



# RICE NEWS

Winter Issue

2009-2010

## Thanks to You All for the Treats

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### Special Points of Interest:

- \* RICE Mini Conference
- \* RICE Membership
- \* Tech 2010 Information
- \* ATIA Conference

Well, fall fell and so did the rain and temperatures. This means that Thanksgiving is almost here. Which reminds me of all that I like about RICE. RICE members and guests are full of tricks and treats for which I am truly grateful. The sharing of knowledge, talents, tricks, and treats (in the form of new resources and ideas) is what keeps me coming back to each meeting. I give my thanks to all of you for sharing your talents, knowledge, tricks and treats.

I hope you find your own tricks and treats when you come to the meetings. But even more important, I hope you are inspired to share your knowledge and talents. Each of us has within us special knowledge and skills; we proba-

bly use them in our classroom with our students or at our schools in the library, media labs, server rooms and workshops. Have you thought about sharing them at a conference or at Tech 2010? Perhaps you could write an article or share a lesson or tech tip to be included in the RICE newsletter. Meetings are opportunities for all to share and contribute.

RICE has a special treat planned for January. Our Mini-Conference has a new edition to our workshop choices. Have you been searching for new ideas for an interactive whiteboard? Be sure to check this newsletter for additional information about this presentation. We are committed to develop-



ing quality resources to serve the northwest areas of Illinois. The registration fees are low in recognition of the budget concerns our schools and districts have been facing. We have some great presenters scheduled. Plan to join us on Saturday, January 23, 2010 in Moline at the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education for fun, inspiration, and door prizes. Be sure to send in your registration today!

## Tech 2010



What is TECH 2010? TECH 2010 is a not-for-profit initiative supported by a broad range of education and business organizations. Its purpose is two-fold: 1) to raise awareness of the critical role technology plays in preparing students to succeed in today's world; and 2) to show the need for increased funding for classroom technology. The TECH 2010 Committee thanks the General Assembly and our corporate partners for their generous support of this program.

Technology is a Powerful Tool in the Classroom Technology can be a powerful tool in the classroom to enhance and accelerate student achievement; however, some people don't fully realize the extent to which technology can impact students and teachers. As people better understand what the information age makes possible in the classroom, they realize that if students are to be prepared for the 21st Century, they must have access to the latest technologies.

While schools continue to struggle with the growing

costs of technology and limited outside funding, TECH 2010 gives our teachers and students a voice to influence their future and increase awareness of the importance of technology in schools.

**TECH 2010 Event -- Demonstrations for Legislators in State Capitol** Since 1990, students and teachers have set up demonstration tables at the Capitol building in Springfield, Illinois to show elected officials, business leaders, and the general public how technology is being used in schools.

The TECH 2010 event strives to present classroom technology projects from across the state of Illinois. All schools and districts in Illinois are invited to apply to participate. Selected schools will send teams of up to four participants to TECH 2010 which will include two or three students accompanied by one teacher or administrator. School selections will be made on the basis of the location of the school within the state, grade level, type of demonstration proposed and diversity in student learning styles. Selected schools will be provided a 6' table in the Capitol building on which to display project information, and will be scheduled to demonstrate

either in the morning or the afternoon on the date of the event (approx. 9am-Noon or approx. Noon-3pm). Funding for travel and other expenses incurred by participants will be the responsibility of each participating school.

**Date of TECH 2010** TECH 2010 will be held in the Spring of 2010. The date of TECH 2010, which is selected based on when legislators are in session at the Capitol, will be announced on the TECH 2010 website once the legislative calendar is set in mid-November.

**Application Process** All schools throughout the state of Illinois are invited to apply to participate in TECH 2010. Applications will be accepted online through Monday, January 11, 2010. School teams will be selected to represent a balanced distribution between legislative districts, grade levels and curricular areas. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate improved teaching and learning through the use of technology. Applicants will be notified of their selection status the week of Jan. 17, 2010.

## Presenting at Conferences is Easier than Writing Lesson Plans!

**Applying to present at ICE's Tech 200X in Springfield:** Every year, Illinois Computing Educators sponsors Tech200X in Springfield at the State Capital building. Teachers and their students are selected from every legislative district throughout Illinois to present what they are doing with technology in their classrooms and schools. Groups are chosen, not based on doing the most fancy, innovative or even sophisticated use of technology. Rather, they look for what real kids and teachers are really using in real school

districts across the state. The purpose is to show legislators that all students of all ages can and do use technology, that it is important to their learning process, and that technology use varies across the state because of funding/training realities.

The application process is simple and short. If you are selected there are only a few requirements—contact your local legislators and news media and let them know you are coming, inviting them to visit your classroom and presenta-

tion in Springfield; prepare a story about your school district and classroom project to share; and prepare your presentation for the event (this is very much like a science fair with cardboard displays if you desire and a couple computers). The hardest part of the whole event is choosing only 3-4 students from your classroom to bring with you (there just isn't enough room in the Capital Rotunda for full classrooms). Visit the Tech200X website to learn more.

