

March '08 ICN E-News Update

Record Savings by Agencies through ICN Use

State agencies have reported another record year of savings from use of videoconferencing through the ICN. Annual savings reports, submitted by several state agencies, show a combined savings of almost \$15 million from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. Iowa Code requires state agencies in the executive and judicial branches to submit an annual cost-savings report to the Iowa General Assembly by January 15 of each year.

Those associated with Iowa's K-12 educational system benefited the most from using the state's fiber-optic network. Agencies typically factor in costs such as mileage, lodging, meals, and overtime or potential substitute teacher pay, which are all eliminated or greatly reduced by using the ICN. Iowa Public Television (IPTV) calculates just under \$8 million in savings for Iowa's school districts by providing educational programming over the ICN. IPTV sessions are used by teachers around the state as a unique supplement to their curriculum in all levels of PreK-12 and for professional development for administrators, counselors, nurses and other school staff. The Iowa Department of Education saved over \$1.4 million by using the ICN for board meetings, department meetings, and training, including training via satellite link and other distance methods available because of the ICN.

The Iowa Department of Public Health reported a 17% increase in savings over last year, stating the ICN's easy access was key for keeping Iowa's public health workers educated on the latest issues and topics. Likewise, the report says, using the ICN allowed for greater participation by the general public in IDPH hearings and informational sessions, since they didn't have to travel to those meetings in Des Moines.

Dewey the "Fiber Cat" Lives On

In November 2006, a beloved resident of the Spencer Public Library passed away. Dewey Readmore Books was 19 years old. He had an incredible life at the library and acquired international fame...so much so that news of his death was picked up by The Associated Press and covered in papers and on the radio around the world. Two days after his death a Google search of his name brought up over 78,000 websites.

One of Dewey's favorite places to hang out was the library's ICN room. Because of his attendance at so many meetings in the room, Dewey was named an honorary member of the ICN and was nicknamed "Fiber Cat." He attended meetings, found laps to snuggle in during classes and, if the door closed before he could get into the room, he would sit outside and cry pitifully until someone let him in.

Former Spencer Library Director Vicki Myron, who found Dewey as an abandoned kitten in the library's book drop and gave him his new life, has written a book about the incredible cat and the lives he touched, including hers. "Dewey: a Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched The World," will be released on September 24 in hardcover and audio. The book is a combination of Dewey's life story woven through Myron's story with the background of Spencer, Iowa.

According to Myron, the biggest German book club has bought the rights to it and it has been sold to 19 countries and counting. The manuscript is being read by lots of authors & VIPs for

comment, such as Nicholas Sparks, Jack Canfield (Chicken Soup for the Soul author) and Christie Vilsack.

They already have their first “blurb:”

"DEWEY is charming, lovely, and moving. It's about life and death and small-town values and, above all, love. Norton would have liked Dewey - the cat and the book – immensely."

Peter Gethers; author of The Cat Who Went to Paris and The Cat Who'll Live Forever

Featured ICN sessions

For Educators and School Personnel

School Health Environments

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8466

Educators, Administrators, School Food Service Personnel, Nurses & other school staff

April 16, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Registration Deadline: 04/11/08

This session is provided by Iowa State University Extension and Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Nutrition, Health and Transportation Services.

Everyone affiliated with a district has a contribution to make to the health environment of the school – administrators, board members, teachers, staff, students and parents. The research is clear that the school health environment impacts academic learning. Nutrition education programs and school meal programs help students make healthy food choices. But other characteristics of the school environment also play a role. Dr. Yibo Wood, Nutritionist with the Child Nutrition Division of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service will share examples of successful nutrition education programs in schools. She will also discuss findings from the latest research about the school environment and nutrition content of school meals.

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

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8576

K-12 Educators/Administrators

April 22, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Registration Deadline: 04/15/08

This session is presented by Connie Rainey, Broadlawns Medical Center Education Director.

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.

Participants will learn about the following items in this session:

- 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
- Learn to respect those who are different from you and incorporate their differences into the learning process to enhance their success.

Careers Sessions for Middle and High School

Wind Turbine Technician: A Growing Career Field **NEW this week!**

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8697

Grades 8-12

April 2, 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

Registration Deadline: 03/28/08

Where there's wind, there's energy. Wind turbines capturing the wind and. Nature provides the wind, but humans install and maintain the turbines. The growing demand for wind energy has created the need for highly skilled workers who can build and service the giant machines. Join this session for the opportunity to talk with **an instructor from Iowa Lakes Community College**, which has the only program in the state for wind turbine technicians. He will also talk with your students about the career field in general and what they might be doing now (in high school) if they are interested in this very interesting career.

Career Spotlight: CNC Computer Programmer **NEW this week!**

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8690

Grades 8-12

April 15, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM &

April 15, 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Registration Deadline: 04/11/08

A CNC programmer writes computer programs for machines that make metal parts. In this session students interact with a CNC programmer, who started out learning how to operate different milling and lathe machines. After a few years he had the opportunity to take some computer classes and was able to work part time as a Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) programmer for the machines that he had once operated. After earning more hours of education, he was able to become a full-time CNC programmer. He finds his experience as a machinist has given him an advantage to writing programs for the machines. He enjoys his job and says it is a challenge to take something that has been created and program the machines to reproduce it.

For Grades PreK-2

Adventures in Ag Reading Series

This series is brought to you by members of the Iowa Agriculture Awareness Coalition (IAAC).

Welcome to Our Farm

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8385

March 14, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

March 14, 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

March 14, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

Registration Deadline: 03/07/08

Confirmed registrants for this session receive the complimentary book *Growing, Farm, School and Me* or alternate title.

Students explore the world of agriculture through two young farmer's eyes as they listen to the story, *Welcome To Our Farm*, and learn the needs of animals on the farm. This interactive session will engage students in activities that activate prior knowledge and aid comprehension.

Garden in a Glove

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8389

Grades PK-2

April 18, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

April 18, 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

April 18, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

Registration Deadline: 04/11/08

Confirmed registrants for this session receive the complimentary books *Your First Garden* and *Flower Garden* or alternate titles.

Students explore the world of agriculture through the story, *A Seed in Need*. Students will learn the resources a seed needs to germinate and view this process through beautiful watercolor illustrations.

I Drive a Tractor

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8391

May 2, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

May 2, 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

May 2, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

Registration Deadline: 04/25/08

Confirmed registrants receive the complimentary book *Click, Clack, Moo* and *Eating the Alphabet, Fruits and Veggies from A-Z* or alternate title. Students explore the world of agriculture in the story, *I*

Drive a Tractor, as they follow Dylan through his day and learn what equipment helps him get his job done.

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