A Newsletter for Nebraska Business Educators

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  - Secondary Business Education Instructor: Murleen Bellinger, Waverly
  - Postsecondary Business Education Instructor: RoxAnn Coudeyras, SCC-Beatrice
  - Service Award: Mona Schoenrock, Columbus High School
  - NSBEA Kids Scholarship: Jenna Went, Columbus Lakeview
  - Gordon F. Culver Scholarship: Joseph Everingham, Wayne State College
  - Student Teacher of the Year: Justin Katt, Wayne State College
  - NSBEA Honorary Life Membership: Billie Bussman, Lincoln Public Schools; JoAnn Trumper, Fillmore Central and Sharon Salzman, Westside High School
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  - President: Toni Landenberger, SCC-Beatrice
  - President-Elect: Murleen Bellinger, Waverly High School
  - Secretary: Pat Hinkle, Bellevue West High School
  - Treasurer: DeLayne Havlovic, Omaha Central High School
  - Membership Director: Dennis Krejci, Tri County High School

Norfolk Hosts NSBEA Conference Premiere

Nebraska State Business Education Association (NSBEA) members arrived in Norfolk March 19-20 for Business Premiere 2004! The premiere featured Michael Flood from US92 Radio Station at the Friday evening NSBEA/Delta Pi Epsilon Banquet and Marilyn McGahan and Jean Condon, North Platte Community College, at Saturday’s opening session.

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NBEA Convention Snapshot

A large group of Nebraska business educators were in attendance at the National Business Education Association’s annual convention held April 7-10 in Chicago. In addition to multiple concurrent sessions, three outstanding keynotes and many computer workshops, conference attendees had numerous opportunities to network with educators across the nation.

Nebraska—in particular Northeast Nebraska—was quite proud when Sue Sydow of Lyons-Decatur was named NBEA’s Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year. Another former Nebraskan, Marcia Anderson of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, was awarded the prestigious John Robert Gregg Award in Business Education. Marcia grew up in Bloomfield, NE where Luella VanVleck was her high school business teacher. Accolades to both Sue and Marcia. We are very proud of your recent honors. Please refer to your next issue of NSBEA Today for further conference highlights.
**It’s a Date for Fall 2004**

Plan now for the fall business education workshops hosted by your local ESU. This fall’s workshops will help business teachers provide students the opportunity to increase academic achievement in business education by improving students’ ability to read. Workshop participants will learn teaching strategies designed to help students learn to comprehend text, as well as understand the cognitive processes involved in reading comprehension. Afternoon activities will focus on sharing teaching strategies through a Business Teacher Swap Shop.

**Omaha, ESU 3 - September 7, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 3 by calling (402) 597-4884

**Beatrice, ESU 5 - September 15, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 5 by calling (402) 223-5277

**Milford, ESU 6 - September 16, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 6 by calling (402) 761-3341, $10 fee

**Fremont, ESU 2 - September 22, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 2 by registering online at [www.esu2.org](http://www.esu2.org)

**Greeley, ESU 14 - September 23, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 14 by calling (402) 887-5041

**Omaha Public Schools – October 4, a.m.**

**Ainsworth, ESU 17 - October 5, 9 – 3**
Preregister through ESU 17 by calling (402) 387-2520

**Hastings, ESU 9 – October 6, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 9 by calling (402) 463-5611, $7 fee

**Kearney, ESU 10 – October 13, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 10 by registering online at [www.esu10.org](http://www.esu10.org)

**Holdrege, ESU 11 – October 14, 9 – 3**
Preregister through ESU 11 by calling (308) 995-6585

**Scottsbluff, ESU 13 & 14 – October 19, 9 - 3 (ESU 13)**
Preregister through ESU 13 by calling (308) 635-0661

Offered in conjunction with the NSBEA Fall Conference. For a small fee, lunch will be provided by NSBEA.

**North Platte, ESU 15 & 16 – October 19, 9 - 3 (1221 West 17, North Platte)**
Preregister through ESU 15 by calling (308) 334-5160

Preregister through ESU 16 by calling (308) 284-8481 or email dfrates@esu16.org

**Columbus, ESU 7 – November 10, 9 - 3**
Preregister through ESU 7 by calling (402) 564-0815, Paulette Wieser

**Wakefield, ESU 1 – November 11, 9 – 3**
Preregister through ESU 1 by calling (402) 287-2061, $10 fee

**Links to Standards Web**

The Nebraska Links to Standards web site is available! Electronic access to the State Standards and Essential Learnings from Nebraska’s educational curriculum frameworks is now available using an online report generation tool. The report tool also uses the results of a statewide linkage project that identified supporting standards and essential learnings among curriculum areas found in Nebraska schools.