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## Assistive Technology Compliance Issues for the Web and documents

By: Ginger Long

I recently attended the ATIA Conference (Assistive Technology Industry Association) in Schaumburg (atia.org). One of my favorite breakout sessions was on evaluating websites for accessibility for persons with disabilities. Jon Gunderson from University of Illinois and his team have developed a couple of great tools for determining if websites are accessible for all members of our community. So whether you are a web developer, a district tech leader, or classroom teacher, you may find these tools useful.

Illinois Firefox Accessibility Extension/Add On

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/5809>

This tool allows you to put a menu bar in Firefox that has strong evaluation tools of websites, providing specific coding errors (with some suggestions), and a report function.

Illinois Functional Accessibility Evaluator

<http://fae.cita.uiuc.edu/>

This free U of I tool allows you to upload your website to their server, including secure data to be evaluated and an extensive report is created for you. Your data is eliminated,

but you can keep an account of reports, and use their internal tools and resources to help make your websites more compliant.

Microsoft Office 2010 (available soon) will have an accessibility checker as well for its products. Basically, under "file" in Word, for example follow these steps:

- File
  - Prepare for Sharing
  - Check Accessibility
  - Window pops up with errors and warnings
  - Additional information is within this window including how to fix document
-



\* 3 CPDUS

**When? Saturday, January 23, 2010**

**8:30 AM - NOON**

**Where? ROE Moline**

**DOOR PRIZES!!!**

**Cost? \$5.00 for members (includes all**

TIME	SESSION	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
8:30 - 9:30 AM		Registration, refreshments, welcome & FTC selling	Vendors from FTC will be available	Brad Kessler, FTC Publishing
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Session A	Podcasting with Garage Band	Media from digital still and movie cameras will be incorporated into podcasts. Bring your own mac laptop and follow	Clark Brookens
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Session B	Web 2 Applications VRL Library and Writelit Live	VRL Library and Writelit Live	Brad Kessler
9:00 - 10:15 AM	Session C	Interactive White Boards	Share and demonstrate innovative and exemplary classroom uses of the white board	Katie Daugird
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Break	Networking	Take a coffee break and network with fellow educators	
10:30 - 11:15 AM	Session A	You Can Moodle Too!	Overview of how Moodle can be utilized in the classroom setting. It will include real-life examples as well as the potential for its use in the classroom.	Wendy Pfaff
10:30 - 11:15 AM	Session B	Non-Photoshop	Editing digital images is an essential part of many multimedia projects but many teachers and students do not have access to expensive programs like Photoshop. Come learn about a growing number of powerful web-based image editing tools that are free and require no software.	Dick Marchessault
<b>MUCH, MUCH MORE!!</b>		<b>NETWORKING!!!</b>		Log onto <a href="http://ice.typepad.com/rice/">http://ice.typepad.com/rice/</a> for registration information
10:30 - 11:15 AM	Session C	Interactive White Boards	Share and demonstrate innovative and exemplary classroom uses of the white board	Katie Daugird
11:15 - NOON	Door Prizes & closing	We will draw for door prizes		RICE Board Members

## MINI CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Join us for a half day mini conference and network with area educators, learn about some of the software programs out there available to you. This is the first time RICE has tried to hold a conference our area and we hope the success of this conference will allow us to make this an annual event. Be sure to put your name in for door prizes that will be drawn at the end of the day. Come early for FTC Publishing sales and information, not too mention the food.

### **A little information about the Presenters:**

**Clark Brookens** - Clark is a retired Technology Teacher/Coordinator from the Geneseo School District. He taught in the elementary grades for 33 years, 6th grade for 18 years, and grades 3-5 technology classes for 650+ students per week for 15 years. He also had a significant role in the transformation of Geneseo Schools technology from Apple IIe computers in the early 1990s to a state-of-art fiber and wireless network with MacBooks and iMacs from Apple. Clark has extensive experience with a variety of Apple software products in the iLife 09 and iWork 09 Suites and a variety of other hardware and software used in the education and home settings.

**Katie Daugird** - Katie graduated from Marquette University in 2000, and was a classroom teacher for 4 years. She started with SMART Technologies in 2006 and is the Account Representative for the State of Illinois. Empowering teachers and engaging students is Katie's passion.

**Brad Kessler** - Team member, trainer, product development and technology enthusiast of FTC Publishing. Brad is an Illinois State University student and full time employee of Mike Kessler's educator centered FTC Publishing, located in Bloomington, IL.

**Dick Marchessault** - Dick is currently the Executive Director of the Illinois Computing Educators organization. Before serving in this role, he was the Illinois Manager for the Discovery Educator Network, and conducted trainings throughout the state and across the country. He taught English and Social Studies at Addison Trail High School in Addison, IL for 20 years, and also worked as a technology specialist Niles West High School in Skokie, IL.

