

This & That

Winter Issue, 2008

Inside this issue:

NCE Programs of Study	2
Service Science.....	5
'09 NETA Competitions.....	6
Call the Federal Reserve.....	7
Web 2.0 Tool	7
First Money Smart Week.....	8
CSO Members Recognized ...	9
What's Happening with PFI	10
Insurance Education Institute.....	12
Fraud Awareness	13
Grading Papers Quicker with Microsoft Word.....	14
Welcome to Auto Town.....	15

STAFF

Note New Email Addresses

Bonnie Sibert
Career Field Specialist
Business, Marketing and
Management
bonnie.sibert@nebraska.gov
402.471.4818

Beverly Newton
Career Field Specialist
Communication and Information
Systems
FBLA State Adviser
bev.newton@nebraska.gov
402.471.4865

Karen Kloch
FBLA Administrative Assistant
karen.kloch@nebraska.gov
402.471.4817

Nicole Coffey
Career Education Specialist
DECA State Adviser
nicole.coffey@nebraska.gov
402.471.4804

Shayne Ortmeier
DECA Administrative Assistant
shayne.ortmeier@nebraska.gov
402.471.0511

Holiday Greetings

*On the 1st day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
1 Money Smart Week.*

*On the 2nd day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
2 career fields.*

*On the 3rd day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
3 NCE Conference days.*

*On the 4th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
4 This and That issues.*

*On the 5th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
5 NCE Conference workshops.*

*On the 6th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
6 career clusters.*

*On the 7th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
7 new ideas.*

*On the 8th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
8 CIS career field pathway programs of study.*

*On the 9th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
9 eblasts for new teachers.*

*On the 10th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
10 months of support during the school year.*

*On the 11th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
11 professional organizations.*

*On the 12th day of the holidays, BMIT gave to me,
12 fall workshops.*

Enjoy your holiday season!

Bonnie, Bev, Karen, Nicole and Shayne

Real-Life Applications of Education

The second of a series of eight Best Practices newsletters is available online at www.sreb.org/publications/2008/newsletters/08SummerConferenceNewsletter.asp. The newsletters describe best practices presented at the 2008 HSTW Staff Development Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

The focus of the second newsletter is Integrated Academic and Career/Technical Learning Shows Real-Life

Applications of Education. The newsletter includes vignettes about schools that are effectively integrating academic and career/technical studies to help more students find meaning in their learning and to motivate students to make great effort to achieve. This newsletter can be shared with academic and career/technical teachers, community and business members, parents and students. You can also use the newsletters as focal points for conversation at faculty meetings.



NCE Programs of Study Lead the Way

This year marks the first year of a five-year plan for the implementation of Perkins IV and the new Career Education Programs of Study. The federal legislation requires that a program of study must meet the following criteria in Perkins IV:

- Incorporate secondary education and postsecondary education elements;
- Include coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant career and technical content in a coordinated, non-duplicative progression of courses that align secondary education with postsecondary education to adequately prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education;
- May include the opportunity for secondary education students to participate in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or other ways to acquire postsecondary education credits; and
- Lead to an industry-recognized credential or certificate at the postsecondary level, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

State Model Programs of Study were developed for the 16 Career Clusters with the exception of Arts, A-V Technology and Communication, Human Resources and Information Technology. In addition, Programs of Study were developed for the majority of the Career Pathways. Each Program of Study includes a minimum of 3 one-semester courses in the sequence of courses.

School districts were asked to submit their Career Education Programs of Study by September 1 to qualify the district for Perkins IV funds. Each district needs a minimum of one Program of Study at either the cluster or pathway level to qualify for funding. In addition, the district needs to offer at least one career student organization—FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, DECA, HOSA or SkillsUSA. In the spring of 2009, districts will have the opportunity to update and resubmit their programs of study.

The State Model Programs of Study for the 4 Career Clusters and 19 Pathways identified in the Business, Marketing and Management Career Field are shown below.

Business, Marketing and Management Career Field Cluster Programs of Study

Business Administration and Management Career Cluster	Marketing Career Cluster	Finance Career Cluster	Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster
<p>Must offer three semesters from the following list:</p> <p>030300 Accounting (2 sem.) 030900 Business Law 032802 Management & Leadership 044101 Marketing</p>	<p>Must offer three semesters from the following list:</p> <p>044101 Marketing 047101 Advanced Marketing 032600 Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Must offer the following courses:</p> <p><i>Both of the following courses</i> 030300 Accounting (2 Sem.) and 030301 Advanced Accounting (2 sem.)</p> <p><i>Or this one course</i> 030302 College Principles of Accounting (2 sem.)</p>	<p>Must offer three semesters from the following list:</p> <p>035000 Food Service Management 041801 Hospitality & Tourism 090107 Nutrition & Food 044101 Marketing</p>

