

ICN Insider



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A 21st Century Learning Environment	1 & 2
Commissioners Appointed to ITTC	2
Report of E-Rate and Broadband Usage	2
ICN Partners with Fiberutilities Group	3
Employee Spotlight	3
Upcoming K-12 Connections	4

Meeting Date Change

The March Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) meeting has been rescheduled from March 17, to Thursday, March 31.



A 21st Century Learning Environment

The new Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School is taking technology to the next level by providing each student in 5th through 8th grades with an iPad for the 2011-2012 school year.

After the flood of 2008 destroyed the prior elementary school, the school district decided to incorporate a 21st century learning environment by using bond and FEMA money received.

With students being immensely familiar with technology, a suggested business model was to incorporate handheld mobile technology devices by participating in the 1:1 program. Waverly-Shell Rock is anticipated to be the first school district in the Cedar-Valley area to implement the program, and one of the very few in the United States to use the iPad rather than laptops or netbooks.

With the creation of the new middle school, the question turned to investing in multiple computer labs or



individual devices. By purchasing the iPad technology, the school district plans to save \$180,000.

With this new endeavor come obstacles such as sustainability of the devices and mobility. Content is largely limited when exclusively focusing on text books. The money dedicated to purchasing textbooks can be used for online subscriptions for the iPads. The sustainability increases when students have a constant opportunity to access the Internet to research world-wide topics and learn real-time educational issues.

ICN's fiber-optic infrastructure provides

Waverly-Shell Rock with the critical link to ensure that the iPad project is successful by supplying the Internet and bandwidth needed for the multiple applications teachers/students will use each day. In the future, it is anticipated that the high school will also be a wireless hub.

"We could not do this initiative without the ICN," said Bridgette Wagoner, Waverly-Shell Rock's Director of Educational Services. "It's critical to have the infrastructure in place when handing teachers and students a piece of equipment that completely relies on the technology. We know that the technology isn't sustainable, but we also know that the technology isn't optional either."

One critical concern still being considered is the Internet adoption aspect for parents and caretakers of students. Since the majority if not all of the curriculum will be digital, having a reliable, consistent Internet connection will be essential at home.

Continues on page 2

**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

Broadband use is the next phase of the Information Revolution. This revolution is as critical to Iowa and the United States as the Industrial Revolution was over a century ago. The ICN received one of the US Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program's grants for \$16.2 million. This grant is to allow ICN to partner with the private sector telecommunications companies to bring broadband to Iowans. Time is needed to illustrate the valued collaboration to enhance this partnership.

iPads Provide Anywhere, Anytime Learning

"This is an issue that we will have to face head-on; we know that consistent Internet connectivity will affect families in rural communities and low-income households," Wagoner stated.

At this time the school district has no specific plans, but is looking

into how to potentially support the Internet access to student's households.

Waverly-Shell Rock is excited to be a part of the next wave of technology. They talk about their 1:1 iPads through the lens of a Wayne Gretzky quote that says he skates to

where the puck is going to be, not where it is. Waverly-Shell Rock is moving beyond where technology is now and instead looking to where it will be in the future.



Commissioners Appointed to ITTC

Governor Branstad appointed Richard Bruner and Shannon Cofield to serve on the ITTC, the governing body of the ICN.

Bruner is a telecommunications professional with over 40 years experience in public policy, regulatory affairs, marketing, sales and operations. His corporate experience

includes working for AT&T, Northwestern Bell and USWEST. Most recently, Bruner was a Telecommunications Consultant with Kiesling Associates.

Cofield has served as President of United Way of Central Iowa since June 2004. She provides overall management and guidance in the development and

implementation of United Way's strategic direction in the areas of education, income and health.

The appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.



Report of E-Rate and Broadband Usage

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently released a report that includes data from the 2010 E-rate Program and Broadband Usage Survey. The FCC's changes to the E-rate program intend to ensure that schools can more easily obtain E-rate funding for higher bandwidth services that will support more advanced applications.

The report highlights three categories: examines Internet connectivity in schools and libraries that receive E-rate funding, looks at the types of technologies and applications used by schools and libraries that receive E-rate funding, and addresses E-rate funded services.

Survey respondents use a wide variety of services for

Internet access: 39 percent is spent on "other" wireline, technologies, including T-1, 39 percent is spent on Fiber (27 percent) or DSL (12 percent), and 6 percent is spent on cable modem. Nearly 80 percent of all survey respondents say their broadband connections do not fully meet their current needs. The entire report can be found at www.fcc.gov/010511_Eraterreport.pdf.

