Technology Educator Michael LiPira teaches a unit on computer graphics with a Native American slant. LiPira, who has studied Native American art extensively, believes it is "important to integrate technology with culture," especially for Native American students.

During the course of the four- to six-week unit, LiPira found out that some of his students were Crown Dancers, who are chosen by their tribe's medicine man to represent the mountain spirits, known as the Gaan, aid and protect the Apache people. The students began capturing photos of their resident dancers, all the while making sure not to break the Apache traditions involved with the dance.

LiPira and his students presented their project at NECC 2005 in New Orleans, LA, using just multimedia. They decided to bring the dancers this year to augment the presentation. The dancers, sixth graders Zhan Bourke

and Dustin Little, eighth graders Toby Adley and Daniel Altaha and sponsor Sterling Goseyun, also performed at the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian September 21, 2004, in Washington, D.C.

After the dance was over, the students came back to the presentation area to edit the photos LiPira took of their dance. LiPira described his students as Photoshop wizards; they are such "visual learners, they picked it up really fast," he says.



The Crown Dancers from Theodore Roosevelt School drew a crowd of onlookers as they performed their sacred Apache dance.



Small-group activities were a key part of the Chief Tech Officers Forum hosted by Lynn Nolan and Mila Fuller, held Wednesday morning in Loews' Commonwealth Hall.

She's our winner!



Sherry Rasmus of West Point Public Schools (NE) is the winner of an Intel QX3 microscope. To win, Rasmus tracked down J.V. Bolkan of the *NECC Daily Leader*, received his signature on his business card, then entered the special drawing. Congratulations, Sherry!

Wrapup

Continued from page 1

"They tell me they are blown away and overwhelmed, but overwhelmed in a positive way. One lady said she now needs to go home and take three days off to rest her brain."

National Program Chair Anita McAnear added, "I'm really pleased with how the conference has gone. I think the keynotes all went really well. I think we've been

successful at conveying how important it is to listen to students. Mostly, I'm excited by all the excitement coming from the people."

Much of the excitement generated in Philadelphia can be directly attributed to highly motivated volunteers staffing the Ask Me booths, directing attendees, and carrying out countless behind-the-scenes tasks required to host a conference of this side. Volunteer coordinator Holly Jobe was happy that all their

hard work paid off. "I have seen a lot of smiles. People have told me that they have gotten a lot out of NECC. They also said it's well organized and the facility is beautiful. I also heard them say they love Philadelphia!"

That seems to be a common feeling. "The Convention Center and the whole city have been great," said Conference Director Donella Evoniuk. "I can't wait until we can hold another conference in Philadelphia."



Attendees move through the Pennsylvania Convention Center as the Conference winds down.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Influence Future Research

8:30-9:30 a.m.
PACC Room 108 A

Join two *Learning & Leading with Technology* columnists and the editors of the *Journal of Research on Technology in Education* and the *Journal of Computing in Teacher Education* to discuss future directions in ed tech research. The session will focus specifically on making research more relevant to K-12 schools.

Technology Leadership 2005: Roadmap for Systemic Change

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
PACC Room 201B

Administrators and technology coordinators: expand your leadership capabilities while working toward systemic school improvement with technology. You will hear how educational technology leaders develop a road map for achieving school and program goals through integration of ISTE's National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) and how they address goals of the National Education Technology Plan (NETP). All participants receive a copy of ISTE's new *Technology Coordinator's Handbook*. The cost for this event is \$50. Space may still be available at this event. Check at Onsite Registration.

International Students' Digital Reflections

10 a.m.-noon
PACC Grand Hall, Table G04

View students' digital stories, in which they reflect on their international experiences. Find out more about tools and processes for telling digital

stories. Part of the Global Gallery and addressing the Student Voices theme, this presentation shouldn't be missed!

Keynote Luncheon

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
Marriott Salon E/F

Game designer and author of *Digital Game-Based Learning* Marc Prensky discusses how we can use games to educate students. Games engage students, and they are our best bet to ensure that our students are interested in learning, he argues. Preregistration and additional \$30 fee are required; check at Onsite Registration for availability.

Debate: Can We Use Games to Educate?

