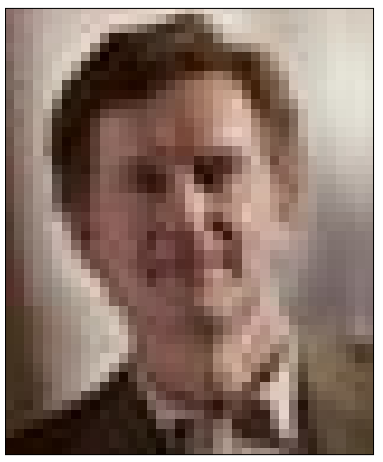
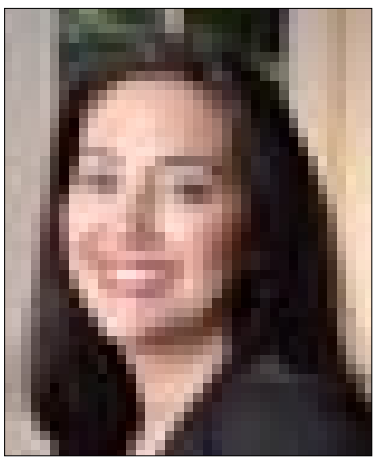
NECC
Daily Leader
The Official Newsletter of the National Educational Computing Conference

ISSUE 2
Tuesday • June 28, 2005


Joel Barker

Deneen Frazier Bowen


Erin Gruwell

Choose Your Own Keynotes Explore Change, Possibilities

J.V. BOLKAN

Start your day off Wednesday with the keynote speaker of your choice. Three lively and thought-provoking speakers will vie for your attendance 8:30--9:45 a.m. In the PACC Ballroom, Joel Barker details his vision of the future in "Five Regions of the Future: A New Way to Think about Technology." Educator, author and actress Deneen Frazier Bowen offers a glimpse into the mindset of the modern student in her presentation "The Natives are Restless" in Marriott Salon G/H. Erin Gruwell, Founder and President of the Erin Gruwell Education Project, offers a highly personal and inspiring keynote, "Becoming a Catalyst for Change" in Marriott Salon E/F. Admission to the keynote of your choice is free.

Although it may be difficult to choose from among the three, it is highly recommended that you arrive early to ensure excellent seating.

One of the most influential futurists of our time, Barker is the intellect behind the concept of paradigm shifts, and an immensely popular author of numerous books on the subject. His more recent musings on "TechEcology" promise to open eyes to a new way of viewing the role of technology. His five scenarios of the future will examine how humans should interact with the technology-based ecosystem and will leave you with a wealth of intriguing discussion topics, new vocabulary and an optimistic sense of the possibilities for the future.

Barker's first videotape, *Discovering the Future: The Business of Paradigms* was first released in 1986 and became the best selling business video in history by 1988. Updated in 2001, the video has been translated into 16 languages and continues to be used

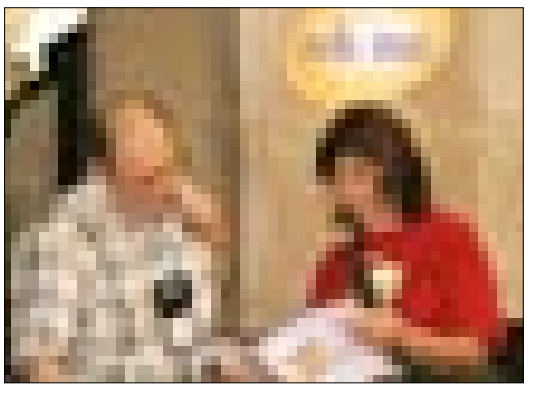
See KEYNOTES, page 2

Volunteers Plan, Prepare and Propel Conference

DAVIS N. SMITH

The National Educational Computing Conference is the largest ed tech gathering in the world. Such an undertaking is made possible in large part by the tireless planning and organization of volunteers. Many of this year's volunteers come from NECC 2005's co-sponsoring organization, the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology. Holly Jobe, director of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's Instructional Media Services center, is the PAECT liaison for NECC 2005.

"PAECT started out as a media group called the Pennsylvania Learning Resources Association," Jobe said. "We evolved as computers came into the schools into a computer and technology group, but we've always been aligned with learning and technology."


PAECT volunteers are available at Ask Me stations throught the convention center.

As chair of PAECT's volunteer, marketing and partners committee, Jobe has been hard at work lining up individuals and organizations to participate in this year's NECC, including the School District of Philadelphia and several other groups. For example, the Mayor's Commission on

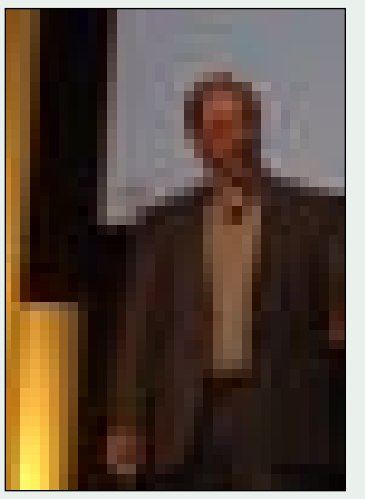
See PAECT, page 2

Speaker Forecasts the Future of Knowledge

JENNIFER ROLAND

Harvard fellow and author David Weinberger began his exploration of the shape of knowledge by tracing Western thought to the ancient Greeks, a time when any white land-owning male could stand up in the political arena and change the future of public policy "simply by his rhetoric."

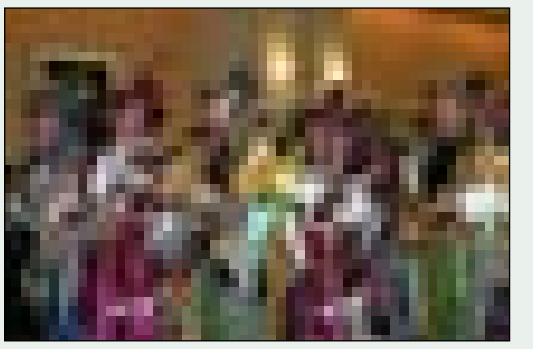
Thinkers then began to categorize and focus on which ideas were "worthy to believe." This was when knowledge began to evolve into its current "pretty rocky state," according to Weinberger.


Weinberger mixed witty remarks with exciting visuals during his speech.

We created gatekeepers for knowledge. An example of this is the editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica,which contains 32 volumes and 65,000 topics. Because of their physical constraints, editors must be selective when choosing items to include. Contrast this with the Web-based wikipedia, which contains 611,030 topics in the English version alone.