The web site can be accessed at [nelinks.nde.state.ne.us](http://nelinks.nde.state.ne.us) and provides resources, sample agendas and report generation capabilities for supporting the efforts of school improvement through curriculum alignment, assessment and learning standards. Additional resource links are provided on the web site to each of the specific curriculum areas as well as links to accountability and school improvement resources in Nebraska.

**New Technology Applications for Middle Level**

TechCONNECT Online, a new middle school web-based program released by McGraw Hill, helps students develop proficiency in computer skills while they master the core content areas of language arts, math, science and social studies. Through the core content areas, students will integrate the following computer skills: word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations, graphics and more.

**Girls Develop Personal Web Sites**

According to Amy Poffat at [www.techlearning.com](http://www.techlearning.com), a recent survey reveals that girls are more likely than boys to have personal web sites. The research firm Grunwald Associates (released in its latest study, *Children, Families, and the Internet*) has found that 12.2 percent of girls online have their own sites compared to 8.6 percent of boys. More than 2 million U.S. children have web sites—a number expected to triple by 2005.

**Pathways to Technology**

Pathways to Technology ([www.pathwaysstechology.org](http://www.pathwaysstechology.org)) is a multimedia partnership between the American Association of Community Colleges and the National Science Foundation. The site highlights technology programs at community colleges, provides information about technology fields, offers descriptions of common technology jobs and showcases success stories from community college graduates. A recruitment toolkit contains multimedia resources to enhance ongoing recruitment efforts. The site gives students an insight into what college-level courses are like.
Business Resolutions Show Support for Career and Technical Education

Almost 5,000 employers from across the United States and its territories signed the national resolution in support of Career and Technical Education (CTE)! In answer to the petition issued by the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the business community showed its support of CTE and the federal government’s continued investment in this system. Collectively, the employers that signed the resolution represent over 4 million employees and $4.2 trillion in revenue. Almost 2,400 employers that have 25 employees or less signed the resolution. Small employers are a primary driver of our nation’s economy, and small employers placed a big value on CTE. The employers that signed the resolution also reflect a broad and representative array of all industry sectors that comprise the U.S. economy. The results of the business resolutions can be viewed at www.careertech.org/resolution/.

Nebraska Fed Challenge Competition

Westside High School took away first place honors at the Fed Challenge at the Omaha Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City on March 25, 2004. Aurora High School received runner-up honors.

Eleven teams participated in the academic competition for high school students, which asked students to analyze the economy using economic indicators and make a recommendation on the stance of monetary policy, just as the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) does when they meet eight times each year. At the Fed Challenge competition, five-member student teams prepared a 15-minute presentation and then faced a panel of judges for a question-and-answer session. Teams were scored on their understanding of the Federal Reserve and monetary policy, research and analysis, teamwork and presentation skills.

The participating schools and teachers were: Aurora High School, Dave Long; Creighton Prep High School, Micah Baughman; Elkhorn High School, Mary Kaye Eggers; Lincoln Northeast High School, Carol Mathias; Omaha Benson High School, John Schultz; Omaha Bryan High School, Joseph Carnazzo; Omaha Burke High School, Jaymie Phillips; Omaha North High School, Alison Mosley; Omaha Northwest High School, Kim Kromberg and Amy Burk; Omaha South High School, Charnella Mims and Westside High School, Tom Carman.

Westside High School advances to the national Fed Challenge competition May 1-3 in Washington, D.C., facing seven other Federal Reserve District finalists at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. There the students will be quizzed by directors of research from Reserve Banks, Fed presidents and members of the Board of Governors.

Students in the Fed Challenge compete for a variety of monetary awards and scholarships, courtesy of Citibank. Westside High School will have a chance to compete for scholarships, school grants and teacher awards at the national competition; the amount of their award will depend on their placement at nationals. As the runner-up team, Aurora High School will receive a $2,000 grant from Citibank, which can be used to advance the economics curriculum in the school.

Wells Fargo Launches Newly Expanded Financial Literacy Program

Wells Fargo has launched a newly expanded online financial education program called Hands on Banking. The program, which is available free to the public on the Internet, as well as CD-ROM and paper curriculum, is also available in Spanish as El futuro en tus manos.

Hands on Banking and El futuro en tus manos teach basic money management skills designed to appeal to four age groups, from grade schoolers to adults. The curriculum is ideal for individual learning and for classroom use. All student sections meet or exceed national education standards for math, literacy and economics.

