

Milestone Session on ICN

On January 16, Homeland Security, Iowa Department of Health, area hospitals, The University of Iowa, and other agencies conducted "Mass Casualties." It was the largest "mixed video" conference ever conducted over the Iowa Communications Network, with participants in 29 traditional ICN video classrooms connecting to ISDN (dial-up videoconferencing) and Video over IP (Internet Protocol) connections. This virtual conference was a milestone for ICN and reflects the growth and increased importance of IP or broadband video services and the ability of the ICN to blend with a variety of video services that are available in the world today.

What does this mean to you? Many people don't realize the ICN can venture outside Iowa's borders. However, as evidenced by our Operation Hometown Link program connecting Iowans to their soldiers in Iraq through Freedom Calls, the ICN can carry you to anywhere in the world that has a public Internet connection. A Hoover HS teacher recently used those ICN capabilities to broaden his students' knowledge of the political process. [Read more!](#)

Speaking of Operation Hometown Link...

Tuesday, February 5, marks the one year anniversary of ICN's involvement in the Operation Hometown Link program through the national non-profit organization Freedom Calls. The ICN is proud to have hosted 58 sessions over the Network, at locations throughout the state, reuniting Iowans with their loved ones serving in Iraq. Thirty-eight schools and libraries have graciously opened their classrooms, sometimes in inclement weather, so these families could visit...there have been anniversaries, birthday parties, laughter and, of course, tears.

There are still many Iowans deployed to Iraq through all branches of the military. We can use your help in letting families know about this program. If you know of someone with an immediate family member serving in Iraq, ask them to contact me at gail.mcmahon@iowa.gov and I will help connect them.

Sessions for Educators Coming up! Model Core Curriculum Units ICN Sessions

Supported by a collaboration between the Department of Education, the Area Education Agencies, Iowa Public Television and the Iowa Communications Network.

The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Area Education Agencies, has developed model units focusing on the essential concepts and skill sets of the Iowa Core Curriculum for high school literacy, mathematics, and science. A series of ICN sessions are being sponsored to introduce these units, which are intended to demonstrate the kind of instructional decision making that best supports Iowa's Core Curriculum. Each session will be offered four times with a limit of 40 sites in each session. These sessions are intended for teachers, curriculum directors, principals, and AEA consultants interested in learning more about the Iowa Core Curriculum.

Mathematics Model Core Curriculum Units <http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8603>

Literacy Model Core Curriculum Units <http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8607>

Science Model Core Curriculum Units <http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8596>

Bullying Prevention II: What's Working In Iowa Schools http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8586

Teachers, counselors, and administrators will share their efforts to reduce bullying and improve school climate. Hear first-hand accounts of what works. Get practical ideas for assessing needs, creating staff commitment, conducting training, engaging families and communities, adopting and promoting anti-bullying rules, refining the school's supervisory system, and intervening and responding to bullying.

[Teacher/Counselor Introduction to Using Choices: A College and Career Planning Tool](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8559)

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8559

Join staff from the Iowa Student Loan College Access Network for an overview and training of how to use Iowa Choices.

Free Support Groups and Workshops for Families of Children with Hearing Loss

Iowa School for the Deaf offers free support groups over the ICN for families living with a child's hearing loss. Won't you please help them us spread the word, especially if you know of a family in such a situation, or would like to be better informed on working with the deaf and hard-of-hearing yourself. This spring's mini-support group and education series will be:

March 11, 7-8 p.m. - *Are Two Cochlear Implants Better Than One?*

March 25 , 7-8 p.m. - *The Three E's of Literacy for the deaf/hard-of-hearing child*

April 10, 7-8 p.m. - *Is It a Deaf Thing?*

April 24 , 7-8 - *The Hearing Sibling*

There are no set ICN sites...anyone can register to attend any number of sessions at an available, nearby site.

To register contact Cynthia Angeroth at Iowa School for the Deaf Outreach Services, cangeroth@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org <<mailto:cangeroth@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org>> or 712.366.3213. registrations must be made one week prior to presentation.

As always, please share this newsletter with others. To be added to the distribution list, please e-mail gail.mcmahon@iowa.gov. <<mailto:gail.mcmahon@iowa.gov>> If you wish to be removed from the list, please reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.