**Wendy Pfaff** - Wendy has a BA in Business Admin from St. Ambrose and Secondary Math Certification from Augustana. She received her Masters from Western Illinois University in Interdisciplinary Studies. Her teaching experience includes a long-term sub position at the alternative high school, six years at the middle school level teaching both math and language arts, 2 years as a part-time instructor teaching computer education at Augustana College. She is currently a math teacher at Moline High School for 7 years.

**For more information on RICE Conference or becoming a RICE member contact RICE President Nancy Licko at [nlicko@gmail.com](mailto:nlicko@gmail.com)**



## RICE Mini Conference Registration Form



Please be sure to mark the box (X) for 2 sessions that you would like to attend. Approximately 20 spots available for each session time, choose Session A or B for each time. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members, payment is the day of conference.

Choose a session for each time slot (X)	SESSION	TIME	TITLE
	Session A	9:00 - 10:15 AM	Podcasting with Garage Band
	Session B	9:00 - 10:15 AM	Web 2 Appli- cations VRL Library and Writelt Live
	Session C	9:00 - 10:15 AM	Interactive White Board
	Session A	10:15 - 10:30	You Can Moodle Too!
	Session B	10:30 - 11:15	Non- Photoshop
	Session C	10:30 - 11:15	Interactive White Board
DATE: JANUARY 23, 2010      TIME: 8:30 AM - NOON LOCATION: ROE MOLINE			

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL OR BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE OR CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail or Fax this registration form filled out completely to:

Rock Island County Regional Office of Education

Attn: Julie Cox

3430 Avenue of the Cities, Moline, IL 61265

FAX: 309/736-1127
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**RICE President  
Nancy Licko**

E-mail: nlicko@gmail.com

We're on the web

<http://chapters.iceberg.org/rice/>



The purpose of RICE is to encourage the development and use of computers and technology in all facets of the educational process; assist in the professional growth of its members and other interested parties through the use of technology and computers; distribute information state wide about computing and technology; and build a support network among its' members.

## RICE Meetings Schedule for 2009 - 2010

All meetings will be held at the ROE in Moline:

- November 5 meeting to talk about sharing and caring and how to apply to Tech 2010. RICE get down to Tech 2010. How to be a Poster presenter for ICE. "How to prepare to presenter at Tech 2010 or ICE Poster sessions..."  
4 - 6 PM
- Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, mini conference 4 – 6 presenters. 2 sessions to choose from for each time slot Conference time is: 8:30 AM – NOON
- April conference sharing: April 15, 2010 last meeting, 4 - 6 PM  
Productivity Tools!

Membership to Illinois Computing Educators includes many benefits to meet your vast and varied



**RICE members learn more uses for Photoshop at a 2008 meeting**

technology needs. Members enjoy several types of benefits including the following: Atomic Learning, web services, scholarships and awards, local chapters, and professional development. Visit the ICE webpages for more information ([www.iceberg.org](http://www.iceberg.org))

Membership costs \$35.00 per year for teachers and all other educators. Only \$10 a year for

students working on a teaching degree or undergrad student. Our retired members receive a two-year membership for the standard \$35.00. You may also choose a lifetime membership for a one time fee of \$600.

If you are renewing or first time member please be sure to check the Chapter box for RICE.





# ICE Membership Application

I am using this to:     Become a member     Renew membership     Provide corrections/updates

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Facility: Pre-school    Primary Grades    K-8    Middle School    High School    University    Administrative    Other

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

School or Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category: Teacher    Support Staff    Media Specialist    Administrator    Student    Referee    Vendor    Other (specify below)

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues payment enclosed (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> ICE General Member - Teacher	\$ 35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ICE Undergrad Member (full-time student w/verification from instructor/institution)	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ICE Pre-Service Member (part-time student working on teaching degree w/ instructor verification)	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Member (2-year renewal)	\$ 35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ICE Lifetime Membership	\$ 600.00
Amt. Enclosed:	\$ _____

All membership renewal reminders will be sent via e-mail.

#### Credit Card Payment Information:

Card Type:     MasterCard     Visa    Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_    Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you would be interested in volunteering with ICE

- Chicago Area (ICE CAP)
- South Suburban Area (ICE CHIP)
- West Suburban Area (ICE COLD)
- Southern Illinois Area (ICE SI)
- Champaign/Rantoul Area (MICE)
- Northern Suburban Area (NICE)

#### Check home chapter area preference:

- Rock Island Area (RICE)
- Springfield Area (SpICE)
- Will/Grundy/Kendall Counties (DeICE)
- Bloomington/Normal Area (IllinICE)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

You will be automatically subscribed, to the Membership Mailing List. The list allows you, to take full advantage of your membership, by providing you with access to periodic news, legislative updates and other information pertinent to ICE Members. If you do NOT want to be on the mailing list, please check this box.   

For more information contact Sara Taylor at:  
Phone: 630-628-1088    Fax: 630-628-5388  
E-mail: [staylor@iceberg.org](mailto:staylor@iceberg.org)    Web: [www.iceberg.org](http://www.iceberg.org)

**MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO ICE:**  
Mail your check, along with your application to  
777 W. Army Trail Boulevard, Addison, IL 60101