Continued on next page

NCE Programs of Study Lead the Way *continued*

Business, Marketing and Management Career Field Pathway Programs of Study

Business Administration and Management Career Cluster	Marketing Career Cluster	Finance Career Cluster	Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster
<p>Administrative Services Pathway 270501 Info. Technology Applications I 270502 Info. Technology Applications II Plus 2 from the following course list: 030600 Business Communication 270503 Info. Technology Applications III 270240 Desktop Publishing 270604 Web Design & Development 270605 Database Design & Development</p> <p>Business Information Mgmt Pathway 270501 Info. Technology Applications I 270502 Info. Technology Applications II 270503 Info. Technology Applications III 270605 Database Design & Development</p> <p>Human Resources Mgmt Pathway 032802 Management & Leadership 032400 College Introduction to Business</p> <p>Management Pathway 032802 Management & Leadership 030301 Advanced Accounting (2 sem.)</p> <p>Operations Management Pathway 032802 Management & Leadership 030301 Advanced Accounting (2 sem.)</p>	<p>Marketing Communications Pathway 031805 e-Business 044101 Marketing (2 sem.)</p> <p>Marketing Management Pathway 044101 Marketing (2 sem.)</p> <p>Plus 1 from the following course list: 032802 Management & Leadership 032600 Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Marketing Research Pathway 044101 Marketing (2 sem.) 047101 Advanced Marketing</p> <p>Merchandising Pathway 044101 Marketing (2 Sem.) Plus 1 from the following course list: 047101 Advanced Marketing 044400 Fashion Marketing</p> <p>Professional Selling Pathway 044101 Marketing (2 sem.) 047101 Advanced Marketing</p>	<p>Accounting Pathway <i>Both of the following courses</i> 030300 Accounting (2 Sem.) and 030301 Advanced Accounting (2 sem.)</p> <p>or this one course 030302 College Principles of Acctng (2 sem.)</p> <p>Banking Services Pathway 030803 Banking & Credit 033001 Business Finance 030802 Securities & Insurance</p> <p>Business Finance Pathway 030300 Accounting (2 sem.) 033001 Business Finance</p> <p>Insurance Pathway 030801 Intro to Risk Mgmt & Insurance Plus 2 from the following course list: 030300 Accounting (2 sem.) 033001 Business Finance 032400 College Introduction to Business 030802 Securities & Insurance</p> <p>Securities & Investments Pathway 033001 Business Finance 032400 College Introduction to Business 030802 Securities & Insurance</p>	<p>Lodging Pathway 041801 Hospitality & Tourism 044101 Marketing (2 sem.)</p> <p>Recreation, Amusements and Attractions Pathway 041801 Hospitality & Tourism 044101 Marketing 041800 Sports & Entertainment Marketing</p> <p>Restaurants/Food & Beverage Services Pathway 035000 Food Service Management I 035001 Food Service Management II 090107 Nutrition & Food</p> <p>Travel and Tourism Pathway 044101 Marketing 041801 Hospitality & Tourism 034100 International Business</p>

Continued on page 4

NCE Programs of Study Lead the Way *continued from page 3*

The State Model Programs of Study for the ten Pathways identified in the Communication and Information Systems Career Field are shown below.

Communication and Information Systems Career Field Cluster Programs of Study	
Arts, A-V Technology and Communication Career Cluster	Information Technology Career Cluster
<i>No state model exists at the cluster level</i>	<i>No state model exists at the cluster level</i>
Communication and Information Systems Career Field Pathway Programs of Study	
Arts, A-V Technology and Communication Career Cluster	Information Technology Career Cluster
<p>Audio/Video Technology and Film Pathway 270501 Information Technology Applications I Plus three from the following course list: 270200 Audio/Video Production 270230 Broadcasting 270602 Digital Media 270210 Digital Photography</p> <p>Journalism and Broadcasting Pathway 270501 Information Technology Applications I Plus three from the following course list: 270220 Publication Journalism 270230 Broadcasting 270602 Digital Media 270210 Digital Photography</p> <p>Performing Arts Pathway Schools may design their own program of study using Option 2 with a career focus.</p> <p>Printing Technology Pathway 270501 Information Technology Applications I 270603 Graphic Design 270250 Printing Technology 270240 Desktop Publishing</p> <p>Telecommunications Pathway 270504 Information Technology Fundamentals 270501 Information Technology Applications I 270502 Information Technology Applications II 270601 Network Systems</p> <p>Visual Arts Pathway Schools may design their own program of study using Option 2 with a career focus.</p>	<p>Network Systems Pathway 270504 Information Technology Fundamentals 270501 Information Technology Applications I 270502 Information Technology Applications II 270601 Network Systems</p> <p>Information Support and Services Pathway 270501 Information Technology Applications I 270502 Information Technology Applications II Plus two from the following course list: 270504 Information Technology Fundamentals 270605 Database Design and Development 270401 Programming I</p> <p>Web and Digital Communication Pathway 270501 Information Technology Applications I 270502 Information Technology Applications II Plus two from the following course list: 270503 Information Technology Applications III 270602 Digital Media 270604 Web Design and Development 270401 Programming I</p> <p>Programming and Software Development Pathway 270501 Information Technology Applications I 270502 Information Technology Applications II 270401 Programming I Plus one from the following course list: 270402 Programming II 270403 Programming III 270605 Database Design and Development 270604 Web Design and Development</p>



“You still stand watch, O human star,
burning without a flicker,
perfect flame,
bright and resourceful spirit.
Each of your rays a great idea -
O torch which passes
from hand to hand,
from age to age,
world without end.”