1:30-2:30 p.m.
Marriott Liberty Ballroom A/B

Marc Prensky and Wendy Petti debate the question, "Do computer and video games have a role in 21st-century education?"

Closing Session

2:45-4 p.m.
PACC Grand Ballroom

End your NECC experience with a student-created highlights video, then find out all about NECC 2006 in San Diego. Next year's conference will straddle the Fourth of July holiday, so plan now to bring your family to one of the biggest parties of 2006. Attendees are eligible to win a lot of cool prizes, including an airfare/hotel/registration package for NECC 2006. Be sure to bring your registration badge and your photo ID; you must be present to win.

RUMINATIONS & ILLUMINATIONS

How will you put what you have learned at NECC to use?

Ted Sakshaug

Wheathead Chili Schools
Scottsville, NY

"I've been going to leadership sessions, and I am going to take some of that information and see if I can't help my district use technology better than I have been."



Julyann Tanaka

NES Wendover High School
Wendover, UT

"The thing I'm going to use the most is the programs that show you how to put your digital cameras to work and make movies with your students in the classroom."



Elizabeth Buckley

Belvedere Elementary
Falls Church, VA

"I'm a second grade teacher and I'm here with a fifth grade teacher, so we represent the whole school. Basically, we've gotten mini-training on a lot of things.

So I have a lot of extra tips I can take back and use in my classroom."



Carolyn Bushman

NES Wendover High School
Wendover, UT

"I'll use the interactive math sites I learned about that make math more visual for my students. I'll also use digital cameras in my math classroom using techniques I learned in the

two-day workshop I took."

Susan Halligan

School District of
Haverford Township
Havertown, PA

"From the keynote speaker [Wednesday] morning, I got that we need to think about the students' perspective more instead of about our perspective. And we need to get them engaged in creative ways."



Tina Loveland-Smith

Rose Tree Media School District
Media, PA

"First and foremost, I'll share what I've learned. Then I'll take some ideas from the student showcases. They've been great for inspiring new ideas to integrate into my classroom."



Doug Caldwell

eMINTS National Center
Columbia, MO

"I'm taking pretty detailed notes and when I get back, I'm going to type up a summary and share it with staff members who weren't able to come. There have been

a lot of innovative things in the last few years since we were all able to attend."



Jeannine Klaassen

St. Mary Magdalen School
Media, PA

"I'm the technology coordinator at a small school, but I'm also the technology teacher in grades K-8. I'll share everything with my faculty, and I'll share with my students in the classroom. There are a lot of good ideas."

ROOM & SCHEDULE CHANGES

Cancellation

Due to unforeseen circumstances for presenters, the following sessions have been cancelled.

Thursday, June 30

Concurrent Session

Data-Driven Instruction through Math Software

Robyn Silbey, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Room 108A



Program Change

Thursday, June 30

ISTE's SIGTE Session Features Susan Patrick: U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities for Teacher Educators

The director of the U.S. ED Office of Educational Technology will discuss ed tech funding opportunities. (Sponsored by ISTE's SIGTE) 10:30-11:30 a.m., Room 112B

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ISTE Leaders Urge Educators To Become Funding Advocates

JENNIFER ROLAND

There is no question that funding for educational technology in the United States is at risk. ISTE President Kurt Steinhaus issued a challenge to all attendees at Monday's opening keynote to join the Ed Tech Action Network (ETAN) and become active in fighting for funding.

ISTE CEO Don Knezek believes that with ETAN, which ISTE founded with the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), "We've got a support tool that will help any educator interact with their elected officials in the area of educational technology." As ISTE was working with state-level advocacy committees on creating the federal advocacy tools contained on the ETAN Web site (www.edtechaction-network.org), Knezek continued, "they began to see the value of the Web site and of the tool and asked if we would consider building a similar tool specifically for their state. As it turned out, the engine we had developed was fairly easily enhanced with state-specific pages." Knezek says

that in January ISTE will "offer that as a full-blown service to the states."