Not only does wikipedia allow more topics to be covered, Weinberger says, it also spreads "the onerous task of creating metadata" over a large group.

Weinberger also touched on the externalization of knowledge through technology. Why would we expect kids to memorize the periodic table when they can access that information in .587 seconds using a search engine, he asked. No need for educators to focus on memorization when students have access to vast quantities of information or expect students to do mental math when they can use calculators that do it more quickly and accurately.


A mummer's parade led attendees from the keynote to the opening reception

Gene Silverman from the Nassau BOCES in New York found his presentation "energized, funny," as she told her friend Rose Tirotta from the New York Institute of Technology as they waited for the mummer's parade to kick off the opening reception after Weinberger's address. "It's always nice," Silverman continued, "to hear people who pose things in a way you hadn't thought of."

NECC NOTES

Last Day Luggage Service
Thursday, NECC offers 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.

Business Center and Small Package Shipping
For items you need to ship home, use the Business Center on the Main Concourse (Level 2) in the PACC.

INSIDE

4 **The Doctor Is In** Students and grads offer on-site support.
5 **Program Updates** Find out about session and event changes.
8 **Examine Access** Session focus on ubiquitous Internet.

EDITORIAL

Technology… and a Great Deal More

DON KNEZEK

An article caught my eye the other day about the MIT Media Lab's $100 laptop project and an effort to give millions of these units to children in developing countries. The goals of the initiative are to improve access to education and, therefore, reduce poverty. The project builds on a body of evidence that full-time access to digital learning and productivity devices makes a difference for learners and teachers alike. Data shows improved attitudes toward school, and reduced absenteeism and disciplinary activity in schools implementing "one-to-one" projects.

The prospect of building affordable, robust devices for students, teachers and school leaders to use both in and out of the classroom has rekindled the fire of educators, policy makers, technologists and the corporate sector. Press coverage, corporate commitments of financial support and the general excitement within the ed tech community attest to the catalytic effects of the "truly affordable" concept.

Again, however, we are approaching a point of decision. Will we become intoxicated with the visioning process and forget all we've learned through two decades of ready access to digital tools and resources for learning? Or will we recognize the opportunity for what it really is and accept the responsibility to manage systemic educational transformation with technology as a catalyst?

The $100 laptop and similar advances in affordable technology for learning provide us an opportunity to equip significantly more learners worldwide with the tools they need to succeed in a 21st century learning landscape. Newfound affordability also saddles us, however, with the responsibility to apply what we've learned about technology's role in school transformation, as well as school reform's role in effective educational technology integration. We know that improved learning requires technology — and a great deal more. Affordability provides us with an opportunity to be smarter this time — to expand our learning, to document it more convincingly, to disseminate it more effectively and to apply it with rigor!

Don Knezek, ISTE's CEO, is a veteran educator, with experience in K-12 classroom, district office, regional service district, state department and national and international organization settings.

Beaming Stations Make Information Accessible

Integrating session information, exhibitor details and even this newsletter with your personal schedule is as easy as beaming it to your handheld from the stations located throughout the PACC. Palm OS, Pocket PC and Nokia series 60 Bluetooth devices can download these files through the infrared port.

Find three beaming stations in the Grand Hall, another by The Doctor Is In on Level 3 and one on the Main Concourse. All of the stations have instructions for downloading information to all three supported types of handhelds. And, The Doctor Is In support personnel are ready and willing to offer any additional instruction.

The information will be updated often, so refresh your download when you are near a beaming station. PrismWorks Technology Inc. provided the programming and jacks for the beaming stations.

Beam me up, NECC! Attendees queue up to beam conference information to their handhelds.

—Jennifer Roland

PAECT

Continued from page 1

Technology hosted a one-day digital leadership caucus on Sunday. "Their primary focus is to get minorities involved in using technology in education," said Jobe.

PAECT has also been working with other ISTE affiliates in the Northeast to encourage educators to come to NECC, Jobe said. PAECT volunteers went to state and local conferences, set up mailing lists and spread the word through local media.

Even though PAECT has fewer than 300 members, the group expects to muster about 500 volunteers for the conference, Jobe said. These individuals greet incoming attendees at airport and train stations as well as take tickets at the conference, staff Ask Me stations and distribute the *NECC Daily Leader*. The group is also hosting a special showcase of statewide ed tech events, leaders and opportunities in Room 203B of the convention center.

PAECT volunteers have also prepared resources for first-time visitors to the Philadelphia area, including a brochure, the Unconventional Guide to Philadelphia, available on the PAECT (www.paect.org) and NECC (www.iste.org/necc) Web sites. Information in the brochure will include where to get lunch and coffee as well as how to

participate in family activities during the conference.

Jobe is proud of her team of volunteers and the chance to showcase their commitment to educational technology. "When Leslie [Conery, ISTE deputy CEO] and her team came to us to talk about partnering, she made it clear that ISTE wants to leave the place in better shape than they found it," Jobe said. "Partnering has strengthened our team, focused our energies and helped us recognize and put a light on what's good in Pennsylvania. We're honored to have the opportunity to do that."

Keynotes

Continued from page 1

throughout the world. *Future Edge,* his book on paradigm shifts, was published in 1992 and was listed by the *Library Journal* as one of the most influential business books of the year. Barker has worked with a variety of businesses and organizations throughout the world. You can find out more about Barker at his Web site, http://www.joelbarker.com/.

Bowen has a strong conference connection as the originator of NECC's successful Student Technology Awards. She is also co-author of *The Internet for Your Kids.* An accomplished consultant and expert on integrating technology in schools, Bowen's experiences have given her deep insights into the mindset of today's youth, who (unlike their teachers) have grown up as natives in the digital environment.

Bowen's other talents include an impressive list of acting credits, which testify to her entertaining and lively stage presence. Blending her education and stage talents, Bowen's presentation will take the form of a theater-style, one-woman play that promises to delight as well as enlighten her audience. Bowen's Web site is http://www.deneenfrazier.com/.

Erin Gruwell and the Freedom Writers will offer a compelling and inspiring presentation on strategies for including and connecting with at-risk students. Heading the multifaceted Erin Gruwell Education Project, Gruwell is the author of *The Freedom Writers Diary* (Doubleday, 1999).

Gruwell's organization is deeply involved in creating curriculum materials, funding a scholarship program, hosting workshops, mentoring and speaking. Basing her presentation around her highly personal experiences working with students who have been cast aside by the system, Gruwell will lay out a road map for leading these students from despair into a brighter world of hope and promise. Find more information about Gruwell and her organization at http://www.gruwellproject.org/.

