



STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEWS FROM THE NITC NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

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NITC Meeting

The next meeting of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission will be held in Laurel, Nebraska on Wednesday, June 18. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the NITC Web site (<http://www.nitc.ne.gov>) the week before the meeting.

Nebraska's regional interoperability approach highlighted

The Department of Homeland Security highlighted Nebraska's regional interoperability approach for public safety communications in the [Winter 2008 issue of Interoperability Technology Today](#).

CIO Brenda Decker honored by AIM Institute

CIO Brenda Decker was honored for [Outstanding Community Service in Technology](#) by the AIM Institute at their Annual Technology Celebration Banquet held Tuesday, April 15, 2008.

Communities

One in five U.S. households has never used e-mail

Roughly one-fifth of all U.S. heads-of-household have never used e-mail and 30% have never used a computer to create documents, according to [National Technology Scan](#), a forthcoming study from Parks Associates. This annual phone survey of U.S. households found 20 million households are without Internet access, approximately 18% of all U.S. households. More information is available at <http://newsroom.parksassociates.com/>.

402 area code extension efforts produce results

On May 26, 1999, the Nebraska Public Service Commission was notified by NeuStar, the organization responsible for forecasting area code exhaust dates, that the 402 area code would be depleted in 2000. Conservation measures promoted by the Commission have delayed the implementation of a third area code by an additional six months from the fourth quarter of 2009 to the second quarter of 2010.

Implementation of a third area code would have required consumers to either dial 10 digits for local calling or splitting the 402-area code. If a split had occurred, it was presumed that Omaha or Lincoln would keep 402 while the other would have been assigned a new area code. The relief method currently preferred by most states, to ease implementation, is an overlay of the existing 402 area code with a new code resulting in 10-digit dialing.

eHealth

Telehealth benefits patients, providers

The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is improving the quality of care and providing cost savings. The network allows Faith Regional Health Services to be directly connected to ten hospitals, three public health departments, and indirectly to the entire state. A recent article in the *Norfolk Daily News* highlights Faith Regional's use of the telehealth network for teleradiology. Carol Rosenbaum, Faith Regional's telehealth coordinator, says teleradiology is a major component of Faith Regional's telehealth network. There have been a total of 9,700 teleradiology procedures from July 2006 to February 2008. Using teleradiology makes it possible for patients in rural hospitals to have x-rays read in minutes instead of hours.

The [2007 Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network Usage Report](#) indicates that hospitals saved \$1,153,461 saved in travel time and \$1,122,231 in mileage costs for education/conference, administrative meetings, and interviewing/testing. In 2007, there were 997 consults, excluding teleradiology. Public health departments have saved \$122,464 in mileage costs and \$117,725 in travel time. The total number of miles saved per hub and sites was 2,313,878.

Rural Health Network Development Grant aids SNBHIN

Blue Valley Behavioral Health Center, a private non-profit corporation that serves fifteen counties in Southeast and East Central Nebraska and a member of the Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network (SNBHIN), received a Rural Health Network Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. Through the grant, Blue Valley Behavioral Health will receive \$180,000 a year for three years. The grant will provide partial funding for a network director as well as funding for technology that will facilitate Behavioral Health Information Exchange. The technology funding will provide for development of system architecture design, equipment and implementation. Region V Systems and other urban partners are contributing toward the funding of a network director. Partners in the project include Heartland Health Alliance, Blue Valley Behavioral Health Center, Region V Systems, BryanLGH Medical Center, Lancaster County Community Mental Health Center, Saint Monica's Home, the Southeast Rural Physicians Alliance, Lancaster County Medical Society and Health Partners Initiative. Fifteen organizations providing behavioral health care in Southeast Nebraska have been identified as potential participants in SNBHIN.

Thayer County providers go live

Health care providers in Thayer County and surrounding communities in Nebraska and Kansas went live with an interoperable health information network in April. The network connects Thayer County Health Services in Hebron, five rural health clinics, a home health agency, a nursing home and an assisted living facility, several EMS units, a hospital-owned retail pharmacy and an independent retail pharmacy, and St. Elizabeth Regional Health System in Lincoln. The project is funded with a \$1.6 million Critical Access Hospital, Health Information Technology (HIT) grant. The Office of Rural Health in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) applied for the grant and is responsible for completion of the work under it.

Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange researches vendors

The Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange (WNHIE) continues to make progress. The project is investigating the following components of the health information exchange:

- Master Patient Index
- Record Locator Service
- Possibly an Electronic Medical Record for those clinics that don't currently have one
- Revenue Cycle Management product

An RFP has been issued and vendor demonstrations have been held. It is possible that more than one vendor will be selected to perform the functions. Selections are expected to begin within the next several months. A final draft of the user's agreement has been developed.

eHealth Council will meet May 29

The eHealth Council will meet on Thursday, May 29 from 1:30 to 4:30 PM at the University of Nebraska Technology Park, 4701 Innovation Drive. The agenda will be posted at the NITC Web site (www.nitc.ne.gov).

Nebraska HISPC will meet May 30

The Nebraska Health Information Security and Privacy Committee will meet Friday, May 30, 2008, with the full Workgroup meeting from 10:00-11:00 AM and the Education and Legal Committees meeting from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM. The location is in Conference Rooms LL-D and LL-F, Lower Level of the State Office Building, Lincoln, NE. The phone bridge number is (402) 472-6296.

Education

Nebraska ed tech conferences are a perennial success

The Nebraska Distance Learning Association (NDLA) Summit and the Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) annual Conference were each held in Omaha, Nebraska on April 23 and April 24-25, respectively. Both conferences were well attended and termed successes by their organizers. The agenda and session descriptions of the NDLA conference are available at <http://www.ndla.org>. You can access the NETA Conference podcasts and twitter discussions at <http://www.netasite.org/>.

NECC 2008, San Antonio, June 29-July 2

The National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) will be held in San Antonio on June 29-July 2. NECC is one of the largest education technology conferences in the world with over 13,000 educators, administrators and technologists in attendance. You may access the conference website by traveling to <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2008/>. The 2008 slate of keynote speakers includes James Surowiecki, Jim Carleton and Mali Bickley, and Idit Harel Caperton. All Nebraska registrants will be invited to a Nebraska reception on Monday evening.

Network Nebraska determines its 2008-09 fees

The Office of the CIO has determined the 2008-09 participant costs for the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 service year. The Network Nebraska participation fee will be \$197.80 per month per entity with 183 K-12 and higher education entities participating. The Network Nebraska Inter-regional transport fee has been projected at \$93.35 per month for higher education and \$34.21 per month for K-12 entities, provided that the State gets approved for E-rate funding.

Statewide scheduling contract to be “refreshed”

The Office of the CIO has begun negotiations with Qwest/Renovo to update the statewide scheduling software contract for distance learning and videoconferencing with new deliverables and pricing as part of the regular Technology Refreshment process. A new unlimited codec licensing for all K-12, community college, and state college entities may be possible within the original appropriations of LB 1208. More information will be available as the contract amendment process is completed.

CoSN launches new Broadband Knowledge Center Web site

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) has developed and soft-launched a new website to assist schools in their quest to attain more robust infrastructure and Internet access. Stocked with articles to read and bandwidth assessment tools, the website promises to be interactive and discussion-centered with its visitors. You can visit the Broadband Knowledge Center Web site at <http://www.cosn.org/broadband>.

OLPC announces new cycle of purchases

If you missed the opportunity to buy a low-cost mobile computer from the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) initiative late last year, you'll have another chance. OLPC plans to resume its Give One, Get One program, in which people spend \$400 to buy one of the nonprofit's rugged computers and donate a second one to a child in a developing country. Find out more by visiting the [eSchoolNews](#) online article. (may require free registration).

State Government

Standards and Guidelines: Draft documents for comment available

The Technical Panel of the NITC is seeking comments on the following draft documents:

- NITC 01-201: Agency Information Technology Plan
- NITC 01-202: Project Review Process

Submit comments by June 8, 2008 to rick.becker@nebraska.gov or by going to <http://nitc.ne.gov/standards/comment/>.

Specialty license plate ordering moves online

The Department of Motor Vehicles created a new online message plate ordering system. To order plates, go to <https://www.nebraska.gov/dmv/splate/>.

Featured Site: Nebraska Webmasters' Group

The State of Nebraska Webmasters' Group has a membership which includes web and technology professionals, site designers, programmers, marketing specialists, and others participating in the development and management of web technology for state agencies. Their Web site provides news and information about the group (meetings and membership), resources for webmasters (accessibility, design, graphics, markup, code validation services, etc.), as well as all adopted guidelines and standards for state government Web sites. The site is located at <http://www.webmasters.ne.gov/index.html>.

To receive NITC news or to change your subscription go to
<http://www.nitc.ne.gov/news/subscribe.html>.

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