

# ICN Insider



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Teacher of the Year Uses ICN's Infrastructure	1
Engineering Accuracy Assists in Designing	2
Meskwaki Tribe Benefits from BTOP Grant	2
Commissioners Resign	2
The Schools & Libraries E-Rate Program	3
Employee Spotlight	3
Upcoming K-12 Connections	4

## Teacher of the Year Uses ICN's Infrastructure

On Monday, December 6, hundreds of Iowa high school students used ICN's technology to participate in a mini book discussion with Sarah Wessling, the 2010 National Teacher of the Year and other distinguished guests.

Iowa Public Television (IPTV), in conjunction with the Des Moines Public Library, presented *To Kill a Mockingbird: Share the Experience*, to multiple video sites. IPTV and the ICN provide unique

educational opportunities at no cost, saving both students learning time and assisting in schools' budget needs.

Wessling stated to get so many students talking about *To Kill a Mockingbird* is an English teacher's dream. Wessling said, "These types of discussions go outside classrooms and schools, and this was a wonderful way for students to talk about literature, and pull from literature the ideas that connect us all."

Wessling received the 2010 National Teacher of the Year award from

President Obama in April 2010. She teaches high school English at Johnston High School in Johnston, Iowa.

Additional guests at the session included James Autry and Polk County District Court Judge, Odell McGhee. Autry has been recognized for his skill as an author with numerous awards for his books to advise business leaders to books of poetry. Judge McGhee was elected to the board of the National Bar Association, and was president of the Iowa National Bar Association for more than 10 years.

Have you become a fan of ICN's Facebook page yet? Become a fan today by visiting [www.facebook.com/pages/Iowa-Communications-Network](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Iowa-Communications-Network).



Sarah Wessling, the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, interacting with students during the video session, *To Kill a Mockingbird: Share the Experience*, held on Monday, Dec 6.



**Message from  
Dave Lingren,  
ICN's Executive  
Director**

*Happy New Year!*

*Over the last few months, I have focused on the message of partnering with the private telecommunications sector. However, it is essential to note that the private sector has always been an important partner to the ICN in providing services to Iowans. To illustrate this, ICN manages 3,400 miles of fiber-optic, which is owned by the state, and the remaining fiber-optic miles are leased by the private telecommunications sector.*

## Engineering Accuracy Assists in Designing

Each month ICN's engineering team takes pride in achieving their 90 percent accuracy goals. The engineering accuracy goal measures the number of data orders that have "redlines" using an internal tracking system. A "redline" is when an engineering design is modified during an installation, and an engineer would be

required to correct the system, so the design matches "reality" of the set-up. There are many reasons for a "redline" to occur: engineer error, an inaccuracy in the installation order, the existing documentation is



in error, which would need to be corrected so no further errors are circulated.

Tracking this element assists when turning up equipment, since the more accurate we are the more can be completed.

The measurement also supports in matching customers' orders, which assists our customers' mission.

## Meskwaki Tribe Benefits from BTOP Grant

The Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi, in Iowa/Meskwaki, is one of the many partnering entities that was established when ICN received its \$16.2 million BTOP grant. ICN is responsible for building a fiber route to the Meskwaki Nation

Settlement's Tribal Center. The enabling technology will be integrated within the Meskwaki Nations Tribal Government Operations (i.e. Meskwaki Health Clinic, Meskwaki Settlement School, and Tribal Operation Center) into ICN's statewide fiber-optic Network.

This build-out will provide an area with zero broadband access and almost 48 percent unemployment with a much needed tool for economic growth.

For more information about ICN's broadband grant award, visit ICN's [broadband](#) webpage.

## Commissioners Resign from ITTC

Two Commissioners on the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) have officially resigned from their duties in December 2010.

Michael Mahaffey will be retiring as Poweshiek County Attorney, in addition to the ITTC. Mahaffey served on the ITTC since 2005.

Dr. Pamela Duffy previously worked for Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa, and took a position with Des Moines University as an instructor. Duffy served on the ITTC since 2004.

The ITTC is the governing body of the ICN, and provides for the centralized, coordinated use and control of the

Network. ITTC members are appointed by the Governor for a six-year term and confirmed by the Senate. Best wishes in their new endeavors.



## About the Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program

The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as "E-Rate," is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.

The Schools and Libraries Program supports connectivity - the conduit or pipeline for communications using telecommunications services and/or the

Internet. Funding is requested under five categories of service: telecommunications service, Internet access, internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections, and miscellaneous.

Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served, and ranges from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services. Eligible schools, school districts and libraries may apply individually or as part of a consortium.

Applicants must provide additional resources

including end-user equipment (e.g., computers, telephones, etc.), software, professional development, and the other elements that are necessary to utilize the connectivity funded by the Schools and Libraries Program. USAC has now posted the E-rate eligible services list for 2011. To view and download the list visit: [www.usac.org/res/documents/sl/pdf/ESL\\_archive/EligibleServicesList\\_110910.pdf](http://www.usac.org/res/documents/sl/pdf/ESL_archive/EligibleServicesList_110910.pdf).

The funding application "window" has been delayed until January. Revised forms and instructions are online at [www.usac.org/sl/tools/latest-news.aspx#112210](http://www.usac.org/sl/tools/latest-news.aspx#112210).

*"The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare."*

## Employee Spotlight: Phil Groner

Phil Groner is the Administrator for ICN's Service Delivery division. He started as a contract employee in 1996, left for a 12 month period in 1998, and returned to the ICN in 1999 as a full-time employee. He has been with the ICN for about 14 years.

Groner's department consists of account consultants, customer service, project management, and product development. These divisions are considered

the face of ICN when working with customers.

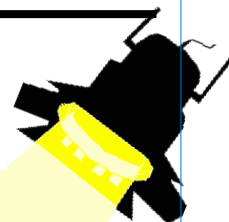
Working with a variety of educational and government customers is what Groner says he enjoys the most about his job. "I am very fortunate that my job has allowed me to see so many aspects of government and how the public is served in its various forms."

In his leisure time, Groner enjoys spending time with his wife, Allyson and his

two young boys, Parker – 7 years old

and Pierce – 4 years old. He is also very active in his church as he currently serves as the Administrative Board chairman. Groner says between his sons and church, his schedule stays full.

Groner enjoys cooking, particularly grilling. He will grill almost anything; from vegetables to meat to standard foods.



*“Do you have new staff, administrators or friends who might be interested in receiving this newsletter? Please pass it on and have them contact [lori.larsen@iowa.gov](mailto:lori.larsen@iowa.gov) to be placed on the distribution list.”*

*Remember to visit ICN’s website at [www.icn.state.ia.us](http://www.icn.state.ia.us) to keep updated on all ICN related news.*



Iowa Communications Network  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 725-4692  
Toll Free: 1-877-426-4692  
[www.icn.state.ia.us](http://www.icn.state.ia.us)

## Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television’s Connections

### Mammal Tracks

Friday, January 14, 2011, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM; 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM  
Audience: **Grades K-5**



Students are invited to become nature detectives. Winter is a wonderful time to learn about the clues animals leave behind. Students take an imaginary hike and learn how to identify common Iowa mammal tracks. Questions about mammal tracks are posed to the students. This interactive program allows time for student questions so come prepared.

**Registration Deadline - Tuesday, January 11, 2011**

### Credit Cards: The Perks and Pitfalls

Wednesday, January 12, 2011, Audience: **Grades 9-12**



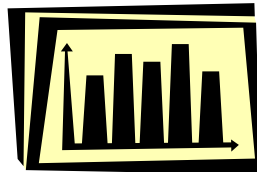
Would the offer of a free T-shirt or a water bottle be enough to get your students to sign up for a credit card? For many students it is and credit card companies are taking advantage of this strategy on college campuses every day. Unfortunately, many students haven't received instruction on financial management. They often don't understand the pitfalls of using credit cards and how quickly this can lead to too much debt.

This is a taped session with staff from the College Planning Center (Operated by Iowa Student Loan College Access Network).

**Registration Deadline - Friday, January 7, 2011**

### Munch My Math

Wednesday, January 26, 2011, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM; 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM  
Audience: **Grades 1-4**



In this hands-on (mouths-on) session, presenters lead students in a variety of edible math activities. First, students create a bar graph to represent each site's vote for their favorite cereal brand. Next, they build a cereal, and use it to create their own math equations. Then, students construct patterns using the cereal pieces. Finally, they integrate language arts and math for some fun story problem solving.

**Registration Deadline - Tuesday, January 18, 2011**

### For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown  
Educational Services  
(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181  
[abby@iptv.org](mailto:abby@iptv.org)  
[www.k12connections.iptv.org](http://www.k12connections.iptv.org)

Please share this newsletter with others. To be added to the distribution list, please e-mail [lori.larsen@iowa.gov](mailto:lori.larsen@iowa.gov). If you wish to be removed from the list, please reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.