NECC Daily Leader — An iste Publication

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EXHIBIT HALL HIGHLIGHTS

Exhibitors Prepare to Woo and Wow

DAVIS N. SMITH

Bigfoot has nothin' on NECC.

The conference Exhibit Hall opens for the first time this morning at 9:30, and the footprint of this year's hall is more than 128,000 square feet, said Paul Katz, exhibit and registration manager. That's just the area covered by exhibits themselves; it doesn't include aisles or other traffic areas.

This year, the exhibit hall boasts 512 exhibitors, a record for NECC, Katz said. Those vendors are occupying 1,288 separate booths.

"The energy and excitement of the exhibitors this year is phenomenal," Katz said, and the growth in the educational technology sector that attendees witnessed last year in New Orleans has continued. "NECC is experiencing the benefits and the capital investment of companies' renewed interest in Ed Tech."

One hundred thirty five companies are exhibiting at NECC for the first time this year, Katz said. NECC organizers are encouraging attendees to check out new exhibitors by including a New Exhibitor Networking Gamecard in registration materials. The object of the game is to collect unique punchmarks from at least fifty of the new exhibitors listed on the card. Those who qualify will be entered into a drawing for a new Apple Mac G5 computer.

Conserve your foot power by splitting up your exhibit hall exploration over three days — and between team members if you are part of a group. Daily highlights from the exhibit hall can be found on page 3.

The hall will be open today until 5:30 this afternoon. Tomorrow, the hall hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Thursday, the exhibit hall opens at 9:30 a.m. and closes for the year at 2:30 p.m.

Show and Tell

LearningWare unveiled Gameshow Prep, a software template that allows teachers to embed their curriculum or include state-aligned content into six TV-style games. According to the company, this approach improves information retention. Show up at booth 2146 to see it for yourself.

Notes + Numbers

The nonprofit MIND Institute announced that their K-5-oriented Math + Music education program will be available beyond California and Texas. The software combines music instruction and computer math games. Visit MIND Institute in booth 2161.

Standards of Success

Riverdeep introduced Learning Management System 3.0 for its Destination Success products. The software generates formative math and reading assessments correlated to various state standards. Check out Riverdeep in booth 1800.

Pacing Progress

Soliloquy Learning released The Reading Assistant Manager, a network software program that uses proprietary technology to work with children at each student's individual pace to improve reading skills. The program is geared for grades 1-6. Soliloquy is in booth 1248.

See the Light

Microtek introduced the MS4 all-digital projector. According to the company, the MS4 is quiet, bright, and affordable for classrooms. Stop by Microtek in booth 2348.

Changes and Cancellations

A+ Technology has moved to booth #528.
Proxim has cancelled their booth and will not be exhibiting.

International Attendees Meet and Mingle

Approximately 200 people from many of the 39 countries represented at NECC gathered in PACC room 201B yesterday for the International Attendees Reception. Cosponsored by iEARN and ISTE, the gathering was an opportunity for attendees from inside and outside the United States to meet and greet, and compare and exchange perspectives and strategies on technology's potential to improve education.

Leaders from iEARN and ISTE welcomed the attendees by displaying national flags, struggling to be heard above the din of conversation. "We're thrilled to have you here, because you represent the best of what we do," said Barbara Kurshen, an educational consultant and member of the iEARN board of directors. "Making links, making connections, making a difference and connecting learners throughout the world."

Attendee Richard Okorodudu, a teacher educator from Nigeria, stressed the importance of education in poorer nations as a key to economic inclusion. "Children need marketable skills, knowledge and competence to succeed in the computer age," he said. "Awareness of technology is low in Nigeria." Okorodudu plans to suggest the theme of technological awareness at the Nigerian national education conference scheduled for August.

—Davis N. Smith

Above, Camilla Gagliolo, Christine Jager and Edwin Gregert welcome international attendees. At right Courtney Campbell, ABA (Brazil-America Association, smiles after winning a grab bag of NECC 2006 merchandice.

Experience the Awesome Power of the Podcast

Imagine students, parents and fellow teachers not only accessing time- and place-shifted content but developing and syndicating their own! Take your students from passive information consumers to active content producers by embracing the possibilities of the podcast.

"Podcast" is a melding of the words "iPod" and "broadcast," and is the name for the growing phenomenon of downloading audio, pictures, movies and documents to portable media devices. It's also an emerging model of distributed education.

Tonight, Apple Distinguished Educator Barnaby Wasson from Arizona State University will demonstrate how to turn a recording into a podcast. The Premiere Podcast Party, immediately following the film festival, will focus on the emerging medium of podcasting and its current and future effects on education. See outstanding examples of educational podcasts along with classroom integration strategies and tools and techniques for developing and producing your own podcasts.

Join the party in Marriott Salons I/J from 8:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Food and beverages will be served to attendees at this event.

—Davis N. Smith

Miss a great session?

eSchool News has you covered!

eSCHOOL NEWS

Read educators' session reviews in the eSN Conference Information Center.

http://www.eschoolnews.com/cic/

SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

Workshops Continue and Sessions Begin

The conference program shifts into high gear today with a huge variety of sessions joining the ongoing workshop schedule. Unlike workshops, which typically require pre-registration and a fee, sessions are open to all attendees at no charge. Additionally, most sessions are less than two hours long, whereas workshops can span multiple days.

Because sessions are open to everyone, attendees may want to get to the venue early to ensure the best seating. It is also a good idea to have an alternate session chosen in the event that capacity at your first choice is exceeded.

Concurrent Session: Learning Environment

The United States and Beyond

Today 11 – Noon, Room 104B

As an increasing number of countries begin to address issues of global technological competitiveness, many see improvements to computer science education as a key to ensuring their econcomic futures. Too often, however, even a well-developed and relevant curriculum proves to be no more than a set of good ideas on paper. Successfully implementing a national curriculum requires vision, planning, resources and ongoing professional development. This NSF-sponsored panel includes speakers from Canada, Israel, Scotland, South Africa and the United States, each of whom will address their current successes and failures with the goal of providing strategies for successful curriculum development and implementation.

Newcomer's Session

7:15-8:15 a.m.

PACC Room 114

If this is your first NECC (or your 26th), make some time to attend this session to learn how to get the most out of your NECC experience. Veteran NECCers will share tips and tools to navigate this monster conference.

Internet2 Demos

Live Remote Scanning Electron Microscopy

10-11 a.m.

PACC Exhibit Hall A Lobby

See how the high-speed connections possible through Internet2 allow students to use the electron microscope at Lehigh University's Center for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology.

Lewis and Clark Reenactment

1-1:30 p.m.

PACC Exhibit Hall A Lobby

Interact live with Lewis and Clark reenactors in Great Falls, Montana.

