PAECT is a dynamic professional organization offering leadership and networking opportunities to professionals throughout the Commonwealth by nurturing the exchange of ideas, information, resources, and emerging developments in current technology issues.

PAECT MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It is hard to believe that May has arrived. PAECT had geared up for the Student Technology Showcase 2012 held on Monday, May 21, from 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. in the East Rotunda of the State Capital. Please look for more information in this newsletter.

The Board of Directors is diligently working to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan. One area we have focused on is the goal to establish ourselves as a leading advocate for educational technology. On March 8, 2012, PAECT sent a team to represent you at Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. This team of eight met with staff from our Senator’s offices and the congressional representative from each team member’s home district. Your voice was heard.

Our regional directors have been tasked with creating regional boards to connect, communicate and collaborate within each region. Meetings will be held in your region very soon. Look for upcoming announcements as we implement action steps of our Strategic Plan. The next board meeting will be held on June 16, 2012 in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Mary Beth Henglebrook
PAECT President
SE PAECT UPDATE

Brandon Lutz, SE PAECT Regional Director

On March 19th, the Southeast Region held an open house event for members to meet, collaborate and brainstorm ideas for our region in the upcoming year. Many of our members met for the first time, and together we realized that we have an incredible amount of talent in the region! We started an Edmodo group just for regional members for the purpose of communicating and sharing ideas in between events. It is also a great way to remember faces and names!

Upon surveying our members, it is evident that “sharing events” are strongly desired. We aim to meet as a group every month, alternating with in-person and virtual events. Our first virtual event took place on April 23rd at 9:00 PM via Elluminate. This is a new facet to our region, and we’re excited to see how it evolves. Edcamp Philly is took place on May 19th, and we provided breakfast as well as lead a session on why you should join a professional organization!

NW PAECT / UPDATE

Northwest Region PAECT (NPAECT) has a busy end of the school year and summer planned. We invite you to join us for any of these activities.

On May 15th, NPAECT members and their guests gathered to honor people from the region who have “gone the extra mile” to support and encourage technology use with students. The dinner, speaker and recognition will took place at Nick’s Place in Edinboro and began at 5:30 PM. Election of officers and a drawing for an iPad occurred that evening.

The Connect, Communicate and Collaborate Educational Technology Conference (3Csetc) is a 2 day event hosted at The Behrend College of Penn State. Keynote speakers, vendor booths and collaborative time encourage attendees to learn more about ways they can engage their students through the effective use of classroom technologies. Participants can choose up to ten different sessions from about 40 offerings that range from Google Docs in the Classroom to Discovery Ed to Blogs and Wikis and Geocaching. This year’s keynote speaker will be Traci Blazoski. We are still accepting submissions (until June 1) for session presentations of 50 minutes or 1.5 hour duration. Registration for the conference, occuring July 31 and August 1, is through CourseWhere. The event website is http://3csetc.org.

By the date of this newsletter, our 18th annual Technology Fair and Student Showcase will have been held at the Pogue Center on the campus of Edinboro University. This event is a non-competitive celebration of technology projects involving students from the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit. New in 2012, NPAECT partnered with the local chapter of NTMA (National Tooling and Machining Association). Career displays and interactive trucks were available for touring. Classes representing several schools gathered to share technology projects that they have done through the school year. Career related workshop sessions were offered including an employer panel discussing what skills and attributes they look for in employees. Students received certificates and participated in prize drawings. Many people from the surrounding communities toured the displays and spoke with students and company representatives. Pictures from the event can be found on our website.

Also, earlier this year, NPAECT hosted three dinner meetings, the latest of which provided an opportunity for educators from the region to gather in two locations, virtually from Dubois High Schools and from IU5 in Edinboro. The topic for the evening was sharing apps for mobile devices. Several useful apps were shared.

If you would like any further information about these activities or the NPAECT group please visit our web site at http://npaect.org.
NE PAECT / UPDATE

NE PAECT, along with eInstruction, IntegriONE, and Study Island, recently co-sponsored the Spring Into Technology conference on March 24, 2012, held in the East Stroudsburg School District. Spring Into Technology provided quality sessions and hands-on workshops focused on technology integration and differentiated instruction in the classroom. Attendees left with proven ideas and strategies they could implement into their classrooms immediately. One lucky attendee - Donna Leight, teacher at Lehman Intermediate School in East Stroudsburg Area School District - won a Kindle Fire!