The Kids section, for 4th and 5th graders, features “Zing,” a space alien who takes kids through a space-age financial adventure. Young adult characters show teens and high school students the basics of budgeting, savings and checking accounts and responsible borrowing and investing. In a specially tailored section, adults learn financial essentials as well as how to buy a home and start and manage a small business.

Hands on Banking provides both students and adults money skills they need for life. You can learn more by visiting the program’s web sites, handsonbanking.org and elfuturoentusmanos.org. Wells Fargo will also be an exhibitor at the INVEST Conference in Kearney on June 9. Stop by for a demonstration and free CD-ROM!
Technology Academy of Northeast Nebraska Offers High-Tech Classes
By Mickie Mueller, Norfolk Senior High School

How many of you know students who know more about the insides of a computer than you do? Do you know students who are interested in pursuing a career in an Information Technology field but the most advanced course your school offers is Computer Applications? Are you adequately preparing your students to enter an IT career? Does your school district have the resources and staff to offer a high tech class that only two or three students might take?

Those were just some of the problems facing five Northeast Nebraska school districts. The solution: The Technology Academy of Northeast Nebraska (TANN). The superintendents of Battle Creek Public Schools, Madison Public Schools, Norfolk Senior High, Pierce Public Schools and Stanton Public Schools all felt that students in their school districts were in need of a more advanced technology curriculum. Each school knew of a few students in their district who would want to take this kind of coursework. The answer then was to form a consortium and pool their resources including students and teachers and offer an advanced level technology curriculum.

Once the consortium agreement was in place, the schools contacted Northeast Community College to see if they were interested in becoming involved. John Blaylock, Dean of Business, Math and Technology, was the liaison between the TANN schools and the NECC administration. NECC donated a room at the Lifelong Learning Center to house the TANN lab. An agreement was also reached to allow TANN students to earn college credit at no cost to them. High school teachers would teach the courses from the various TANN schools.

In order to take a TANN course, students must have successfully completed Computer Applications at their home school. Juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for admission. Students fill out an application and receive a recommendation from a teacher. Each school has a selection committee and selects the students to fill their three slots per class.

The first courses, each 90 minutes long, were offered in the 2003-2004 school year. First semester courses included Web Page Design and Programming I in Visual Basic.NET. Second semester courses included Digital Media and Programming II in C++. Three students in the Web Page Design course submitted web sites for the NETA web page design contest. TANN students took first-, second- and third-place in the high school division.

The TANN curriculum has been expanded for the 2004-2005 school year. New classes include PC Support and Maintenance and Web Page Design II. Web Page Design I and Digital Media will be offered again. Two classes for next year already have a waiting list.

To date, TANN has been funded by two grants from the Nebraska Department of Education, and TANN has been working with the AIM Institute to find additional sources of funding. TANN is also a member of the National Academy Foundation (NAF), which has various academies around the United States, but this is NAF’s first attempt to locate an academy in a rural area. The Technology Academy of Northeast Nebraska is in its beginning stages. TANN will continue to look for additional sources of funding to provide an up-to-date, cutting-edge technology curriculum to the students of Northeast Nebraska.

A Auburn Students Teach Mentors
Accounting students at Auburn High School are teaching mentors from area businesses how to use personal digital assistants (PDAs) in their work. Mark McMah, technology trainer at ESU No. 4, taught Teresa Hahn, accounting instructor, and her students about basic PDA uses and continues to train them twice monthly. The students then train their business mentors. The students spend two days with their mentors at work and are responsible for researching ways the business people might use the PDAs in their jobs. Class instruction includes a unit on getting a job, which requires the students to prepare resumes and participate in mock interviews with the mentors.

Funds for the students’ PDAs came from foundations and the school’s general funds. The business professionals supplied their own PDAs. “There is no better way to include the community in your curriculum than to include them in the everyday learning process,” said Hahn. “The positive atmosphere created in the classroom when the mentors visit is priceless.”

ESU No. 4 In4mation.

FBLA Virtual Business Challenge
FBLA teams from 27 states participated in the Knowledge Matters Virtual Business Challenge 1 and 2. Nebraska’s winning team for Challenge 1 was Maywood, and the winning team for Challenge 2 was Aurora!

NETA Web Page Design Winners
Congratulations to Treva Dostal from Pierce High School and her students for winning top honors in the NETA Web Page Design contest. Craig Hughes, Matt Johnson and Jeff DeJong won first-, second- and third-place respectively.