Live Networked Pianos

2-3 p.m.

PACC Hall D Atrium

MusicPath software has enabled IP connection of digital acoustic pianos. Hear (and maybe play) the piano at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Learn to Advocate

2-3 p.m.

Marriott Liberty Ballroom C

Sheryl Abshire from the NECC 2004 volunteer crew and her colleagues will give you tips and tricks to help you become your local ed tech champion. They will also give you an introduction to the Ed Tech Action Network (ETAN, http://www.edtechactionnetwork.org)

Find me outside of the NDL offices and tell me you want free stuff. The first dozen each day who talk to me, get my business card. Turn the card in to the NDL office (Room 308) to be entered in a drawing. We'll announce the winner in Thursday's edition, and you can harvest the microscope then.

The Doctor Is In… To Fix Ailing Technology

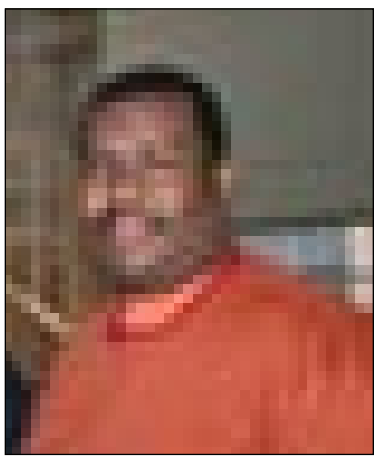
JENNIFER ROLAND

NECC's on-site tech support service, The Doctor Is In, will be staffed by local and visiting youth this year. Go to Tech Central on Level 3 in the PACC to get help with laptops, handhelds, applications and more. Hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Americorps digital service fellows (DSFs) from the Philadelphia area and students from the Thomas Edison High School MOUSE Squad in New York can provide any support that doesn't involve opening your device.

EducationWorks coordinates the Americorps DSF project, which hires recent high school and college graduates as DSFs and computer support specialists (CSS) to support technology in Philadelphia schools. Students receive training to help them receive A+ certification.

Beth St. Clair manages the DSFs for EducationWorks, and she says their Americorps-funded project is based on the "pass it on" motto. "What you learn, you pass on to the next group," she continues. Participants work as apprentices to School District of Philadelphia Regional Computer Maintenance Technicians, learning on the job, "not just technical issues, but also soft skills, how to provide good customer support," says St. Clair. The DSF project mainly targets recent high school graduates, but they also hire college graduates. The Philadelphia School District sees this program as part of an IT pathway it is trying to create for its students.

DSF Paul Freeman, who has been with the Americorps project for 10 months, says the technician he works with preps the DSFs for the service requests they will be fulfilling each day, so they "look like experts" when they arrive at the schools.



Paul Freeman is one of the tech doctors representing the School District of Philadelphia. Look for their orange scrubs and stethoscopes.

The MOUSE students are also studying the A+ curriculum to prepare them for job opportunities or further IT education once they graduate from high school.

In addition to their work with The Doctor Is In, the MOUSE Squad is a critical partner for NECC. Carole Wacey, executive director, and Calvin Hasting, senior director of programs, provided support in planning the conference. And MOUSE students are providing additional technical support to conference.

Freeman, a college graduate earning relief from his student loans as a DSF, says he is looking forward to working with the younger students. He hopes to learn new and better ways to solve technical problems and serve customers. As he points out, there is "always a better way of doing things."

What happens when you bring video into the classroom?

Students become better speakers—and better listeners. Self-confidence goes through the roof. Everything becomes interesting. Right now, educators like you are using digital video to make a difference. And with Pinnacle Academic Toolkits, it's easier and more affordable than you ever imagined.

To learn more, visit our Booth #101/103 and enter to win a digital video camera and a Pinnacle Academic Toolkit.

PINNACLE

www.pinnaclesys.com/education

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Learning & Leading with Technology

Are you an ISTE Member?

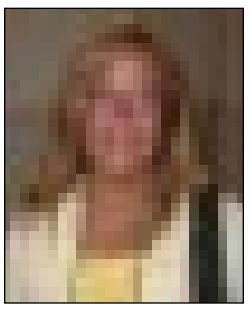
Interested in being featured in the member profile section of ISTE's *Learning & Leading with Technology* magazine?

Come by the NDL offices (Room 308) during the conference.

The first dozen volunteers to fill out and turn in the easy and quick questionnaire and have their picture taken by one of our staff photographers will get a swell gift!

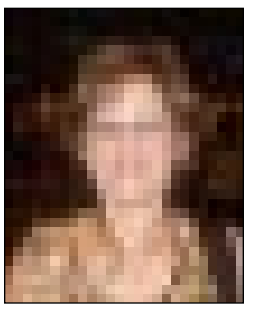
RUMINATIONS & ILLUMINATIONS

How does NECC fit in to your professional development strategies?



Debbie Babcock
Children's Museum of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

"We create online interactive activities so NECC works very well to see the current best practices in education. We come annually."

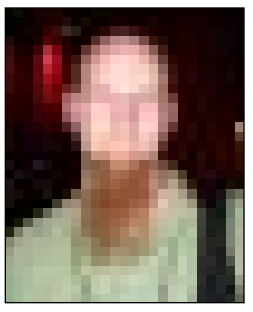


Paula Nunez
Mandeville Middle School
Mandeville, LA

"We came a couple years ago and found in the exhibits a number of products that our teachers have been very pleased with. Now I want to attend some workshops to see what's new."

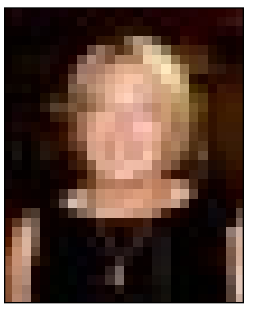
Matt Clausen
Missoula County Public Schools
Missoula, MT

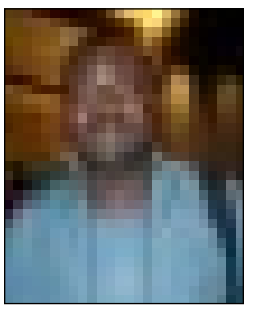
"I'm getting my master's degree in technology and education, so being here is a continuation of my education."



Kelli Moulton
Hereford Independent School District
Hereford, TX

"NECC fits very well into my plans because I'm the girl with the money. When teachers come to me with proposals I need to be able to evaluate them."