SC PAECT / UPDATE

Christine Yarzabek, SC PAECT Member.

On Friday, June 22, join South Central PAECT for a day out in Gettysburg! More details to come soon, but make sure to mark your calendars. We’d love for everyone to get together to celebrate the end of the school year and get to know one another. Any questions? Email Christine Yarzabek at cyarzabek@gmail.com

PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT !!!

PAECT 2012 Award Winners

Here are PAECT’s award winners for 2012 announced in February at PETE&C:

Mary C. Renner Achievement Award
Scott Snyder

Friend of PAECT
NYSCATE
(NY State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education)

Special Award
Tim Adams, The Field House Restaurant

Outstanding Teacher of the Year
Aly Tapp

Outstanding Leader of the Year
Jarrin Sperry

Making IT Happen Award
Shirley Campbell
ETAN / Update

Twenty-three U.S. Senators signed a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Committee requesting that EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology) be funded for Fiscal Year 2013. As of press time, it was unclear whether PA Senators Casey and Toomey were signers of that letter.

As both the state and federal budgets for the coming year continue to develop, much could change with education funding. Stay abreast of this ever-changing topic by following Hilary Goldmann’s national coverage in the ISTE Advocacy Update. See elsewhere in this newsletter for additional information. For state coverage, watch your email for pertinent updates in PAECT eBlasts.

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CoSN / Update

Consortium for School Networking Awards
First-Ever CETL Certifications to 32 Ed Tech Leaders

Washington, DC (April 12, 2012) – The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) is pleased to announce the names of 32 education technology professionals who have earned the Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL)sm designation. These CETLs are the first to take and pass a rigorous two-part certification exam demonstrating that they have mastered the knowledge and skills needed to bring 21st century technology to our K-12 school systems.

The CETL certification exam is based on CoSN’s Framework of Essential Skills of the K-12 CTO. The Framework, also developed by practicing ed tech leaders, identifies the 10 skill areas needed to be a successful Chief Technology Officer (CTO). The CETL exam is two parts. Part I is a multiple-choice exam administered at a proctored test site. Those who pass Part I must then take and pass Part II, which is an essay-based exam, to earn the CETL designation. The CETL certification exam, launched in December 2011, was developed by education technology leaders under the facilitation of Prometric, an internationally known exam development organization who ensured that the exam is psychometrically sound and legally defensible.

“The professionals who passed the CETL exam represent the future of education technology in our nation’s K-12 schools. They understand the importance of bringing current and emerging technologies to our students, so they can complete in the world they’ll inherit,” said Gayle Dahlman, Director of Certification and Education for CoSN. “We urge superintendents and school boards to seek CETL-certified professionals when hiring their technology staffs. The CETL designation will ensure that their district staff is committed to the future of education.”

For additional information of the CETL certification and a state-by-state listing of the newly certified CETLs, visit www.cosn.org/certification.

There were three Pennsylvanians awarded the CETL Certification in the first round:

Brian Borosh, CETL; East Stroudsburg School District
Edward McKaveney, CETL; Hampton Township School District
Brett Sanders, CETL; West Shore School District
WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS, YOU CAN JOIN BY GOING TO
HTTP://PAECT.ORG

PROFESSIONAL PARTNER / UPDATES

ISTE 2012 will be June 24-27, 2012, in San Diego. Watch for upcoming eBlasts for chances to volunteer with PAECT during ISTE. The ISTE 2012 PAECT/NYSCATE Reception will be on Monday, June 25, 2012, from 5:30 PM. to 7:00 PM. in San Diego Ballroom B at the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina.

Also, the ISTE Affiliate Reception is on June 23 from 6:30 PM. to 8:30 PM. Watch for additional details concerning a location.

ISTE Advocacy / Keep Up to Date on DC

Interested in staying up to date on current happenings and legislation in Washington, D.C.? Then follow Hilary Goldmann’s blog over on the ISTE Community Ning where she provides periodic updates to what is hot in politics in D.C. http://bit.ly/1sKNVj

expanding horizons
Sean McDonough
Chief Technology Director

Text Courtesy of Allegheny Intermediate Unit

Sean McDonough is the Chief Technology Director at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. As CTO, Sean’s focus is to effectively increase and expand the instructional, administrative, and supportive uses of technology. Sean has over 20 years of educational technology leadership experience as a teacher, district technology administrator, and state and national leader.