~ Karel Capek



Brevity Is the Word of the Day



Micro-writing, a new writing style, has emerged from the overload of information that reaches individuals every day. Blogs, texts and emails make writers say things quickly and efficiently. As a result, the pop communication of micro-writing has been launched.

Text messages have a 160-character cap. Email messages should be short and focus on only one topic. A radio spot requires copywriters to pack a wealth of information into 30 seconds. Twitter.com asks its million-plus members to answer the question – “What are you doing?” – in 140 characters or less.

Magazines and other media are getting into the act by asking readers to write, “The 12-Word Novel,” “The 6-Word Memoir” and “The 4-Word Film Review.” These competitions sharpen creativity and challenge writers to write something good in a limited space.

~ Micah Mertes, *Lincoln-Journal Star*
September 11, 2008

Service Science

Service science is evolving as a discipline in response to business and labor trends. Workers for the service economy must have a combination of skills—deep in one or more subjects and broad in many. For example, information technology employees will need to have a technology background as well as broad business skills. Service innovation will become an important component in the service sector.

Over 50 percent of IBM’s revenue is generated from providing business and technology services—

not from designing and selling computers. IBM needs workers trained in “service science,” which melds technology with an understanding of business processes and organization.

According to the 2005 U.S. Census, services account for 80 percent of the U.S. economy. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that jobs in professional and business services will grow to 4.6 million by 2014. This growth will be led by administrative and business consulting services.

At this time, many students going directly into the workforce will be entering the service sector and most entrepreneurs will be in the service sector. The trends indicate that it will be important to incorporate service sector components into the business curriculum.

~ “Is Service Science an Emerging Business Discipline?” by Beryl C. McEwen, *DPE Journal*, Volume XLIX, No. 3, Fall, 2007

2009 NETA Competitions

The Nebraska Education Technology Association offers technology competitive events for students in grades K-12. After reviewing the possibilities, consider integrating the competitive event opportunity into your information technology curriculum. The postmark entry deadline is January 28, 2009.

Digital Media – A student interactive digital media authoring contest, which integrates text, graphics, audio and video as well as provides the ability for the user to navigate through the information and interact with it. Examples include interactive tutorial, video game, menu driven, 3D modeling, web pages and virtual reality. Each entry must use at least three of the four following elements: audio (sounds/music), animation (animated gifs/pictures, graphics (icons, pictures), video (movie clips).

Movie Contest – Create a 60-120 second movie highlighting someone who exemplifies what it means to be a hero. Heroes are people who have impacted your life in a meaningful way. This is a team event of one to three students.

Open Class Contest – Provides students the opportunity to express themselves! Examples include writing a great computer application, creating an awesome desktop publishing file, telling a digital story, developing a podcast, composing original music. The categories include:

- Expression – Create an artistic and meaningful digital project
- Pursue your Learning – Showcase a digital creation based on something you've learned in class
- Connecting with Others – Share your blogs, podcasts, wikis, web pages or other social network collaborations
- Highlight Your Talents – Tell us who you are or what makes you special through a digital creation of your choice.
- Graphic Imagery Contest – Entries can include digital photographs, images that have been digitally enhanced, hand drawn images and others. All entries should be original work created by the students—no clip art.

For more event details, check out the NETA website at <http://netasite.org>.



"If everyone is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."

– General George S. Patton

Free NETA Conference Registration

Each year the Nebraska Education Technology Association (NETA) provides an outstanding education technology conference. Mark your calendars now for April 23-24, 2009, at the LaVista Embassy Suites and Conference Center.

For teachers who have taught three years or less, submit your name to win a free NETA conference registration. If you can answer "yes" to the following questions, you can submit your name for a drawing to win a free NETA conference registration: 1) teacher with three years or less teaching experience, 2) has not attended a NETA conference, 3) know that school or district does not have the means to pay registration costs, 4) has strong interest in use of technology in the classroom, 5) has principal/supervisor support.

Download an interactive form at the NETA website at <http://netasite.org>. The submission deadline is January 28, 2009.

Employment in the 21st Century

Traditional jobs where employees work for a large company have been the norm for the past 100 years. However, these job opportunities are in decline. As we look at the changing job market in the 21st Century, what are we doing to help students adapt to these employment changes?