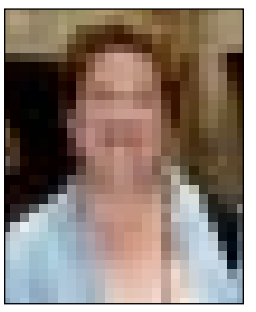


Mohamed Thiam
Barnard Elementary School
Washington, DC

"I'm here first of all to take advantage of networking opportunities with technology leaders. I'm hoping that will help me with ideas for my school district."

Jean Kiekel
Virtual High School
McPherson, KS

"I teach an online class, so I'm hoping to get some strategies for that. I'm also getting ready to put together a dissertation proposal and I'm looking for information on that."



"We have three very active teachers and NECC provides a really good opportunity for them to participate with cutting edge technology."

Scott Tellgren
Springville Elementary School
Springville, NY

ROOM & SCHEDULE CHANGES

Cancellations

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

Tuesday, June 28

Spotlight/Concurrent Sessions

Digital Kids
Ian Jukes, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Marriott Salon E/F

The NETS Social Studies Project for Grades 9-12
Walter McKenzie, Michael Hutchinson, Cyndy Jones Woods, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 104 B

Poster Sessions

HOT Spreadsheets
Sue Elwood-Salinas, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Grand Hall, Table P18

Creating the Student-Centered, Differentiated Environment in the Technology Age
Misty O'Connor, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Grand Hall, Table P14

Running a Computer Lab But Running Out of Ideas?
Kyle Nielsen, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Grand Hall, Table P08

Technology Education for All People
Li-Ling Chen, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Grand Hall, Table P13

Student Showcase

The Adventure Agent Technology Club
Janet Johnson, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Table S05

Research Paper

Evaluating Models Used to Integrate Technology into Preservice Education
Robin Kay, 8:30–9:30 a.m., Room 107A, RT 1

Wednesday, June 29

Poster Sessions

Enhancing Classrooms by Creating Online Resources for Students and Teachers
Alfredo Castro, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Grand Hall, Table P01

Research Paper (Lecture Format)

Addressing Individual Differences in Computer Experience: The Laptop Effect
Robin Kay, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Room 112A

Global Gallery Session

Project Barn: A Site Inside of a Portal of Education
Marisa Lucena, Vania Moreira 1:30-3:30 p.m., Table G10

Student Showcases

Graphic Design: Visualizing a Creative Career
Jon Krecota, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Table S07

Planet Profound: The Classroom Is Open 24 Hours!
Elizabeth Canzanese, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Table S03

Thursday, June 30

Concurrent Session

Data-Driven Instruction through Math Software
Robyn Silbey, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Room 108A

Program Changes

Tuesday, June 28

California CUE Reception
Open to all California attendees to learn more about NECC 2006. 5:30 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott, Room 225.

Arizona Affiliate Reception (AZTEA)
Black Sheep Pub, 247 S. 17th Street, 5-7 p.m.

Birds-of-a-Feather Session

One more table (seats 10) is available for a birds-of-a-feather session on Wednesday, June 29 from 4:45-5:45 p.m. Sign up for it by Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Info Booth in the Grand Hall.

Special for Newcomers

Learn how to make NECC work for you — learn to navigate and understand the myriad options available during the conference. 7:15-8:15 a.m., Marriott Salon G/H

New Student Showcase

Documenting Students and School Activities using Audio/Video Production
Michael A. Johnson 1:30-3:30 p.m., Table S10
Thurgood Marshall K-8 School Design Technology & Engineering program has created a Video Yearbook using Garageband and FinalCut Pro to highlight students' K-8 educational experiences.

Wednesday, June 29

Universal Design for Learning: Meeting the Needs of Struggling Readers
New Speakers: David Cattell, Susan Birrell, Jackie Lawton, Brian McKean, Pat Previte
New Description: Learn about the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) through a research-validated software program for middle school struggling readers. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 107B

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

The Intel® Innovation in Education Initiative

Where Teaching and Learning Meet Technology

The Intel® Teach to the Future Program has helped more than 2 million teachers worldwide learn to effectively integrate technology into their classrooms.

Visit Intel Innovation in Education at Booth 1323, where presentations will cover:

- The philanthropic Intel Innovation in Education Initiative, including Intel Teach to the Future
- The Intel Teach to the Future suite of free teacher professional development programs
- Teaching Thinking with Technology, a new workshop that showcases how to use Web-based thinking tools to teach higher order thinking skills

Participating teachers will be on hand to share their knowledge and answer your questions.

intel
innovation in education

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Assessment Forum Takes Close Look At Present, Future Roles of Technology

SCOTT HARTER

Nearly 100 participants on Sunday discussed the promise and challenges of assessing student performance more effectively with technology at ISTE Assessment 2005: Discovering Solutions. Host David Niguidula set the stage for several hours of stimulating conversation by examining the essential questions that educators at all levels must grapple with when designing valid and useful assessment programs.

(From left) Forum host David Niguidula and Lynn Nolan of ISTE discuss the Gallery Walk with Gail Ring and Hilarie Davis.

In this era of unprecedented accountability pressures and high-stakes testing, it is more important than ever that educators come to a clear consensus about what they are testing for and why, and who the most important end users of the data collected are. Niguidula pointed out that while the dominant testing technology remains the decades-old paper and pencil bubble test, a host of new digital technologies offer an extraordinary array of options for formative and summative assessment that can revolutionize education in the 21st century.

Participants were then invited to join in a Gallery Walk that featured 12 exemplary, technology-enhanced assessment instruments and initiatives. Representatives of the Austin (TX) ISD discussed their two-year partnership with Learning.com in piloting a technology literacy assessment for fifth and eighth-graders, while high schools from Ponaganset (Foster-Glocester, RI) and Notre Dame (West Haven, CT) discussed their use of electronic portfolios to help students track their progress towards graduation. Microsoft demonstrated its new eighth-grade online digital literacy assessment (co-developed with ISTE), and Plato Learning showed off its tools for building classroom, school and district-wide benchmark assessments.

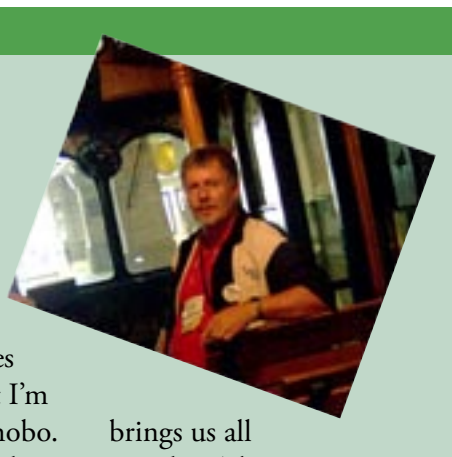
After the Gallery Walk, attendees gathered in four roundtable discussions focused on technology tools and ideational framework for portfolio development, the NETS and evaluation and implementation challenges and needs. Each roundtable then shared the highlights of the discussion with the whole group. Find a summary of the major discussion points on the Ideas Consulting Web site, at www.ideasconsulting.com.