Prior to coming to AIU, Sean was the Director of Information Technology at Harrisburg School District in Harrisburg, PA. While at Harrisburg, Sean worked on ways to increase the leadership and vision of technology in the district, expand understanding of the educational environment to technology staff, and manage technology and support resources effectively.

Before transitioning to Harrisburg, Sean was the Acting Director of the Bureau of Educational Technology at the Pennsylvania Department of Education and also served as an Information Technology Policy Specialist. Sean’s work at PDE included reviewing and developing technology and education processes to help create educational technology policies for the Commonwealth, including programs such as the Act 183 E-Fund Broadband Initiative, Classrooms for the Future, Education Portal (ED Hub), and Keystones Technology Integrators. Sean served 11 years as the Technology Coordinator for the Milton Area School District in Milton, PA, and before that, was an Audio-Visual Communications Instructor at West Side Area Vocational Technical School in Pringle, PA.

Sean is a past board member of the Consortium of School Networking (CoSN), a K-12 national professional technology association for technology leaders. He is also the Past President of the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology (PAECT). Sean is a member of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and served on the planning committees for the 2005 and 2011 ISTE annual conferences held in Philadelphia, PA. Sean is a member of the Board of Managers for the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C), serving twice as President for the 2007 and 2010 conferences. Sean served from 2007-09 as a member of the Executive Board of Directors for the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) Association and is a member of the Educational Advisory Council for Bloomsburg University’s Institute for Interactive Technologies.

Sean holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications and Government from King’s College, Wilkes-Barre, PA, and a Master of Science degree in Instructional Technology from Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA.

PAECT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Aly Tapp is PAECT’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year award. In 2007, Aly left her English classroom at York Suburban High School to become its CFF Coach. During the past 4 years, Aly has been instrumental in advancing technology implementation throughout the high school. Her leadership and coaching has been crucial to the advancement of technology in the district without compromising the curriculum. This year she asked to return to the English classroom, so she could put into practice what she has been preaching about for the past 4 years.

Aly believes “technology is infused into nearly every modern environment, and no matter where my students go in life, they will need the digital skills to survive and thrive. It’s not about teaching them how to create a hanging indent in Word; it’s about equipping them to connect, share, question, organize, and innovate. Learning occurs when a hard-working and clear-thinking educator energizes students to interact with material to construct meaning and challenge assumptions. Technology is a natural and necessary component of the learning process.”

Aly will be the first to tell you that implementing technology into the classroom isn’t always time saving, but it is done because it is what is best for students. This year Aly began using a new way of assessing student work—screencasting. Instead of collecting printed papers, she asked her students to write in Google Docs and then share their papers with her. Instead of scribbling marks in the margins of printed papers, she opened each student’s paper in Google Docs, highlighted text and inserted comments to clarify thoughts, and then turned on the screen recorder to record her voice. Students generally appreciated the comments their papers received. As one student noted, “I liked knowing that my essay got individual attention [and] individual feedback, and I feel like you cared about what I wrote.”

Another area where Aly has incorporated technology is the traditional research paper. Instead of using the traditional note cards, and paper notes, she wants the students to learn how to write a research paper using digital tools. Rather than having her students jump in head first, Aly actually used the digital tools to write a research paper herself, providing a model for her students to follow throughout the research process.)

As you can see, Aly is taking what she has learned and is applying it to the classroom for the betterment of her students. Aly will represent PAECT in the Outstanding Teacher competition at ISTE 2012 in San Diego this June. To read more about Aly and her experiences this year, check out her blog The Transparent Teacher at http://alytapp.com/
Jim Gates

Hi PAECT. I’m very excited about the opportunity to work with you again. For most of you, our paths have crossed a few times with the Classrooms for the Future program and at PETE&C. For those who don’t know me, I’m a former music teacher and former computer teacher. I finished my career with the public schools at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15. I’ve been blessed enough to have won awards for my blog and another for a column I once wrote for Child Guide magazine. The advantage of being “retired” is that I get to work at what I love to do. Right now I’m doing workshops, teaching at Harrisburg University, and traveling to different venues to present. My goal with PAECT is to help us all get better connected so we can learn from each other. If there’s anything at all that I can do to further that cause, I can be found (sometimes screaming) either via email at jgates513@gmail.com, on Twitter @jgates513, or on Skype at jimkathy808. I’m a lucky man.