Today's graduates will need to be self-marketing, entrepreneurial and enterprising. Most of today's employment opportunities (at least 80 percent) are not advertised. Therefore, it is critical to teach students how to find the unadvertised job opportunities and then approach employers in a strategic manner.

Job opportunities will come in the form of contract work, temporary work and self-employment. It is, therefore, important to help students embrace this new work environment where a freelance career will become the norm.

Employment tools will need to expand beyond the customary resumé. Students will need to be taught how to create other tools that will market themselves by focusing on the employer's needs. Individuals who embrace a freelance career and can market themselves will have many options to position themselves for careers in the 21st century.

"The Modern Challenge for Employment Seekers,"
by Ron McGowan, *Techniques*, October 2008

Call the Federal Reserve

The Federal Reserve Consumer Help division encourages consumers to file a complaint if they think a bank has been unfair or misleading, discriminated against them in lending or violated a law or regulations. The division investigates complaints related to federal consumer protection laws, such as the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Truth in Lending Act.

To file a complaint:

- Call 888-851-1920 or
- Email ConsumerHelp@FederalReserve.gov or
- Submit a complaint online at www.FederalReserveConsumerHelp.gov or
- Send a fax to 877-888-2520 or
- Write Federal Reserve Consumer Help, PO Box 1200, Minneapolis, MN 55480

The Federal Reserve connects individuals with or forwards the complaint to the appropriate federal regulator for the bank or institution involved in the complaint. If the complaint is against a financial institution that the Federal Reserve supervises, it will be investigated by 1 of the 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks.

For a full listing of the laws or to find frequently asked questions, visit www.federalreserveconsumerhelp.gov.



Web 2.0 Tool Produces Short Video

This site is one of the latest Web 2.0 tools that provides great opportunities for your students. Users simply upload photos, choose music from either the animoto collection or their own, and the site automatically produces a short video formatted much like a movie-trailer or commercial. There is even a tab for education, which encourages its use for digital story-telling. When the video is done, animoto emails you a link (literally in minutes) so you can view your production.

Users can sign up for the 30-second short videos for free, or you can pay \$3 per video for full length or \$30 for a year-long unlimited pass. Imagine the possibilities in the classroom and for your career student organizations!

~ Gregg and Kim Robke, *ESU 4 Newsletter*,
November 2008

21 Skills for 21st Century Learning

Today's employers expect young employees to arrive not only with basic skills such as math, writing and reading, but also with a mastery of 21st century skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, leadership, problem-solving and communication. Learning to evaluate information for a collaborative project and turning that data into knowledge to communicate to others are important skills. Are your students ready to:

1. Benchmark a process
2. Communicate clearly
3. Connect with the global community
4. Cope with change
5. Demonstrate innovativeness
6. Distinguish fact from opinion
7. Frame problems and solutions
8. Give an effective presentation
9. Lead a team
10. Learn outside the classroom
11. Make complex choices
12. Manage a negotiation
13. Motivate others
14. Organize information
15. Read a digital map
16. Resolve conflict
17. Respond to a blog
18. Sell ideas to others
19. Set priorities and goals
20. Use technology well
21. Work effectively in teams

When planning your lessons, you will want to incorporate activities that include one or more of the 21 skills for 21st Century learning.

~ *Technology and Learning*,
September 2007

Nebraska Financial Education Coalition Launches First Annual Money Smart Week

NEBRASKA FINANCIAL EDUCATION COALITION

Are you smarter than a fifth grader? How about when it comes to the stock market? Conestoga Magnet School students gave their top ten tips as part of an event to kick off the first annual Money Smart Week in Nebraska in the Omaha area on Nov. 10. Their audience included approximately 125 business representatives. The week, coordinated by the Nebraska Financial Education Coalition, was designed to help consumers learn more about managing their finances. During the week, organizations across the state hosted free educational events and promoted financial literacy. A complete searchable calendar of events and detailed information on the week can be found at www.moneysmartnebraska.org.

In local communities, businesses, individuals, schools, financial institutions, and government and non-profit agencies worked together to host free seminars focused on providing basic-to-complex personal financial literacy education topics. Free events ranged from seminars on investing in turbulent times to saving for college to how to find the pennies to pinch in a tight economy. More than 200 free classes and events were held at a variety of locations across the state.

Hats off to the following FBLA, DECA and business departments who registered as a Money Smart Nebraska partner and hosted one or more events designed to help consumers of all ages better manage their finances.

Blair FBLA – collaborated with Washington County Bank to establish a checking account for student use and also provided presentations by bank personnel.

Fillmore Central FBLA – Parents and students learned from College Savings Plan of Nebraska representatives concerning 529 plans. Present and recent college graduates shared the budgeting surprises and hidden college cost hints they encountered.

