

# MEMBER profiles

ISTE 100

## Software Maker Gets Back to Basics

**A**utoskill International is an Ontario, Canada-based software company that focuses on helping learners develop basic reading and mathematics skills. Toby Nangle is Autoskill's vice president of North American sales.

"We've always focused on the marginalized, struggling student. They're really our only audience," Nangle says. "Autoskill has at its core technology funded by Ontario government research back in the '70s. What they had done was identify a methodology for addressing struggling readers that is focused on fundamental skills.

"These skills are absolutely required for a student to be a proficient comprehender," Nangle continues. "Students are coming to school without

**AutoSkill**  
A helping hand for literacy

<http://www.autoskill.com>

them, and the more mature a student gets, the less likely they are to receive training on basic skills."

Autoskill's Academy of Reading and Academy of Math break down complex skills into component parts to help struggling students master the underlying tasks, Nangle explains. The company also offers reading and math instruction in Spanish through its SpanishTutor module. In addition to its software, Autoskill offers technological and pedagogical support through its Advantage program.

Nangle sees Autoskill as being in a partnership with ISTE. "We're the beneficiary of what ISTE brings as far as knowledge base, promoting a common goal, and cause in elevating technology innovation in education. There's a mission that we both share," Nangle says. "There are so many things that ed tech can do if leveraged properly and used by those educating our students."

Although Autoskill sees a promising future for educational technology, the reasons behind the company's success are troubling. "We're thriving because there's a growing population of struggling students trying to master basic skills," Nangle concludes. "We're growing because our target population is growing."

Affiliate

## Promoting Ed Tech Use in the Pacific Northwest

**T**he Northwest Council for Computer Education is a nonprofit organization of educators that strives to support and advance the use of computers and related technologies at all levels of education in the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

For more than 36 years, NCCE has brought teachers, technology specialists, and administrators together to discuss and learn about the issues facing technology in education today.

Heidi Rogers, NCCE executive director, says that their affiliation with ISTE, and similar organizations that champion the appropriate use of technology in the classroom, is invaluable to their mission and to their membership.

"Together with our affiliate colleagues from around the world we

**NCCE**  
Northwest  
Council for  
Computer Education

<http://www.ncce.org>

share a common mission which is to support and advance the use of educational technology," says Rogers. "NCCE's circle of influence expands and continues to promote effective uses of technology to increase student achievement and to enhance the educational system."

NCCE has held a regional conference focused on technology in education for nearly 20 years. The 2007 conference, themed "Agents of Change," kicks off at the Spokane Convention

Center March 6-9. The event features an intriguing lineup of keynote speakers, practical workshops, and a large hall of exhibitors.

"Our conferences continue to grow in numbers because we strive to rise above your expectations and listen to our members' needs," says Rogers.

Currently, NCCE's nearly 3,200 members represent 14 states and two Canadian provinces. Members of NCCE receive advance notification for conferences and workshops, and share the opportunity to interact with other educators who have similar interests. Yearly dues are \$10.

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