On Tuesday, Lisa Woodard, Director of Education & Outreach at the Alabama Supercomputer Authority, CoSN Board Chair Sheryl Abshire and outgoing ISTE Board member Amy Perry-DelCorvo presented a session to give the more than 50 attendees the tools they needed to get started with advocacy. The first thing they did was try to break down the barriers for educators. Abshire says that when confronted with the idea of becoming an advocate for ed tech funding, educators usually respond, "I'm not a politician. I'm a fill in the blank, teacher, superintendent or whatever." But, Abshire continues, we have to work with politicians to secure funding; we simply have no choice. Woodard gave specific tips to help make meetings with elected officials productive. She has posted these in the session handouts section of the NECC Web site (www.iste.org/necc/). Use the Program Search page to find the



ISTE Board President Kurt Steinhaus urges action.

session and its accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Finally, Perry-DelCorvo ensured that all attendees got a good overview of ETAN.

ETAN is not the only answer, though. During the ISTE membership meeting, Steinhaus focused strongly on advocacy, reminding ISTE members and leaders that advocacy does not end with securing funding. For ISTE, it also means engaging Affiliated associations, visiting schools to see their needs firsthand, and ensure that decisions we make and issues we advocate for are driven by solid data.

MY NECC OF THE WOODS

High Speed NECCworking

J.V. BOLKAN WITH
JENNIFER ROLAND AND
DAVIS N. SMITH

After walking from one end of the center to the other countless times, talking to more people in four days than I've probably talked to in the past six months, and doing everything I can to find out what you think this NECC is all about, I finally got it.

Everyone is quick to point to the dual concerns that define NECC: education and technology. That's true, but it isn't the thing that makes NECC such a vital event for so many. A few folks came close, telling me that this conference is special because the people are so passionate. The people are passionate, they want to be here because they believe, but that isn't all of it.

It is the connections, the networking. I realized this when one of our outstanding artist/photographers



asked where I wanted to be photographed today and I had no topic in my head yet. Instinctively, I wanted to be at my temporary NECC workspace, in the midst of my co-workers. All day long I'd been processing the clues, but suddenly they all clicked.

After working with Glen Bull for five years through e-mail, I met him face to face for the first time this afternoon. It was a chance encounter, which was almost immediately interrupted by

another chance encounter as an old friend of his literally bumped into us. Networking, teamwork, sharing a vision, and a commitment to reaching that vision are what makes this convention special. We are a community. All those connections give us lots of ways to keep in touch. Let's keep talking until we meet again in San Diego.

ISTE Senior Editor J.V. Bolkan serves as conference editor for the NECC Daily Leader.

ISTE NEWS

ISTE Booth Stocks Popular Educational Titles

The ISTE booth in the Grand Hall has seen brisk business throughout the conference, with several books selling out.

"Many of our authors led workshops, which brought customers to the booth seeking their books," said Amy Miller, book production coordinator. For instance, one title that drew a lot of interest is *Teaching with Digital Images* by Glen L. Bull, who led a session on using digital images in the classroom, and Lynn Bell. The book will be published in three weeks.

Sold-out titles include *Concept Mapping Companion, Second Edition*; *Web Searching Strategies, Second Edition*; *Spreadsheet Magic*; *NETS•S Curriculum Series: Multidisciplinary Units for Grades 6-8* and *Multidisciplinary Units for Prekindergarten through Grade 2*. Numerous other titles are still in stock for convenient purchase at the conference. Customers can take advantage of a 10% discount when they purchase two or more books on site (bundles excluded).

Anyone interested in purchasing books can visit the booth today until 2:30 p.m. Visitors can pick up a coupon worth \$5 off of online Bookstore purchases at www.iste.org/bookstore. The coupon is valid through July 15.

ISTE book staff is on hand to answer questions about the titles, and Marketing staff is available to answer questions about ISTE membership and programs.

Forecasting the Future

ISTE released some results from its groundbreaking Futures study in a session Wednesday. Launched in February 2004, the Delphi study helps ISTE better plan its role in preparing for tomorrow. The goal of the Delphi study is to better position ISTE for success in the future, said ISTE CEO Don Knezek, and to support other associations in education as they navigate the future.