Lincoln East DECA – poster campaign and Wells Fargo Bank speaker.

Lincoln East FBLA – Students wrote and read financial tips over the intercom.

Lincoln North Star High School Business Department – Business and Information technology academy presentation of student projects and information related to personal finance issues.

Lincoln Northeast High School Business Department – Multimedia students worked with Economics students to create 30-second public service announcements on different personal finance topics. Short videos were published on the Lincoln Northeast web site.

Lincoln Southeast High School Business Department – A presentation on credit by Wells Fargo.

Lincoln Southwest High School Business Department – Students in Economic Perspectives participated in the online Finance Challenge.

Metropolitan Community College - Sound Advice in Troubled Times was presented at the LaVista Public Library.

Millard South DECA – DECA members participated in the Financial Football game and also provided a 3-minute interactive presentation at Anderson Middle School and Bryan Elementary.

Northeast Community College – Held sessions every day on Financial Tips, Money Smart Consumers, Insurance for Life, Identity Theft, Pay Now or Pay Later (Estate Planning), College Financial Aid, Homebuyers Education, Real Estate and Funeral Planning.

Omaha Benson Magnet High School – Posters and brochures were located around the school for students and outside speakers presented to business classes on financial topics.

Omaha Marris Magnet Center – Student ambassadors read quotes from famous people given about money during daily announcements. Marris Bank in the School has been held for the past 4 years in partnership with Wells Fargo Bank. Money in the Bank. . . Managing Your Accounts was presented by bankers. National Academy Foundation students distributed a financial newsletter that they had developed to Marris students.

Omaha North High School – Establishing Credit was the topic present by Wells Fargo personnel.

Omaha Northwest High School and FBLA Chapter – A financial literacy fair included a keynote

Continued on page 15

American Careers Business

American Careers Business is a business education curriculum offering trends and concepts for the Business Management and Administration career cluster. The curriculum engages students in solving business problems with more than 30 student projects based on six true-to-life case studies. It covers a variety of career cluster pathways including management, accounting, marketing and administrative and information support. You can review the American Careers Business brochure, a sample lesson and sample online assessment questions at www.carcom.com.



Giveaway of the Day

Giveaway of the Day nominates one software title each day as the Giveaway title of the day. The software is available for download for 24 hours and that software is free. It is not a trial, limited version but a registered legal version of the software. The download link remains on the website for an agreed-upon period of time along with the software product and information about other products from the software publishing company. You can review complete details at www.giveawayoftheday.com.

Career Student Organization News

Career Student Organization Members Recognized

Nebraska students placing in the top three of their respective career student organization (CSO) national conferences were recognized at the Commissioner's Recognition for Student Excellence in Career Education on November 24.

Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy and Deputy Commissioner of Education Marge Harouff gave welcome addresses to the over 300 in attendance at the Capitol Rotunda. Recognition certificates were presented to 125 student members who received top honors at the DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, PBL and SkillsUSA national conferences.

DECA award winners were Matthew Fischer, Millard West; Jessica Reisig and Seth Wallace, Scottsbluff; and Mary Hoffman, Sarah Rybar and Sydney Stough, Bellevue West.

FBLA award winners were Justin Schultis, Fairbury; Clint Kroeker, Brianna Rader and Tori Bittinger, Heartland; Trent Shrader, Marcus Winter, and Jon Luetchens, Elmwood-Murdock; and Brian Brazeal, Bellevue West.

PBL award winners were Mike Kistler, Chris Reznicek, Tyler Lemberg, Tim Echtenkamp, Kevin Abel, Charles Burns, Stephen Stewart and Ashley Guinan, University of Nebraska – Lincoln; Jennifer Roeber, J.J. Bell and Mike Fabry, Midland Lutheran College; Terri McDowell, Michelle Larson and Maria Christensen, North Platte Community College; Eric LeMunyan, University of Nebraska at Kearney and Sherry Kvasnička, Peru State College.

Congratulations to the students and their advisers on these outstanding achievements!

Expression Studio 2

Microsoft's Expression Studio 2 (released May 1, 2008) is a Windows-based suite of high-end web design tools and media applications designed for web developers. The suite includes:

- Expression Web 2 – Website design and graphical web page editing, which replaces FrontPage.
- Expression Media 2 – Tool for organizing images and other digital media.
- Expression Blend 2 – Interactive WYSIWYG design tool for building media application. It supports Silverlight, Microsoft's new cross-platform, cross browser interactive presentation technology plug-in. If you decide to use Flash technologies, it is better to choose Dreamweaver.
 - Expression Design 2 – An illustrator application for drawing vector graphics, only available as part of Expression Studio.



Expression Web offers a variety of templates, which are ideal to use for personal or small business websites. Sites previously developed in FrontPage can be imported.