Laughter of Lilacs
Rainbows of roses
Songs of the robins
Lily of the valley borders
Sunshine to warm the heart
Oh what joy this season does impart!
- Anne Morrow Lindberg
Handhelds for Teachers and Administrators

Tom Snyder Productions’ new Handhelds for Teachers and Administrators covers Palm OS 4 and 5, Pocket PC basics, strategies for classroom use and hardware and software reviews. Most important are the lessons for integrating the handheld into the curriculum with dozens of ideas from teachers and administrators. Each lesson gives a list of application tools used from the CD-ROM and the Internet, a summary of the activity and the standards/objectives met by the lesson. Quizzler, a free program on the CD-ROM, allows teachers and students to create multiple-choice quizzes to review daily lessons or as a content review for testing. For more information, visit www.tomsnyder.com.

Drafting a Customized Tech Plan

Over the past few months, there have been many questions posed by business teachers and/or technology coordinators asking how they can get their local school district focused on developing a technology plan. The February 2004 issue of Technology & Learning has an entire section devoted to this topic (pages 28-35). The article can also be accessed at: www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=17602669 and www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=17602669&pgno=5

“A Web Tour of Technology-Planning Sites” provides 15 technology-planning web sites. Although I have not reviewed all of the sites, I know that several are sites that I have previously used, i.e., Guiding Questions for Technology Planning by the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory at www.ncrtec.org/capacity/guide.htm. This site is an excellent starting point for all members of a technology planning team.

Another opportunity to help your school focus on developing or revising a technology plan is available at the INVEST Conference on Thursday, June 10. This 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. workshop, “Come Build a Quality Technology Scope and Sequence,” provides processes and tools to help local school districts complete an information technology curriculum needs assessment, identify the foundation skills and knowledge needed by all students pursuing an IT career path and utilize a curriculum analysis tool to determine the gaps between the state essential learnings, national standards and a school’s existing curriculum. The target audience for the workshop will include teams of two or more teachers, administrators and/or technology coordinators. Complete information about the INVEST Conference is available at investconference.com.

Growing with Technology for Grades K-5

Thomson Learning’s new technology textbook series, Growing with Technology, provides students with the skills they need to meet the National Education Technology Standards (NETS). Step-by-step tutorial activities are applicable to any software making it easy to adapt the text to the software used in your classroom. The web site at growing.course.com supports the textbook series. You can click on the grade level to receive an interactive desktop full of technology activities. The web site also offers extra resources for teachers.

Shelly Cashman Summer Institute

For almost 30 years, the Shelly Cashman Series Summer Institute has successfully prepared thousands of teachers on the latest in computer software. The Summer Institute provides hands-on, in-depth instruction on the use of application software, programming, web design and more! Instructors have the opportunity throughout the week to augment their computer skill sets, network and support one another and exchange ideas with their colleagues in open forums. Be a part of this year’s program and get a head start on the 2004-2005 school year.

The Institute is held July 25-31 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Attendees will receive hands-on training on topics such as: Office 2003, Visual Basic.NET, Dreamweaver, HTML, Java, Understanding and Troubleshooting Your PC and more! Visit www.course.com/events for event details, agenda and registration.

Elementary Keyboarding

If it’s time to sequence your keyboarding instruction for a smooth transition into word processing and computer applications courses, then you will want to register a team of teachers to attend the one-day summer elementary keyboarding workshops held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. August 12 at the Nebraska Department of Education’s Technology Center and May 19 at ESU No. 17 in Ainsworth. Elementary keyboarding teaching strategies and hands-on opportunities at the keyboard as well as time for software preview all await workshop participants. The workshop cost is $15 per person. Your teams consisting of elementary teachers, computer teachers and/or business teachers can register online at www.nde.state.ne.us/TEHCEN/services.html.
From Nebraska Business Education Student to U.S. Trade Representative

In 1992 as the world prepared for the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, I was serving as the FBLA National Secretary and Nebraska State President and preparing to graduate from high school. Ten years later, I found myself using my FBLA skills to prepare to represent the United States at the next major environmental summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

I currently work as the Director for Sustainable Development at the Office of the United States Trade Representative in Washington, DC, the government agency in charge of making U.S. trade policy. My job, broadly speaking, is to negotiate the environmental language in international trade agreements and the trade language in environmental agreements, such as the one negotiated at the World Summit.

In the years between high school and the World Summit, I earned an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree in international development and environmental policy and gained some work experience. My technical skills are quite valuable, but I also rely on a number of professional skills acquired through FBLA.

First and foremost, FBLA taught me to respect the needs and opinions of others. When serving as a state and national officer, I worked with students, advisers, businesspeople and lawmakers from around the country. While our experiences and opinions were often different, our goal—to improve FBLA and career and technical education—was the same. These days, I work with colleagues from other U.S. government agencies, members of Congress and government officials from around the world. My work has taken me to Hong Kong, Chile, Botswana, Bali and places in between. In each place, the needs and customs of my colleagues are different. Yet, when our negotiations are based on mutual respect and a common goal, we can almost always reach a deal.