ICN Partners with Fiberutilities Group

ICN has utilized the expertise of Fiberutilities Group (FG) to help elevate ICN to the next level. FG has worked with the ICN in the past, primarily in the role of utilizing ICN connectivity on behalf of our clients. Many of the access connections used to reach the HealthNet connect health care network in Iowa are provided by the ICN.

The partnership grew in the spring of 2010 when the ICN invited FG to assist in the development of its Round 2 BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) application. Since FG was also assisting Iowa Health System (IHS) with its Round 2 BTOP application, FG was in a unique position to outline

the obvious synergies between the ICN and IHS.

FG is privately held, Iowa-based organization focused on bringing the benefits of world class, client-controlled connectivity to public and private businesses and enterprises. FG is not a telecommunications carrier,



but rather a professional management company, providing communications connectivity management, planning, building and operating services to clients including multi-location health systems, Fortune 500 companies, and joint efforts of multiple government entities. For clients with higher levels of network operational sophistication (like the ICN), FG provides

incremental support services at every layer or network deployment and operation.

FG is currently working with the ICN in the overall project planning and deployment of ICN's BTOP grant. This long term partnership includes assisting with clearance of the Environmental Assessment milestone, supporting the project sub recipients at the Sac and Fox Tribe in Tama, as well as the Decorah MetroNet.

ICN and Fiberutilities Group look forward to many years of collaboration to bring the very best communications capabilities to all of Iowa!

The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.

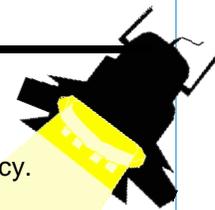
Employee Spotlight: Larry Klawitter

Larry Klawitter is a Telecommunications Engineer Senior for ICN's outside plant. He has worked for the ICN for 14 years. With Dave Augspurger's assistance, he oversees relocation and restoration of the ICN backbone cable throughout the State of Iowa. He works with various contractors to keep the fiber-optic cable in place and working properly. Larry assists with keeping ICN's outside

physical fiber-optic network operational as well. He conducts field surveys and construction inspections as well as serves as a source of contact for IDOT (Iowa Department of Transportation) activities. He is also responsible for analyzing plans and recommending alternatives to eliminate cable placement conflicts. Larry's responsibilities require him to perform detailed work with a high

degree of accuracy. He must always maintain good communication with the other ICN divisions to ensure efficient and accurate completion of job requests.

Larry is an active volunteer at his church, Mount Olive Lutheran in Des Moines. He is married to his wife, Joni, who is a licensed Massage Therapist.



Do you have new staff, administrators, or friends who might be interested in receiving this newsletter? Please pass it on and have them contact lori.larsen@iowa.gov to be placed on the distribution list.

Remember to visit ICN's website at www.icn.state.ia.us to keep updated on all ICN related news.



Iowa Communications Network
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 725-4692
Toll Free: 1-877-426-4692
www.icn.state.ia.us

Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

My America: Becoming an Active Citizen

Monday, March 14, 2011; 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM and 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM
Audience: **Grades 2-5**

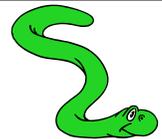


During this session, the presenter will discuss the works of citizens who volunteer to care for their communities using student generated ideas while stressing the importance of volunteers. Famous heroes such as Norman Borlaug and Martin Luther King as well as volunteers during disasters, and active citizens in our own communities will be mentioned. A featured video will be shown following with discussion of Johnny Appleseed and examples of how students can become active citizens in their communities through their own unique talents.

Registration Deadline - Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Amazing Reptiles

Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM and 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM
Audience: **Grades K-4**



Students enter the bizarre and fascinating world of reptiles. Conservationists discuss the fears and myths surrounding these scaly creatures that people love to hate. Students learn how snakes smell, see, and swallow objects twice the size of their heads! Live reptiles make this program really cool. This interactive program also allows time for students to ask questions, so come prepared. Following the session, registrants receive the complimentary book *Outside and Inside Alligators* or an alternate title.

Registration Deadline - Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Super Why Learning Adventures Toolkit

Friday, March 11; 12:30 PM - 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Audience: **Educators, Librarians, Community Camp Providers**



Considering a preschool camp for children entering Kindergarten this fall but don't know where to find the curriculum? Check out this session to learn more about *Super Why!*, a PBS KIDS program designed for children ages 2 through 5. Trista Peitzman will explain the research behind the broadcast program, the pilot program including eight camps held in Iowa, and the amazing results seen.

Registration Deadline - Monday, March 7, 2011

For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown
Educational Services
(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181
abby@iptv.org
www.k12connections.iptv.org

Please share this newsletter with others. To be added to the distribution list, please e-mail lori.larsen@iowa.gov. If you wish to be removed from the list, please reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.