



## Professional Development At Your Fingertips

Professional Development Services Project Manager Debren Ferris discusses ISTE's new webinar series.

Another school year has begun, and if you're like the many educators I work with on a regular basis, you're trying to do more in less time than ever before. Maybe you have more students in your classroom, maybe you're teaching more classes, or maybe you've set a personal goal to improve your own effectiveness as a teacher. Add any of these things to the other demands on your time, and the idea of committing to optional professional development seems daunting.

ISTE understands this conflict and endeavors to be part of the solution by offering relevant, "bite-sized" nuggets of professional development by way of one-hour webinars. In January 2007, as a benefit to our members as well as non-members, ISTE introduced the Technology in Practice (TIP) webinar series showcasing ISTE authors and their publications. We are continuing that success in the 2007–08 year by broadening our scope, adding the Innovative Educators' Express (IEE) webinar series. Both series are an integral part of Your Learning Journey (which you read about in *L&L's* November issue).

Touching on themes introduced in *L&L*, the Innovative Educators' Express brings respected presenters,

including popular NECC speakers (Emily Kornblut, Joan Gore, Janet Corder, and Bret Gensburg), nationally recognized Ed Tech leaders (Tim Magner, Susan Patrick), and enthusiastic, charismatic technology-use innovators (Gail Lovely, Ferdi Serim) to you at a reasonable cost.

The Technology in Practice series will focus on Web 2.0 and other collaborative online tools. Best of the Best presenter Dr. Howie DiBlasi kicked off the series in October with his presentation "Tools for the Digital Kids: Podcasting." Forthcoming topics include "Get a MUVE On: Teaching and Learning with Second Life" with Kathy Schrock, and "Google Tools for Administrators" with Ryan Imbriale.

While we feel that the catalog of topics and presenters is relevant and timely, we know it is in no way comprehensive. When you visit <http://www.iste.org/webinars>, you will find that some months don't have a scheduled webinar—yet. We are looking to you, our members, to let us know what else you want to learn about. This isn't state- or district-mandated



professional development; we want to know what you want and need to learn to improve your own effectiveness as a teacher, an administrator, a media specialist, or any of the other hats you might wear.

After each webinar, participants are sent a link to the archived content, as well as a request to complete a short online survey. ISTE carefully considers our members' input, and works to accommodate trends. To communicate your interests with ISTE's Professional Development Services, you can contact Debren Ferris at [dferris@iste.org](mailto:dferris@iste.org). We look forward to seeing you online soon. ■