In the final hour of the forum, the authors of ISTE's forthcoming publication *NETS for Students: Resources for Student Assessment* introduced the structure and content of this important new assessment resource and took questions from the audience. NECC attendees who were not able to attend this pre-conference session are encouraged to join the authors for a second interactive book panel discussion on Tuesday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 201B.

MY NECC OF THE WOODS

Riding the Rails

J.V. BOLKAN



I wanted to be a hobo when I was a kid. There wasn't much demand, so I made other career choices. I don't regret it, much. I have been so lucky that all my begging and pleading landed me this space in the conference newspaper because it has given me a chance to play hobo and remain gainfully employed.

Although I haven't been exactly riding the rails, I have spent many hours just riding the conference shuttles. I don't ride to and from my hotel, I ride around just to meet and talk to you. I don't have a bindlestiff, but I am carrying everything I need in my cargo pants.

A hobo riding the "rails" is a pretty archaic conceit, but it did let me view things slightly askew. Digital voice recorder, camera, cell phone, handheld, and sometimes my laptop are proof that I'm a fairly modern type of hobo. You sure carry lots of cool gadgets. Yet, the first time I rode one of the trolley-style shuttle buses, it was as if I had gone back to the heyday of hoboism.

The old style benches and open seating arrangement leads into easy conversation. It is striking how friendly and open folks get, even when a nosy hobo-wannabe reporter starts snapping pictures, taking notes and holding out his recorder.

It is important. We should remember that all the gadgets, bells and whistles and instant message avenues are very important in spreading the word and sharing the vision that brings us all together. They are effective and efficient methods of advocacy. A smile, a friendly conversation, and a couple shared anecdotes may not have the reach of a mass e-mailing, but they are perhaps just as important in spreading the word. They are a lot of fun, and incredibly motivating.

Send that e-mail, update that handheld, blog away. Chat, laugh and swap outrageous stories. Not everyone here knows your IM handle, but they can all reply to your smiley face.

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

ISTE NEWS

Leaders Scout the Future of Educational Technology

Nearly 200 leaders in education came together Monday to chart a collaborative vision of educational technology and 21st century learning. Futurist Joel Barker led the fast-paced, dynamic discussion as part of the 12th annual ISTE Leadership Symposium.

The group's collective vision was captured in real time using interactive software and a process that Barker compares to a scouting expedition. By capturing diverse perspectives, the process "helps you see a larger landscape of events and a longer horizon of time," explained Barker, author of the just-published *Five Regions of the Future.* Leaders who have an understanding of the future are in a better position to respond to change, plan wisely to overcome challenges, and make well-informed decisions, he added.

Barker's group process generates an information-rich document called an Implications Wheel. "It reflects the wisdom of groups," Barker said. "Well-designed group activities generate information that outperforms the best experts in the field."

At NECC, Barker will interpret the Implications Wheel generated by the Leadership Symposium participants in a presentation on Wednesday, 3:30-4:30 p.m., in room 204A of the Philadelphia Convention Center. ISTE will also use the ideas captured in the Implications Wheel as part of ongoing advocacy efforts that make the case for educational technology.

The Leadership Symposium also gave the diverse audience of teachers, administrators, state technology leaders and other government and industry representatives the chance to capture "powerful stories" that show the transformative potential of technology, said Leslie Conery, deputy CEO of ISTE and chair of NECC.

As part of its advocacy toolkit, ISTE will be publishing a collection of stories that leaders can use to show why technology is essential for 21st century teaching and learning.

The annual Leadership Symposium is co-sponsored by ISTE, the State Educational Technology Directors Association, and Intel Innovation in Education.

Tech Coordinator Forum Draws a Crowd

The sold-out SIGTC preconference forum brought together 100 technology leaders to discuss leadership in the 21st century.

David Warlick discussed the need for a new definition of literacy, then participants had small group discussion, and then a large group discussion on the topic. After a short refreshment break, participants saw an expert panel discussion on implementing handhelds in K-12. As part of their registration, participants received a copy of Warlick's book *Raw Materials for the Mind: A Teacher's Guide to Digital Literacy.*

Teacher Educators Gather for Networking, Learning

SIGTE's preconference forum opened with a presentation on the pedagogy of multimedia software by Dr. Ulises Aguero from the Costa Rican Institute of Technology. Aguero spoke about the development of multimedia software, focusing on the roles of student and teacher users and developers.

After Aguero's presentation, participants broke into workgroup meetings to discuss professional development, research, best practices and advocacy.

Attendee William Lacefield of Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia, really enjoyed the forum because it is one of many events at NECC that allow him to be grouped with "so many people in the same room in teacher education," which is not the case with most other education conferences he attends.

The ability to discuss issues with people with the same background and focus make the SIGTE forum an especially valuable event for Lacefield.

— Compiled by Suzie Boss and Jennifer Roland

Computer Science Symposium Rocks!

KATE CONLEY

"CS Rocks!" was the message delivered at the sixth annual Computer Science & Information Technology Symposium on Sunday. That message (which was imprinted on rock-shaped squeezable stress reducers included in the registration materials) was reinforced throughout the day by speakers from Duke University, Microsoft, Mount Carmel High School (Belmont, IL), University of Waterloo, IBM and elsewhere.

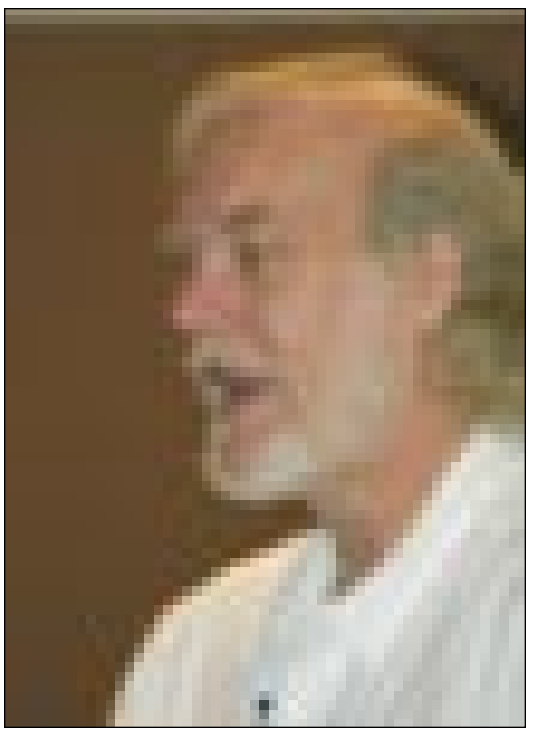
High school computer science, information technology teachers, and other educators gathered at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel for what Symposium Chair Chris Stephenson promised to be an invigorating day. Attendees came from as far away as Hawaii and South Africa to find out what's new in computer science and information technology education.