The study is progressing in multiple phases. First, ISTE surveyed education futurists and selected the top 10. Then, in the second phase, ISTE sent the Delphi panelists broad questions around five broad topics regarding the future of education, including the role of technology and education/business partnerships. The panelists sent anonymous responses to the questions, and all panelists were able to view all responses. They used the collected responses to create event statements and scenarios based around the statements.

In Phase 3, panelists assessed the event statements and responded whether they were likely to be true in 2010, 2020, or 2030. For example, when given the event statement, Students will be adept in using information technology tools to access, analyze, process and communicate information, 87.5% said this would be likely in 2010, and 12.5% said in 2020.

Members Get Business and Vision Information

At Wednesday's ISTE Membership/Business Meeting, board and staff leaders presented the business picture for the 2004-05 fiscal year and forecasted for the coming year. Treasurer Trina Davis showed the nearly 10% growth in revenue from 2003 to 2004 and then presented a graphic showing how the seeds planted by early grant investments in the NETS Project have helped the NETS grow into ISTE's most successful endeavor to date. President Kurt Steinhaus then shared the vision for the future. ISTE will focus on three major areas in the coming year: leadership and innovation, advocacy and building the strength of the organization. Finally, CEO Don Knezek reported on the initiatives ISTE has become involved with, including ISTE India, a partnership with FutureSchools. As part of the partnership, ISTE India will be holding a symposium in 2006 and a NECC-like event in 2007 in Delhi. Knezek then reported that ISTE intends "to crank up the CARET Web site," because it is important that ISTE has a strong research arm. Finally, the 12 ISTE SIGs presented their goals and ideals.

—Compiled by Tracy Cozzens, Amy Miller and Jennifer Roland

Extend NECC Learning with Technology Tools

Today is the last day of the conference, but that doesn't mean NECC is over. NECC offers many ways to extend your conference experience in the weeks and months ahead.

NECC offers four technology tools to help you continue your professional development and networking: webcasts of selected sessions, Blackboard forums, V•NECC and attendee reviews of many sessions.

Use the webcasts of the keynotes and sessions to catch pieces of the program you missed. This is especially useful for the Choose-Your-Own Keynote, where you may have had to choose between two interesting speakers, or the keynote of your choice was sold out. Check your Final Program to see which sessions will be archived on the NECC Web site (<http://www.iste.org>).

org/necc/). ISTE is partnering with nonprofit organization Kidz Online to bring you these webcasts, which will be posted for up to one year

after the conference.

The Blackboard forums offer NECC-goers a chance to discuss various issues, read related materials and connect

with like-minded colleagues.

Forum topics include Technology Integration Models, Student Voices, Professional Development, Learning from and with the Global Community, Leadership, and Distance Learning. ISTE is partnering with Blackboard Inc. to bring conference attendees this resource, which will be archived on the NECC Web site through September.

V•NECC, or Virtual NECC, is an exciting way to connect before and after the conference on the topics discussed in specific sessions. For example, participants in Ray Rose's session on online technology professional development can continue their discussion online after today. Check the Advanced Search in the Program section of the NECC Web site to find

sessions with a virtual component. The session descriptions list what type of virtual component is offered (such as online discussion or e-mail list) and provide information on how you can get involved.

Finally, ISTE has partnered with *eSchool News* to provide an online conference information center. Catch up on the sessions and workshops you missed as reported on and reviewed by your colleagues, at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/cic>. This resource also includes news coverage of conference events.

ISTE offers a host of resources outside of the conference to help you further your professional knowledge. Check the ISTE and NECC Web sites throughout the year to see what's new.

—Jennifer Roland



Robert Cole of Saint Louis University keeps his laptop handy at the ISTE Institute. Stay in touch throughout the year with other ISTE members via webcasts, forums, and Virtual NECC.

Sponsor Highlights

Join **Discovery Education (Booth #1546)** in PACC Room 307A for the following training sessions:

8:30 a.m. Effective Use of Streaming Video in the One-Computer Classroom: Beth Breiner and Mark Hoffman, Carbon LeHigh IU, PA. Video streaming isn't just for the computer lab anymore. Learn effective strategies to incorporate streaming video clips into the one-computer classroom.

9:30 a.m. Differentiated Instruction through the Utilization of Technology: Scott Kinney, Discovery Educator Network. Learn how you can integrate technology to differentiate content, process and product to provide multiple pathways to learning.

