

## March 2009 ICN E-News

### [Top 10 Reasons to Use the ICN](#)

Heartland AEA ICN Technology Coordinator Lynee Casper has her thoughts on what those reasons are...read that post and more in [Heartland's ICN News Blog](#). Find out more about classes being offered next year through Iowa Learning Online and the Chinese language class being taught this semester over the ICN! Take a moment to check it out!

Thank you to Lynee and Melanie Rippen for being so proactive in promoting the many ways the ICN is used to benefit education in our state.

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### [Use of ICN Internet Bandwidth Continues to Rise](#)

More evidence that while videoconferencing was ICN's original intent, the use of the Network for Internet is dramatically increasing.

In the recently closed 2009 E-rate bidding cycle, the ICN received awards for 63 new three-year contracts for schools. This growth now raises the total of Internet sold for schools and libraries to almost 1.7 Gigabits of service.

The amount of Internet bandwidth sold to Iowa's educational organizations has more than tripled in two years. With increased use of Internet for curriculum, online learning, Web conferencing and video over IP (Internet Protocol), the large amount of bandwidth and speed available through the ICN is a must –have for Iowa's K-12 schools. Overall bandwidth sold to education and state agencies has more than doubled in the same period.

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### [Making it Possible](#)

*"When I was considering moving back to Iowa in 1996 after 13 years in Alaska, the presence of the ICN was a strong vote in favor of the move. In Alaska, distance had historically been an immutable reality, but new technologies were rendering geography almost irrelevant. Having the ICN in Iowa meant that no matter where I needed to be, the ICN could take me there.*

*Today, my wife is earning a second bachelor's degree from William Penn University, primarily through the ICN. Earning the degree would be impossible if she had to travel from Kalona to Oskaloosa twice a week, but having ICN access at our local high school is making her dream of teaching Mandarin Chinese one giant step closer to reality—and someday, the ICN may be the way she teaches her classes to the next generation of learners."*

*Jim Hussey  
Kalona, Iowa*

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### [Upcoming Sessions from IPTV's K-12 Connections – FREE for students and education professionals!](#)

#### ***Athletes & Asthma: The Role of the Coach***

***Tuesday, March 10  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM***

***Deadline to register is tomorrow. Register at [Register at http://www.iptv.org/iowa\\_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9559](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9559).***

Presented by the Iowa Asthma Coalition, American Lung Association of Iowa, and Iowa Department of Public Health.

Asthma cannot be cured... but it can be managed. Gain knowledge on how to manage asthma, knowing symptoms of Exercised Induced Asthma, and when to get emergency. Athletes and Asthma is a two-hour training for coaches, athletic trainers, school personnel, and nurses. Program materials will be provided.

### ***Teaching Concern for the Earth***

*Educators of Grades PreK-3rd Grade*

*April 08*

*3:30 PM - 4:45 PM*

*Register at [http://www.iptv.org/iowa\\_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9279](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9279)*

Presented by Susan Salterberg, UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education, and Mary Gillaspay, Metro Waste Authority. Teach concern for the Earth through great books and lesson plans—and receive a free book! You'll be introduced to quality picture, trade and non-fiction books, and several lesson plans to use with them. These can help you introduce health and safety, good citizenship, and many other topics. The first 40 people who register and attend the entire session will receive the hardcover book titled *Someday a Tree* by *Eve Bunting*. All participants have access to the annotated bibliography and Web site URLs to access lesson plans and contact information for local experts (see links below).

### ***Hyperstream: Leading Web Development Firm talks to Students***

*March 23, 2009*

*9:00 AM - 9:50 AM*

*Grades 9-12*

*Register at [http://www.iptv.org/iowa\\_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9430](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9430)*

The Technology Association of Iowa spearheads this mentoring project, providing students with real-world experiences in technology careers and to understand jobs within a given organization. In this session, staff from Global Reach (Ames, Iowa) will talk to students about the work they are doing and what it takes to work in this field today. They will also share information about how students/classes can get involved in the Hyper Stream project and how this mentoring project can help students in gaining practical experience in the technology field.

### ***IT-Adventures***

*March 31, 2009*

*Tuesday, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM*

*Grades 10-12*

*Register at [http://www.iptv.org/iowa\\_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9525](http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=9525)*

This session provides an opportunity for current IT-Adventure Teams to get together (via the ICN) to discuss their projects with staff from Iowa State. IT-Adventures is an exciting innovative IT (information technology) exploration program for high school students that is managed by staff at Iowa State University. During this session staff from Iowa State will also offer guidance on service learning projects and will provide more information about what happens when students travel to Iowa State University for the IT- Olympics. Interested students and teachers are invited to learn more about IT- Adventures and the IT-Olympics which are coming up in April 2009.

**What is IT-Adventures?** IT-Adventures is an innovative program that engages Iowa high school students in exploration and experimentation with information technology (IT) through instructional material delivery, competitive events and service learning projects. It is a partnership forged between Iowa State University's Information Assurance Center, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Technology Association of Iowa, the Iowa chapter of InfraGard and Iowa businesses.