The symposium, which is co-hosted by ISTE (www.iste.org) and ACM's new Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA, www.csta.acm.org), provides a comprehensive cross section of practical, relevant information to help teachers prepare their students for the future.

Symposium attendees were highly engaged and often amused. There was as much laughing as there was critical thinking going on in Fran Trees's session on recursion in which she and a cadre of participants wore Groucho Marx disguises to illustrate key computer science concepts.

Returning attendee Janet Meizel, from the Davis Joint Unified School District (CA), said enthusiastically, "It was a terrific day!" Symposium Chair Chris Stephenson commented that several teachers approached her to say how delighted they were to have attended and how important it is for teachers to have opportunities to participate in relevant professional development.

Other topics covered included: kinesthetic learning activities, Flash programming, student perspectives on the social relevance of CS, and ideas for creating a comprehensive body of resources to support the implementation of a U.S. K-12 computer science curriculum.



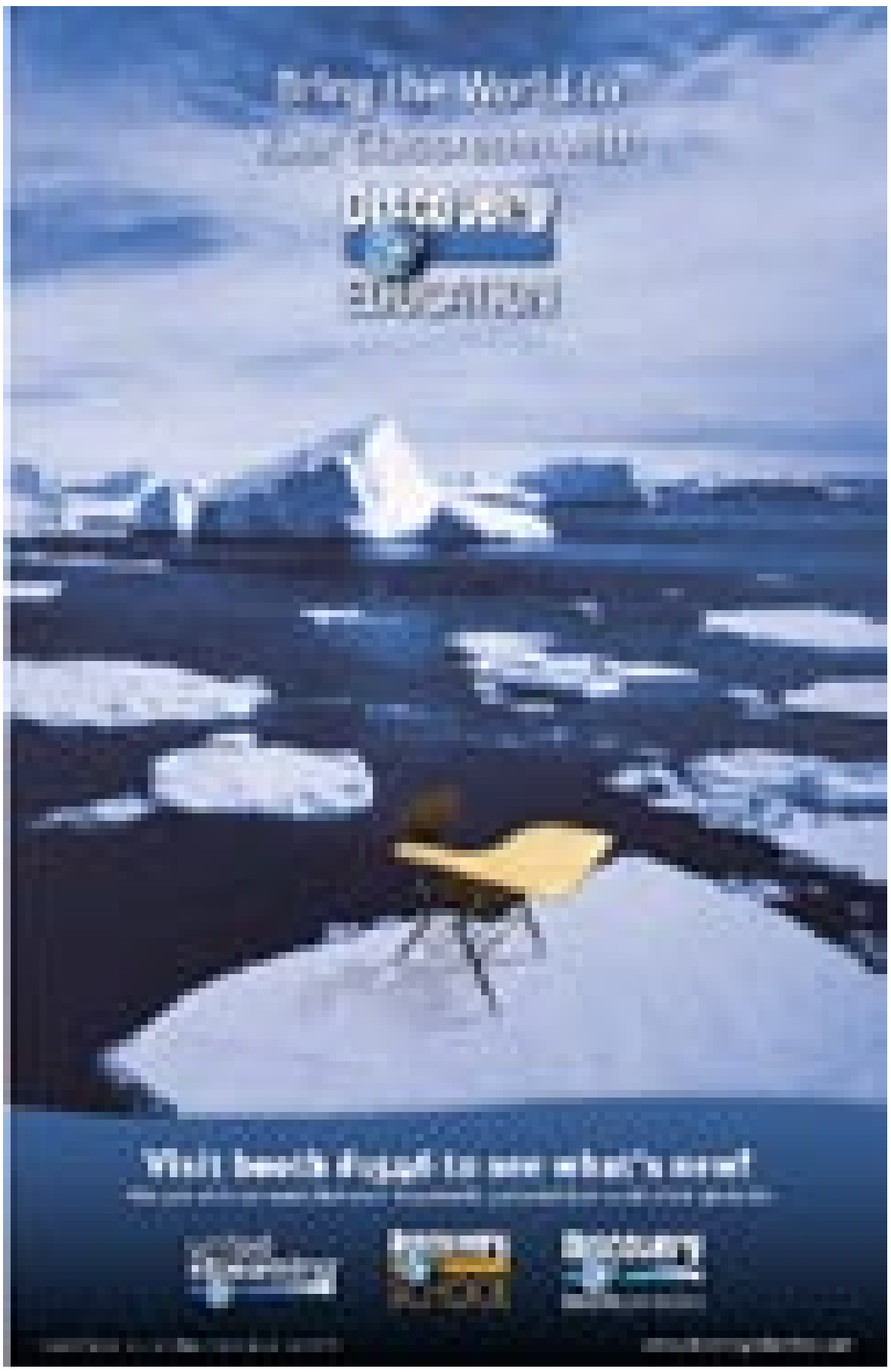
Keynote speaker Russ Shackelford, chair of the ACM Education Board, describes the evolution of computer science education.

Find complete presentation descriptions, materials, handouts, resources and other details about upcoming or previous symposia at the CS&IT Symposium Web site: http://www.iste.org/profdev/symposia/cs/2005/jun/.

Sponsor Highlights

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.
The presentation schedule for Tuesday is:
Presentation 1: Integrating Technology Effectively with Intel Teach to the Future (10:30 a.m., 11:30, 12:30 p.m., 2:00, 3:00, 4:00)
Learn about Intel Teach to the Future, the free worldwide effort to help educators use technology effectively to enhance teaching and student learning. The elements of the Intel Teach to the Future program include:
• Essentials Course — Focused on helping K-12 teachers effectively integrate technology into the classroom using productivity software.
• NEW! Workshop on Teaching Thinking with Technology — Designed to further enhance K-12 teachers' effective technology integration skills and support students' higher-order thinking skills using a set of free online thinking tools.
• NEW! Leadership Forum — Created to help school and district leaders deepen their understanding of their role in promoting and supporting effective technology integration.
Presentation 2: Teaching Thinking with Technology: A Free Professional Development Workshop (10:00 a.m., 11:00, 12:00 p.m., 1:30, 2:30, 3:30)
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. The tools include:
• Seeing Reason — For investigating cause-and-effect relationships
• NEW! Showing Evidence — For building well-structured arguments
• Visual Ranking — For prioritizing and comparing lists. Learn how you can engage your students and help them visually represent their understanding of complex and interconnected issues.