10:30 a.m. Rich Digital Media and Network Resources: Managing Bandwidth and Storage Space: Will Kasper, Implementation and Customer Support, and Andy Schaefer, unitedstreaming Sales. Examine the options for adding educational technology resources that move data across school networks. Compare common network topologies and discuss the pros and cons of locally cached content.

1:30 p.m. Online Training: Certificate, Credit and No Cost: Sharon Metcalf, Becky Robbins and Jaana Narsipur (Discovery Training Team). Choose your style and pace from a variety of unitedstreaming staff development options. Either Interactive Training with four self-directed, highly engaging online lessons or live, collaborative Webinar sessions via WebEx. Pick up an invitation for free online customized training for your school or district group. Training sessions offer Discovery Education certificates for equivalent CEU credit hours from local school districts.

Please visit **Intel Innovation in Education (Booth #1323)** to learn more about our free professional development workshops for teachers and school and district leaders as well as our free online tools and resources.

We'll have several participating teachers on hand to share their experiences using our tools and resources and answer any questions you have. Learn more by attending a presentation in our in-booth theater. The theater schedule for Thursday is:

Presentation 1: Integrating Technology Effectively with Intel Teach to the Future (10:30 a.m., 11:30, 12:30 p.m.): Learn about the free worldwide effort to help educators use technology effectively to enhance teaching and student learning.

Presentation 2: Teaching Thinking with Technology: A Free Professional Development Workshop (11 a.m., 12 p.m.): The latest offering from Intel Innovation in Education helps teachers build students' higher-order thinking skills by integrating free online thinking tools into their curriculum.

All visitors to our booth can enter the daily drawing for a free Canon PowerShot A400 digital camera.

Represented in **booth #1314, Texas Instruments'** research-based educational technology, professional development and curricular materials are designed to create an engaging learning experience leading to improved student learning in mathematics and science.

Stop by Room 404, Franklin Level, Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, and join us for the following:

9:30-10:30 a.m. Instant Assessment, Instant Results with TI-Navigator
 10:30-11:30 a.m. Navigating Higher Student Achievement — The Administrative "Rudder" (administrator's session — lunch provided, sign-up required)
 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The TI-Navigator System — LearningCheck and Beyond
 12:30-1:30 p.m. TI Technology Transforming the Geometry Classroom
 1:30-2:30 p.m. Algebra Using Real World Data: USA TODAY Activities for the TI-Navigator System

Join us in the Exhibit Hall at Booth #1314 for the following presentations:

9:45 a.m. The TI-Navigator System in your Algebra Classroom
 10:30 a.m. An Easier Way to Collect Data in Science
 11:15 a.m. Introduction to the TI-Navigator System
 12 p.m. USA TODAY Algebra Activities for the TI-Navigator System
 12:45 p.m. Digital Light Processing (DLP) — Classroom Projection Technology
 1:30 p.m. Enhance Your Geometry Class with Cabri Jr.

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Awards Recognize Outstanding Contributions

J.V. BOLKAN

Recognizing the outstanding work and examples of educators really should happen every day, but it can be hard to get everyone together daily, so it makes sense to celebrate the very best of the best at NECC each year.

ISTE held its annual Awards Gala Monday evening immediately following the opening keynote session in conjunction with the opening reception. The association presented its Outstanding Teacher Award to Donna Roberts, a secondary mathematics teacher from the Liverpool Central School District in New York. Joe Hairston, Superintendent of Schools for Baltimore County Public Schools in Towson, Maryland, received the Outstanding Leader Award.

Both Hairston and Roberts came to the stage just before the keynote address. Congratulatory response was so great that Roberts was unable to exit the crowded ballroom to attend the official ceremony immediately following. Hairston was only able to make it with the help of a contingent of escorts clearing the way. "Sometimes you're just humbled by all the attention you get," said Hairston.

Other award winners announced at the gala include the Keil Area School District, Keil, Wisconsin, which was presented the Sylvia Charp Award for District Innovation in Technology. The Charp award is co-sponsored by ISTE and T.H.E. Journal, Inc. The Kay L. Bitter Vision Award for Excellence in Technology-Based Pre-Kindergarten Education went to Laura Eaton Sam from the Sandwich Community Unit School District #430 in Sandwich, Illinois.

