

# E-News

## [Record-Setting Session](#)

The largest videoconference in the 15-year history of the ICN was held successfully Thursday, April 3, 2008.

Over 2,000 food service and related personnel, at approximately 250 ICN video classrooms, participated in the Iowa Department of Education training on civil rights compliance in USDA-sponsored child nutrition programs. The session, hosted in collaboration with the Iowa Public Television K-12 Connections series, saw the largest number of classrooms ever connected at one time and the largest number of participants.

This is a great example of another way the Network serves such an important purpose in Iowa. By using the ICN for sessions like this, thousands of Iowa educators, administrators, child care providers and food service personnel, are able to get mandatory training without consuming valuable time, fuel, and financial resources.

In fiscal year 2007, state agencies reported a record combined savings of almost \$15 million by using ICN videoconferencing.

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## [ICN 101](#)

We are receiving more requests from schools and teachers wanting to learn how to use their ICN video classroom technology. If you would like to see increased use of your ICN classroom or are considering sharing classes and would like to have your teachers more knowledgeable about the technology and how it can be used effectively, please contact [Gail McMahon](#) to schedule a free workshop at your school!

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## [ICN Video Classroom Usage](#)

In a copyright article on Sunday, March 30, the Des Moines Register did a comparison of grades for college freshman at the three state universities, based on the size of the high school from which they graduated. Several of the top 10 schools with the highest GPAs, and the highest GPAs in difficult courses, have students taking classes over the ICN through community colleges and Iowa Learning Online.

You can register your students now for high school and college credit summer and fall classes through [Iowa Learning Online](#)! Looking for a particular class for a student? Let me know and I will be happy to do some research or help publicize your needs!

How often is your ICN video classroom being used? Check out the latest ICN Video Classroom Usage report for school districts at

[http://www.icn.state.ia.us/news\\_facts/quarterly\\_rpt/quarterlyreport.html](http://www.icn.state.ia.us/news_facts/quarterly_rpt/quarterlyreport.html).

Third quarter figures will be available soon! Questions? Contact Gail McMahon, ICN Public Relations Manager.

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### **Eye on Government**

Senator Grassley's office has started a virtual town meeting program for students using the ICN. "Eye on Government" is an interactive videoconferencing program that gives Iowa students the opportunity to ask Senator Grassley questions on any topic about the processes and political dynamics that help determine the laws by which we live.

This is a great opportunity for high school students (typically a government or political science class) to meet with the Senator, ask questions, and find out about the government process firsthand. At the [initial virtual town meeting](#) held in February with PCM HS, the students had prepared questions addressing college tuition increases, the benefits of diversity in politics, and term limits for Congress.

If your school would like to be considered for a future Eye on Government virtual town meeting, please have interested teachers contact me and I will forward their information to the Senator's office.

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### **Sessions for Professional School Counselors/Educators/Administrators/School Nurses/Wellness Staff**

#### **Topics in Bullying Prevention: Parents & Community, Sustainability, and High Schools**

Third in a series sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Area Education Agencies and Iowa Public Television. These ICN sessions are designed to support schools as they address bullying and respond to anti-bullying legislation.

**May 08, 2008**

**Thursday, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Register at [http://www.iptv.org/iowa\\_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8718](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8718)**

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program trainers from the Quad Cities will share experiences and resources gained from work with 56 schools who have implemented the Olweus program over time. Learn how to meaningfully engage and gain support from parents and communities. Hear what has worked to build energy and achieve sustainability. Gain ideas from initial efforts in high school bullying prevention. Due to the large number of ICN sites and participants expected, only selected sites will be interactive.

#### **You're Ok—I'm Ok! : Interpersonal Differences**

**Presented by Connie Rainey, Broadlawns Medical Center Education Director**

**April 22, 2008**

**Tuesday, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Register at [http://www.iptv.org/iowa\\_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8576](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8576)**

Interpersonal differences between student and teacher can interfere with the teaching and learning process. Learn how to appreciate and learn from those who are different from you and reduce stress in the educational environment.

- Learn and identify the four personality dynamics
- Discover your personality preferences and weaknesses
- Identify your own stressors and how to use these to enhance the student-to-teacher relationships.
- Learn helpful tips that will increase morale and reduce stress in the classroom

#### **Breakfast = Achievement**

**Presented by Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services and Midwest Dairy Council**

**April 29, 2008**

**Tuesday, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Register at [http://www.iptv.org/iowa\\_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8709](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8709)**

The benefits children receive from eating a nutritious breakfast are numerous and well-documented. However, many children don't eat breakfast at home and even if breakfast is offered in the school cafeteria, many don't participate. They are too busy socializing, or affected by the potential social stigma that the program is meant for low income students.

An "Expanded Breakfast" program, like Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab and Go Breakfast and Breakfast Served After First Bell, can capture those breakfast skippers from all socio-economic levels, by expanding breakfast outside the cafeteria!

Register to learn more about implementing an Expanded Breakfast program in your school as well as hear ***from schools that are already making Expanding Breakfast happen!***

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