What's Happening with Partnerships for Innovation (PFI)

by Erika Volker

The Partnerships for Innovation (PFI), a subsidiary of FutureForce Nebraska, is working to meet the federal requirements set forth by the reauthorization of Carl D. Perkins IV legislation. PFI is a collective of secondary and community college members, which have allocated 10 percent of their funding to the collaborative. To ensure quality representation, PFI is governed by a Leadership Council consisting of delegates from the six Nebraska community colleges and six secondary entities, be it school districts or Educational Service Units.

Partnerships for Innovation has been very busy the past two months, developing joint ventures and securing statewide memberships for both secondary and postsecondary entities.

Joint Ventures

Curriculum Alignment. PFI is working to align secondary and postsecondary curriculum in the Talent Pipeline areas. The areas of focus for the upcoming year are: Information Technology, Health Sciences, Education & Training, Agriculture & Life Sciences, and Transportation, Distribution, Warehousing & Logistics.

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) received a three-year Community Based Job Training Grant to increase the Information Technology (IT) industry awareness and employee base. To maximize the impact of the grant, PFI has partnered with MCC, the Nebraska Department of Education and other post-secondary partners to coordinate statewide dual credit in the IT career pathways. As a result, at least one course will be available for dual credit in each of the IT career pathways. Coordination took place in the fall with an articulation workshop held November 20 in the Omaha area.

Problem Based, Case Based Learning. PFI has developed a partnership with the Applied Information Management (AIM) Institute to deliver Problem Based, Case Based Learning (PBCL) professional development to community college and high school faculty. PBCL marries business, industry and the community with classroom standards and objectives. Faculty participate in teams of academic and career educators, secure a relationship with a local business, identify an unsolved problem and design a learning environment which provide students the opportunity to solve the problem. PBCL integrates the use of technology and 21st Century Skills while providing "real world" work experience in a classroom.

Trainings, provided free-of-charge to PFI member schools, are offered in the following sequence:

- Three-hour orientation to Problem Based, Case Based Learning
- Two-and-one-half-day Design and Development Institute
- Six-month online mentoring, conducted by current PBCL faculty
- Half-day Reflective Session

For more information please visit the website www.thecasefiles.org or contact Erika Volker at Erika@futureforcenebraska.org or (402) 305-9480.

Statewide Activities

The Partnerships for Innovation has engaged in statewide activities for the benefit of PFI member institutions at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. Here are just some of the activities that have transpired in the past two months.

Access to Data. PFI has supported the statewide membership to Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) for all Nebraska community colleges to access the wealth of data available. Secondary organizations, districts and Educational Service Units have access to reports regarding projected educational attainment, regional economic outlook reports and trends in career clusters over the next ten

Continued on page 11

What's Happening ...continued

years. These may be helpful as districts develop programs of study and future program plans. Local reports may be obtained by contacting Erika directly.

Additionally, PFI is funding an Economic Impact Study conducted by EMSI, which will evaluate the economic impact of community colleges on Nebraska's economy as well as the benefit dual credit or concurrent enrollment programs have in the state. The report should be available for dissemination by the end of this year.

High Schools that Work & Making Middle Grades Work. Coordinated by the Southern Regional Education Board (www.sreb.org), High Schools That Work (HSTW) & Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW) are school improvement models that align academic and career/technical studies with student achievement and success. The models are based on the belief that most students can master both rigorous academic and career/technical education content if school leaders and teachers create an environment that motivates students to make the effort to succeed. A targeted focus on the transition from middle school to high school and from high school to postsecondary studies/career-entry is key components of both MMGW and HSTW. The HSTW and MMGW consortia provide a tremendous amount of support to administrators and faculty and a wealth of resources. If your district is looking to move from Good to Great, don't let this opportunity pass you by. For more information please contact Gregg Christensen, Nebraska HSTW/MMGW State Coordinator at gregg.christensen@nebraska.gov or (402) 471-4337.

National Repository for Online Curriculum (NROC). PFI purchased an annual membership for the next three years to the National Repository for Online Curriculum (NROC). NROC is a highly interactive, multimedia-rich bank of online courses that can be used for dual, blended, or online credit and/or as enrichment in traditional secondary and postsecondary classrooms across Nebraska. For a free demonstration of the multimedia and resources, please visit, HippoCampus, www.hippocampus.org/myHippo/?user=myPFI and click on your favorite subject matter. Some institutions across the state are hosting the NROC material on their servers and providing access. If your institution would like to be a host site, please contact Erika.

Webpage. Much of the information and resources found in this article are available on the Partnerships for Innovation webpage: www.futureforcenebraska.org/Partnerships/. For more information please contact Erika Volker at Erika@futureforcenebraska.org or (402) 305-9480.