Two of ISTE's special interest groups, SIGTel (Telelearning) and SIGTE (Teacher Educators), also had their award winners recognized during the gala. The SIGTel Online Learning Award winners were Jean Watt and Becky West (St. Vermillion, Alberta, Canada) 1st place for "Kid Disctionary"; Brenda Dyck (Alberta, Canada) 2nd place, Honey Kern (Cold Spring Harbor, New York) 3rd place. Highly Commended citations were bestowed on Sandra Gluth and Barbara Martin (both of Alberta, Canada). Co-recipients of this year's SIGTE Research Paper Award were Vivian H. Wright and



Lajeane Thomas, NETS Project Director, hoists her special award as Don Knezek looks on.



Donna Roberts beams as ISTE Board President Kurt Steinhaus congratulates her on being named Teacher of the Year.



Outstanding Leader Award winner Joe Hairston.

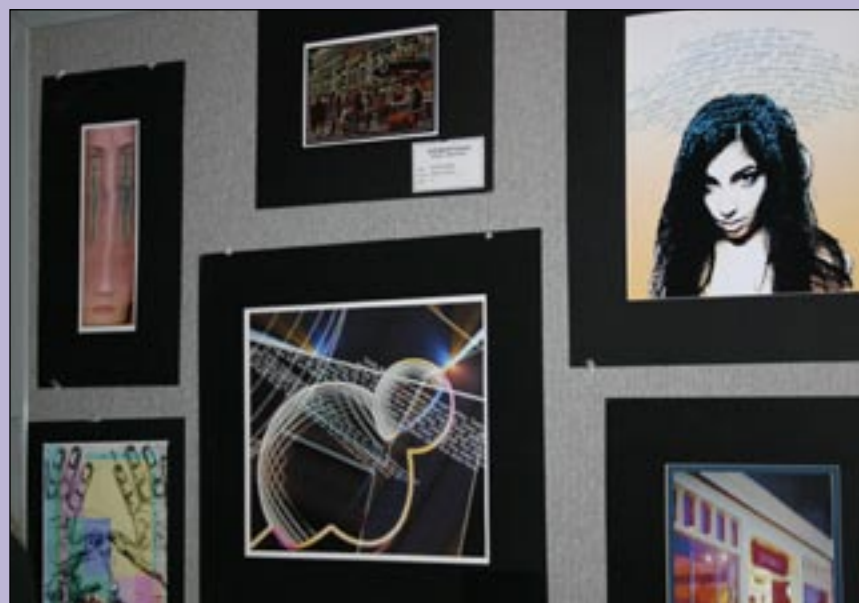
Elizabeth Wilson for "From Preservice to Inservice Teaching: A Study of Technology Integration."

Another major ISTE-sponsored honor, the Making It Happen Awards were also announced at NECC. The award recognizes outstanding commitment and innovation in the K-12 arena. Joining the illustrious group of more than 210 past winners of the coveted pink jackets were Donella Evoniuk, Holly Jobe, Neah Lohr, Lynn Nolan, Joyce Pittman and Kathy Schrock.

A very special award went to Lajeane Thomas, NETS Project Director and chair of ISTE's Standards and Accreditation Committee, for her hard work over the years developing and supporting the NETS. She was very surprised and pleased to be recognized at the ISTE membership meeting. She was gracious in acknowledging that the award was "not just for me" but for all those who have worked over the years. "It's amazing to see all the little ideas that we had while driving down the road grow and flourish," Thomas added.



From left, Kathy Schrock, Lynn Nolan, Neah Lohr, Joyce Pittman, Donella Evoniuk, and Holly Jobe.



Digital Wow

Attendees got an eyeful of fantastic, colorful art Wednesday in the Visual Arts Playground in Bridge Hall. This display was the work of students from Conestoga High School of Berwyn, PA. More of the students' work can be viewed in its online visual art gallery, which offers numerous examples of online student portfolios (<http://www.tesd.k12.pa.us/stoga/dept/artwebpage/visualart/portfolios/index.html>).