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. TI's DLP projection technology delivers brighter, more reliable pictures in top manufacturers' products, including projectors for education and business.
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.: The TI-Navigator System — LearningCheck and Beyond
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Navigating Higher Student Achievement — The Administrative "Rudder" (administrator's session — lunch provided, sign-up required)
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.: Algebra using Real World Data: USA TODAY® Activities for the TI-Navigator System
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.: TI Technology Transforming the Geometry Classroom
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.: A Guide to Funding and Grant Writing
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Connecting TI InterActive! with the TI-Navigator System through Mathematical Modeling
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.: Algebra II and Data Collection
Join us in the Exhibit Hall at Booth #1314 for the following presentations:
9:45 a.m.: Introduction to the TI-Navigator System
10:30 a.m.: The TI-Navigator System in your Algebra Classroom
11:15 a.m.: USA TODAY® Algebra Activities for the TI-Navigator System
12 p.m.: Digital Light Processing (DLP) — Classroom Projection Technology
12:45 p.m.: An Easier Way to Collect Data in Science
1:30 p.m.: "Terms of Engagement" — An Administrator's Guide to Implementing the TI-Navigator System
2:15 p.m.: Integrating TI Technology with your Textbooks
3:00 p.m.: Digital Light Processing (DLP) — Classroom Projection Technology
3:45 p.m.: Enhance Your Geometry Class with Cabri Jr.
4:30 p.m.: Introduction to Scientific Data Collection and Analysis
5:15 p.m.: Innovative Classroom Activities Aligned to Standards



Sessions Examine Access and Planning

J.V. BOLKAN

Ubiquitous access is a topic of special emphasis for the conference this year. As such, it will be, well, ubiquitous and infused throughout the program. As with the tightly related issue of ubiquitous computing, access is a relatively simple concept with ramifications that are anything but.

Although U.S. schools have made admirable progress in becoming connected to the Internet, the basic connection is only part of the equation. As *Learning & Leading with Technology* magazine columnist Glen Bull is fond of saying, we've come a long way, but we must ensure that we make the connections all the way through the last mile.

The last mile in educational use of the Internet is a multi-faceted challenge. If the Internet is seen as a plumbing system moving information rather than water, then most schools are connected to the reservoir, but lack sufficient indoor fixtures.

Some schools have yet to extend an Internet "tap" into every classroom, many others are limited to a single classroom connection. True ubiquitous computing can't occur until each student in each classroom has his or her own information plumbing.

The federal E-Rate initiative has been instrumental in bringing about the connections to the schools in the United States, but the program does not address the infrastructure within the school, much less individual student access.

During the conference, speakers will focus on promising technologies and trends for maximizing access and discuss technology planning issues and strategies for making the most of current capabilities and ensuring smooth upgrade paths.

You can find sessions on this topic on the program search page of the NECC Web site at http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2005/program/search.php. First, choose Show More Search Options; then check the Yes box labeled Ubiquitous Internet Access under Special Emphases.

NECC invites you to get excited by the possibilities of the Internet and especially the burgeoning Internet2, but don't forget that ultimately those knowledge pipelines must extend to every learner's desktop or the effort is mostly wasted.

Just Drawing for Fun!

Henry Duncan, 12, took advantage of an available workstation to draw an eye-catching anime self-portrait. He enjoyed the conference along with his dad, Bruce, while his mother attended sessions. Henry and his family traveled to NECC from Annapolis, Maryland.

ETAN

Your direct line to Washington

Take time during NECC to join ETAN and stay on top of U.S. advocacy issues

www.edtechactionnetwork.org

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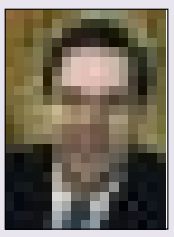

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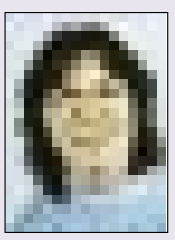

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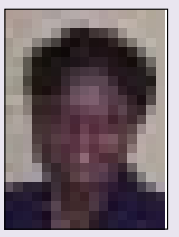

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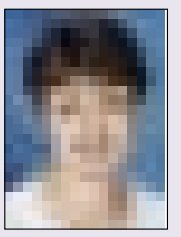

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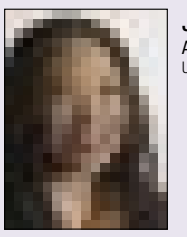

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University of Cincinnati (OH)

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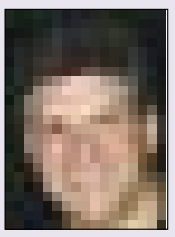
Past President
Special Interest Group Representative
Consultant (MI)



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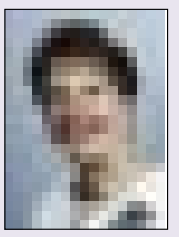

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School District Administrator Representative
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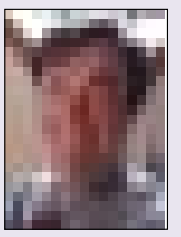
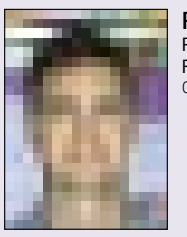


Doug Johnson
PK–12 Schools Representative
Mankato Public Schools (MN)



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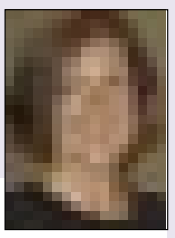
PK–12 Schools Representative
Conneaut Elementary (OH)



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Special Interest Group Representative
Wake Forest University (NC)

Anita Givens
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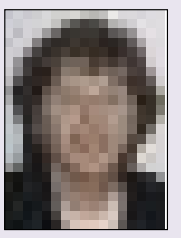

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Kathleen Schrock
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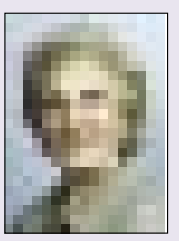
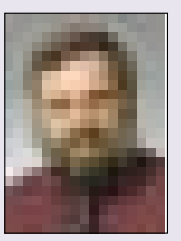
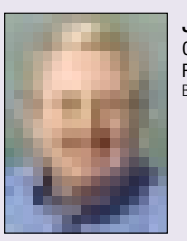


Kathy Hurley
Corporate Member Representative
Pearson Education (NJ)



Kyle L. Peck
Teacher Education Representative
Penn State University (PA)



John Thompson
Computer Science Representative
Buffalo State College (NY)