UNL J.D. Edwards Program Renamed

In May, the UNL J. D. Edwards Honors Program was renamed the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management. Raikes is the President of the Microsoft Business Division but will soon become the CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The UNL Jeffrey S. Raikes School looks for high ability students interested in Computer Science, Business or Engineering. This focused honors program seeks top students who possess these characteristics:

- A composite ACT score of 30 or higher
- A class rank of 95% or better
- Proven leadership skills and initiative
- Interest in business and technology

If you know of students with these talents and interests, please encourage the student to apply or learn more at <http://raikes.unl.edu>. If you have questions, please contact Lori McClurg at 402.472.9097 or lmccclurg2@unl.edu.

Insurance Education Institute

Nebraska has the unique opportunity to host an Insurance Education Institute on July 13 and 14, 2009 at the Federal Reserve Bank in Omaha. The linked flyer (www.nde.state.ne.us/BMIT/pdf/NebraskaIEI_flyer.pdf) explaining many of the details was shared at the BMIT ESU fall workshops. The 3-hour graduate course syllabus is available at www.nde.state.ne.us/BMIT/pdf/Syllabus2009NebraskaIEI.pdf.

Who can take this course?

1. Any grade 8 – 12 teacher and any two-year postsecondary instructor.
2. Any teacher who is willing to integrate topics on insurance into courses such as career orientation, business, consumer education, economics, social sciences, family and consumer science, mathematics or driver's education can benefit from this course.
3. Preservice students who will graduate this summer may enroll in the institute. Please use your college as the "school where you teach" when completing the online application.

Why would you want to take this course?

1. Your tuition, textbooks and resources are free!
2. Your meals onsite July 13 and 14 are being provided by the Federal Reserve Bank in conjunction with the Griffith Foundation for Insurance Education.
3. You will have the opportunity to become industry certified by taking at no cost the Insurance Education Institute Industry Certification Exam. Part of your onsite training will include a review for this exam.
4. You will receive lesson plans and resources that you can use immediately in any classroom where insurance is taught (business, math, family and consumer sciences, drivers ed).
5. You will learn about careers in the insurance industry from a panel of insurance specialists.
6. You will learn about insurance regulations as presented by the Nebraska Department of Insurance.
7. You will take a field trip to hear from experts in the insurance industry.

What costs will you incur?

1. You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the 2-day workshop as well as lodging. For teachers coming from outside the metro area, you may apply to Bonnie Sibert for a travel honorarium that will be provided through Partnership for Innovation (PFI) funds. Please send an email request to bonnie.sibert@nebraska.gov by February 1.
2. To receive graduate credit from the University of Central Arkansas, you will need to complete and submit a graduate school application and send a \$25 graduate school application fee in order to receive graduate credit. Apply to grad school online at www.uca.edu/admissions.

How do I get started?

1. Register online at www.uca.edu/nebraskaiei by February 1.
2. If you plan to take the class for graduate credit, complete and submit a graduate school application. Apply to grad school online at www.uca.edu/admissions.
3. If you plan to take the class but don't want graduate credit, you will be charged the same fee as if you were taking the institute for college credit.
4. Start the class March 1 or shortly thereafter by at least watching the first video. The online course is hosted through Blackboard.
5. Participants need to devote time on a regular basis so they progress steadily through the course.

Fraud Awareness

What do students need to know about fraud awareness? Gary L. Schepf, the Advanced Technology and Legal Studies SITE Coordinator at The Academy of Irving ISD in Irving, Texas, shares the following information. First, an understanding of terminology is important and here is a list of terms students should know.

Asset Misappropriation Scheme	Healthcare Fraud	Shoplifting
Cheating	Identify Theft	Skimming/Larceny
Credit Card Fraud	Insurance Fraud	Soft Fraud
Credit Scores/Credit Check	Intentional Loss Hard Fraud	Spam
Cyberethics	Living Will (Advanced Directive)	Spear Phishing
Divorce Fraud	Power of Attorney for Healthcare (Physician's Directive)	Spyware/Adware
Durable Power of Attorney	Mail Fraud	Student Loan Default/Fraud
Fiduciary Fraud	Pharming	Telephone Fraud
Fraud Assessment	Phishing	Virus (technology-related)
Fraud Perpetrators	Securities & Investment Fraud	Welfare Fraud
Fraudulent Disbursement Scheme		

Second, there are a wealth of resources available on fraud awareness; you will want to check out the following:

First Horizon National Corporation, "All things Financial: Financial Literacy Volumes I-IV" (First Horizon DVDs)

Federal Trade Commission: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/consumers/about-identity-theft.html

"Delivering Justice" Series by US Postal Inspection Service DVDs: www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov/press-room/videos.aspx

- All the King's Men
 - Nowhere to Run
 - Identity Crisis
 - Work@Home Scams: They Just Don't Pay!
 - Long Shot
- Web of Deceit
- Dialing for Dollars
- Truth or Consequences: Fake Check Scams

