November 2008 ICN E-News Update

ICN Salutes Distance Learning!

How do you learn to speak Chinese, be a news reporter, and investigate crimes all in the same day? Through distance learning opportunities delivered over the Iowa Communications Network!

During National Distance Learning Week, November 10 -14, 2008, ICN salutes its customers who provide educational opportunities over the Network and the Iowans who benefit from them.

- High schools and higher education offer students the opportunity to learn Chinese, Basic Reporting Principles, Criminal Investigation and hundreds of courses each week using the ICN. Math, foreign languages, and health/science classes lead the way in subjects offered by videoconferencing.
- Online courses and IP (Internet Protocol) Video have created increased demand for high-speed Internet and increased ICN bandwidth and data services. Iowa schools use over 70% of the Internet bandwidth provided by the ICN. IP video allows schools, hindered by budget and space constraints, to offer their students access to classes. For example, Notre Dame HS in Burlington is offering Chinese through IP Video to two other high schools.
- ICN video and web conferencing services make it possible for government employees, librarians, National Guard members, and medical professionals to receive the latest training and professional development without unnecessary travel time and costs. Over 740 video classrooms and thousands of PCs and laptops with IP video capabilities support these distance learning activities.

The ICN is the country's premier fiber-optic network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with equal access to education and government through videoconferencing, voice and data services.

Don't Forget!
At the Iowa School Counselors Association conference this week, I had two or three counselors mention they had students with a parent serving in Iraq.

ICN continues to offer free videoconferencing to Iowa families with loved ones serving in Iraq. Iowans may arrange to visit with family service members, from any branch of the military, who are serving in Al Assad, Fallujah, Camp Taqaddum, Camp Victory (Baghdad), and Taji. The videoconferences are provided at no cost to the family or soldier through ICN and the Operation Hometown Link initiative of the national non-profit Freedom Calls organization. For information on how to arrange a Freedom Calls ICN videoconference, contact Gail McMahon and we will get the process rolling!

Free ICN Sessions for Students through K-12 Connections

IBM top Exec Talks with Students
Last chance! Tomorrow, November 6, is the last day to sign your students up to visit with an IBM VP over the ICN!

Susan Puglia, vice president of innovation and technology at IBM Corp**., will visit with students about how she got where she is today and answer student questions. Puglia is in Des Moines that day as the keynote speaker for the Technology Association of Iowa Women of Innovation awards banquet on Nov. 11** at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. The awards celebrate women leaders in science, technology and engineering. The session is Tuesday, November 11, from 1-2 p.m. Register at http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9156

Learning Coach 1141
November 17, 9 - 9:50 AM and 10-10:50
Register By: November 12, 2008 at http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9264
Students interact with a learning coach who designs, develops and facilitates training programs for adults and young people. The presenter is the Director of International Protocol and Corporate Etiquette Programs for Tero International (Des Moines). In her role, she brings expertise on protocol issues that arise daily in business situations, and that are pertinent to presenting a positive image in our changing times. Her role involves research, design and training, keynote speaking and executive coaching.