I also learned the importance of good preparation. As a national officer, I helped plan conferences and gave speeches and presentations throughout the country. Good preparation was necessary to perform my duties as an officer and to keep up with schoolwork at home! The same is true in my current job. Negotiating is about finding a solution that meets the needs of all partners. If you don’t know your own negotiating position and the aims of your partners thoroughly, you could fail to meet your goal or miss opportunities for compromise and creativity.

Last but not least, FBLA reinforced my love for public service. While serving as a national officer was a great responsibility, it was also a great honor. Other talented and dedicated students that I met in FBLA often humbled me. The joy I felt in serving and representing these students helped me choose my career. When I first turned on my microphone and spoke from behind the U.S. flag at the World Summit, I was similarly humbled and honored to be able to represent my country. Whatever type of service you choose, from a career in government to volunteering for a community organization, I hope each of you will make service to others a part of your life.

It’s been well over a decade since I left FBLA, but I am still reaping its benefits. Whether learning how to ace that job interview or forming lifelong friendships, I am extremely grateful for my FBLA experience.

Nebraska FBLA Succeeds at SLC

Nebraska FBLA members achieved with their talents and led their chapters to success at the 2004 State Leadership Conference held April 1-3 in Omaha. Lead. Achieve. Succeed, the conference theme, defined the excellence displayed by the over 1,800 members and advisers representing 106 Nebraska schools. Nebraska FBLA presented a check for $12,571.29 to Mothers Against Drunk Driving from its annual fundraising campaign. Chapters also raised over $10,500 for the March of Dimes, a national partner of FBLA-PBL. Omaha Northwest was recognized as the leading March of Dimes fundraiser with a donation of $1,500. Nebraska FBLA members also donated 29,953 hours of service to their communities!

The newly elected 2004-2005 Nebraska FBLA State Officers are:
Sarah Rogers of Sandhills High School, president
Darech Gaskill of Omaha Northwest High School, vice president
Nathan Skaggs of Centura High School, secretary
Taylor Seeman of Stanton High School, treasurer
Brandon Matulka of Raymond Central High School, reporter
Angela Reynolds of Wood River High School, parliamentarian
Try Another Way!

Try Another Way! is a board game designed to assist females, ages 11-18, to develop healthy attitudes about earning, handling, spending and saving money and using credit wisely. This is an easy, realistic and fun way to learn sound financial management skills. Try Another Way! (using die, cash and cards) requires females to handle their finances responsibly by correctly balancing checking accounts, savings accounts and managing cash.

The facilitator presents information on simple budgeting, check writing, savings, tracking expenses and bank loans. Once all information is presented, the game may begin. While playing the game, the facilitator serves as both the banker (dispersing cash and paychecks, accepting deposits and withdrawals and payments for expenses like cell phones and car payments and dispersing loan certificates) and the financial consultant (fielding questions to the participants to create discussion on the topic of finances as well as processing questions about debts).

Four people can play each game. Each player should have blank checks, a check register and savings account register. There is no true winner in this game. If you want to put a twist to the game, all players can total their cash and checking and savings account balances and subtract any debt they may have. The game is available for purchase for $15 each (plus shipping).

Rebecca Hasty, Nontraditional/Equity Programs Specialist Career & Technical Education, Nebraska Department of Education

Ten Steps to Safer Surfing

1. Turn your computer off when not in use.
2. Use antivirus and firewall software. Keep updated with regular downloads from the vendor.
3. Download security updates offered by Microsoft through its web site (if you are using Microsoft Windows).
4. Have built-in firewalls that defeat most general access attempts if you have line-sharing devices.
5. Enable built-in firewall software if you use Microsoft Windows XP.
6. Include password options (wireless router) for access control and use them if you are using wireless networking.
7. Maintain backups to ensure recovery from devastating viruses.
9. Encrypt any personal data on your hard drive.
10. Use an alternative to Windows-based PCs, like Apple Macintosh to connect to the Internet—less likely target for worms or viruses.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 29-30, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .NETA Conference, Omaha
May 19, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Elementary Keyboarding Workshop, ESU No. 17, Ainsworth
June 7-10, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .INVEST Conference, Kearney
June 18-19, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Mountain Plains Business Education Conference, Tulsa
July 9-12, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .PBL National Leadership Conference, Denver
July 12-18, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .FBLA National Leadership Conference, Denver
July 26-27, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Midwest Internet Institute, Lincoln
August 12, 2004 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Elementary Keyboarding Workshop, NE Dept. of Education, Lincoln

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