Fraud-related Websites

- www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com
- www.crimevictims.gov
- <http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>
- www.usps.com/postalinspectors/victnotify.htm
- www.wisegeek.com/what-is-fraud.htm?referrer=adwords_campaign+fraud_ad+013701&_search_w=about%20fraud
- www.utexas.edu/friends/popups/research_42.html
- www.fraudaid.com
- www.crimes-of-persuasion.com
- <http://ftc.gov/bcp/consumer.shtm>
- www.nasaa.org/investor_awareness_quiz/index.cfm
- www.microsoft.com/athome/security/email/phishing.mspx
- www.cyveillance.com/web/solutions/enterprise/solutions/anti-phishing.asp

~ Reprinted with permission from Gary L. Schepf

"Business is not just doing deals; business is having great products, doing great engineering and providing tremendous service to customers. Finally, business is a cobweb of human relationships."

- Ross Perot

Grading Papers Quicker in Microsoft Word

By Sandy O'Neil, Chase County High School

Grading papers is one of the most time consuming aspects of teaching keyboarding and computer applications classes. However, I have come across a valuable tool for making this task easier.



This process has been tested on Microsoft Word 2003. The first thing you need to do is make a master copy of the assignment. I usually use the master copy that is provided with the textbook. If there isn't a master copy, you can create a master or use a file submitted by one of your advanced students.

Once a master copy has been created, you are ready to follow these steps:

- Open the master copy
- Click Tools on the menu bar
- Click Compare and Merge Documents
- Single click on the document you want to check (students saved document)
- Make sure only Legal Blackline is checked (Remove Find formatting checkmark)
- Click Compare

The newly compared document is opened into a new document. Once the document has been compared, you review it to decide if you want to reject or accept changes. (Note: The "compare" feature will sometimes count an extra space bar at the end of a paragraph as a mistake.) You can also make changes to it and it will track your changes. Once you have done this, you can resave the document and then email it back to the student or place the newly saved document in the location where you retrieved it.

I complete this process completely by using email. Each student at our school has a school-supported email address so they send all their assignments to me via email. Once I receive the email, I save the document with the students' initials to my desktop so I can retrieve it for step 4 above. Once it has been corrected, I resave it to the same location and then email it to the student as an attachment with the grade written in the email.

This process has saved me a lot of time grading papers, and I plan to check it out on Office 2007 later this year. If you have any questions or comments, you can email me at soneil@esu15.org.

~ Credit for this article is given to Phyllis A. King and Lucila Ovino

Welcome to Auto Town!

Do you know teenagers who can't wait to purchase their first real car? If so, you will want to send them to the website called Auto Town. University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension developed this site to help teens learn about the process of buying a vehicle and the costs involved. Many teens realize what the vehicle itself costs, but may not know about some of the maintenance, insurance or other costs incurred by vehicle owners.



The site, <http://autotown.unl.edu>, features a diagram with buildings depicting businesses a teen would visit when buying a car, including an auto dealership, a bank, an insurance company and an auto repair business. Quizzes help teens determine financing and test their knowledge about car-buying basics. Youth can also pick out a car or use the cost of a car they wish to buy and input the figures into a budget. After working through the site, teens will be able to determine whether or not they can afford the vehicle of their choice.

Encourage teenagers to visit the site and learn about the process of and costs involved in buying an automobile. If site users complete the evaluation found at the end of the site, their name will be put in the hat for a quarterly drawing for a cool prize!

~ Leanne Manning, UNL Extension Educator

First Annual Money Smart Week *continued from page 8*

speaker on identity theft, informal table discussions with community financial resources and local financial experts were on hand to present information, answer questions and spotlight community resources.

UNL Students in Free Enterprise presented at Lincoln Lefler and Scott Middle Schools – Trade Around the World was taught by SIFE students at two middle schools in Lincoln.

Wayne Students in Free Enterprise co-present with Osmond FBLA - Saving, Investing and Responsible Use of Credit was presented to 10th graders at Osmond High School. FBLA members partnered with Wayne SIFE members to present on the American Enterprise System. Emphasis was put on taking advantage of economic opportunities, but in an ethical fashion.

Special thanks to Jennifer Davidson of the Nebraska Council on Economic Education for providing up-to-date information for the BMIT listserve. Kudos to the Nebraska Council on Economic Education and the Federal Reserve Bank for their financial support that provided kick off events in both Lincoln and Omaha. The Nebraska Council on Economic Education facilitated the Money SmartNebraska.org web site and the Federal Reserve Bank provided printed calendar programs, posters and flyers.

If you didn't participate this year, you'll have a chance to get involved next year when the 2nd annual Money Smart Week will be held November 9-15, 2009.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, or national origin in its education programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs.

This newsletter was funded with federal Carl D. Perkins funds provided through the Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, administered through the Nebraska Department of Education, grant number V048A080027.

Products mentioned in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by the Nebraska Department of Education staff; products are mentioned for your information and review.