

# MEMBER profiles

## Embracing Change

For Camilla Gagliolo the excitement of technology in education is the potential to empower students to learn in new and different ways and to develop 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills necessary in an ever-changing, technology-rich world.

“It excites me to see how technology can make learning relevant, engaging, and collaborative. As educators, we need to realize the world our students live in and prepare them to take ownership of shaping their world,” says Gagliolo, an instructional technology coordinator for Arlington County Public Schools in Virginia.

Gagliolo, who also serves as special interest group representative on ISTE’s Board of Directors and chair of the International Committee, believes that the challenge for educators in the

next five years is in managing ongoing change while taking advantage of innovation to enhance teaching and learning for all students. The ongoing issue to confront is the preparation of educators to embrace change and the integrated use of new technologies to meet students’ diverse learning needs.

“We need to cultivate new communities of professional practice where ideas and best practice are shared and celebrated,” she says. “Educational institutions need to build instructional technology leadership capacity that can join stakeholders in the creation of a shared vision toward engaging students in 21<sup>st</sup>-century skill development to meet the needs of a



Camilla Gagliolo

global economy and future leaders in a digital world.”

Gagliolo says that ISTE has provided a learning network of professionals internationally that allows her to learn from and with a global community on issues of great

importance to her.

“I continuously learn from this network of educators and my experiences have provided me with lots of personal professional development on board committees, on planning teams for NECC events, at NECC, and through discussion and planning with colleagues,” she says. “I have learned so much from the people that I have met through this network both nationally and internationally and many are now close friends and colleagues.”

Affiliate

## Promoting Ed Tech in the Cornhusker State

The Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA) celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2007 and is looking forward to great things to come. Over the years, its board leadership has expanded with specialized coordinators and officers, and its conference has grown to the point that it will be moved to a larger venue in 2009.

Through its annual conference and publications, NETA strives to help educators maximize the potential of technology for improved teaching and learning.

“We want our conference to be the ‘must-attend’ event for the Midwest region and beyond, enabling educators to explore new ways of engaging students in their learning,” says Sandy Blankenship, executive director of NETA.



<http://www.netasite.org>

Ed Tech projects NETA is currently involved with include The Learning Web, a highly successful, grant-funded, year-round staff development project that attracts more than 150 educators to its conference each year. Teams attend the conference to find new technology resources, and attend regional summer institutes to improve instructional strategies and plan their project. The teams work on specific technology applications and projects throughout the school year, then return to the next NETA Conference to share their projects.

NETA has also activated a Tech Coordinators Forum that meets throughout the year and converses over a listserv. The NETA Web site provides space for this group, posting minutes and agendas, plus posting files.

ISTE plays a key role in NETA’s charge to improve teaching and learning in Nebraska, according to Blankenship.

“As our statewide group serves in a leadership role for promoting educational technology, we need ISTE to continue providing leadership for us,” she says.

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