Virginia Glatzer

Hi there! I’m Virginia Glatzer. I am a Mentor for PAECT, which gives me the opportunity to engage members in important conversations about using digital tools in classrooms across PA. As many of you know, I’ve been doing that for a while. Many of you know me from my work mentoring instructional technology coaches for Classrooms for the Future. My consulting work gives me the chance to provide PD in many ways: face-to-face, online, webinars and through a blended approach. In my consulting role, I am currently a Mentor for the PA Institute for Instructional Coaching -- exploring ways to integrate technology and literacy learning strategies through an instructional coaching model. I provide professional development through the Microsoft Innovative Educator program as well as teaching online courses for Gratz College and several Intermediate Units. All of my work focuses on providing professional learning experiences for teachers of 21st Century learners. Prior to beginning with CFF, I provided PD to many school districts and IU’s, designed computer-based training for the financial services industry, and I taught Kindergarten, Third, and Fourth grades.

Please let me know how PAECT can meet your needs. I can be reached at: vglatzer@infostweb.com 215-750-6018 Skype and Twitter: virginiagl

For more about me, check out: http://virginiaglatzer.wikispaces.com/Welcome

2012 PAECT SHOWCASE

The 21st Annual PAECT Student Technology Showcase 2012 was held on Monday, May 21, in the East Rotunda of the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. The goal of the showcase was to share with legislators and the public the amazing and innovative ways students and teachers are using technology to increase learning in K-12 classrooms across the Commonwealth.

The showcase began at 10:00 A.M. with opening remarks by Representative Mario Scavello, other legislators and PAECT representatives. It consisted of informal tabletop presentations and was streamed live by the Chester County IU and can be viewed on the PAECT Showcase website. Students had the opportunity to be “on air” and describe their projects. Legislators from across the state attended and spend time viewing and discussing projects with the students and conducting tours of the Capitol.

The projects included movies created by kindergartners to illustrate their language arts curriculum, students connecting and collaborating from Antarctica to Africa through video conferencing and online tools, and high school students created computer simulations and games to teach advanced science concepts.

View the Showcase wiki for more information about the projects and schools that participated.

PAECT Student Technology Showcase 2012

May 21, 2012
10:00 – 2:00
East Rotunda of the State Capitol Building
PAECT is a non-profit that depends on the contributions of its membership. Please consider donating a small portion of your time at PETE & C to one of the many projects being supported by PAECT. You can find volunteer opportunities by visiting www.PAECT.org.

Featured Blog

Finding Common Ground
Talking Education (K- Technology)

Michelle Krill, Instructional Technology Specialist at South Western School District (former classroom teacher), shares resources and reflections in her blog, Finding Common Ground. Michelle’s blog includes book reviews, reflections on her journey through the Johns Hopkins and ISTE course of study, technology integration happenings within her district, reflections and notes from conferences she has attended as well as valuable links from her Diigo feed.

Michelle’s blog can be found here: http://mkrill.edublogs.org/

PAECT WEB TOOLS:

Check out these web tools and start using them!

Paper Rater: http://paperrater.com/
What is it? Paper Rater is a site that will grade, evaluate for grammar, vocabulary and plagiarism; and tell you how you can become a better writer.
Where to use it? Students can use this tool to have their papers graded before they hand them into a teacher. Teachers can use this site to look for plagiarism and get an idea of a grade for student papers.
A word of caution: It does not look at content.

Gooru: http://www.goorulearning.org/
What is it? Gooru learning is a warehouse for Math and Science learning resources. Resources include Videos, Interactives, Websites, Slides, Textbooks, Handouts, Lessons and Exams.
Where to use it? Teachers can create collections to share with students about different topics or just find great stuff to use in their teaching. Students can visit collections to learn on their own or collaborate with their peers.

ToonTastic: http://launchpadtoys.com/toontastic/
What is it? ToonTastic is an incredible cartoon creation iPad app, where students can learn about story structure. You can create different scenes and scenarios and Toontastic will create a seamless movie you can share with the world.
Where to use it? Teachers can use Toontastic to create stories to teach on their content area. Students can create and write stories with their own drawings or ones provide for them.