

A Chapter of
Illinois Computing
Educators



NICE NEWS

From the President

Greetings NICE members!

Welcome back! I hope you all had a summer filled with fun, family and friends. I am very excited to be serving as the NICE President for the 2011-2012 school year. I can remember attending my first NICE meeting at Old Orchard Junior High School in the '90s. I was thrilled to be learning alongside of educators who were also excited about using technology. Just think, I was probably learning about Hyperstudio and now it's making a comeback, retro-tech!

Being an active NICE member has many benefits including low-cost (usually free) professional learning opportunities, earning CPDUs and free dinners! The most important benefit of being an active NICE member is building your Professional Learning Network.

Over the years, I have made numerous contacts through NICE. These are people I follow on Twitter, friend on Facebook and have face-to-face (can you believe it?) conversations with when the opportunity presents itself. If I need answers, my PLN comes to my rescue. This is a great resource that helps me to be more productive personally and professionally. I wouldn't have this network if it weren't for my involvement in NICE.

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“Share-A-Rama!”

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**Caruso Middle School,
1801 Montgomery Rd, Deerfield, IL**

WELCOME BACK! Are you rested, recharged and ready to tackle the new school year? Did your summer provide you with amazing discoveries or inspirations? Did you read a great book or take a class? The best learning comes from conversation... please come and share what you learned with others!

Please join your fellow educators on **Wednesday, September 21** for our ever-popular “Share-A-Rama!” -- an informal sharing of “What I learned this summer.” Come enjoy good conversation-- and a **FREE** dinner too-- as you compare notes, discoveries and ideas with your colleagues.

Bring your friends...the more the merrier!

We will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the school library at **Caruso Middle School** in Deerfield. Directions can be found on page 4 of this newsletter .

So that we may get an accurate count for food ordering, please take a moment to **RSVP** if you plan to attend.

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/nicemeeting>



From the President*(continued from Page 1)*

Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 21st. Registration and free light dinner at 4:30 pm, meeting at 5 p.m. There is no charge to attend and you will earn CDPUs! The topic for our first meeting is Share-A-Rama. Did you attend a conference, participate in a webinar, discover something totally techie on your own? Step up to the mike in this non-threatening environment to share with your colleagues. There isn't a September meeting that has gone by where I didn't learn something I could use in my classroom the very next day. Don't miss this opportunity!

So, don't let another year pass you by. Get involved, attend meetings, come to the mini-conference and bring your friends! Looking forward to seeing you at our events this year. Please, be sure to come up and introduce yourself to me and the amazing NICE executive board.

If you have ideas, suggestions, comments, or if you would like to help our NICE Board with any of the meetings or events, please contact me.

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@mmiller112 (Twitter) <http://www.facebook.com/maureen.c.miller> (Facebook)
mkc918@gmail.com (Facetime)

Have a great year! Stay Connected~

~Maureen Chertow Miller

Be a presenter @ our NICE Mini-Conference: *It's Teachers teaching Teachers!*



**Saturday,
Jan. 28, 2012
OPEN
to ALL!**

We are now accepting proposals to present at the NICE Mini-Conference in January 2012.

Do YOU (or someone you know):

- have an innovative/engaging technology-integrated unit or project?
- use STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) real-world projects in your room?
- have an idea for a session that shows best practices, innovation, student engagement using technology for teaching and learning?

If so....**PLEASE SHARE with other teachers!**

WHERE? Adlai E. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, IL

WHEN? Saturday, January 28, 2012, from 8:30 am-1:30 pm

HOW MUCH\$ Registration = \$5 (the BEST deal in town!)

WHAT ELSE? Hear from our 2011 mini-grant recipients.

The NICE Mini-Conference consists of 15-18 concurrent sessions. Sessions are 45 minutes long. [Submit your proposal](#) online today at <http://goo.gl/gjZLu> — deadline is Friday, Nov. 4, 2011.

Can YOU help? Many hands make light work!

The NICE Mini-Conference is a huge undertaking for our organization. We need volunteers to help with planning, setup and raffle donations. If you can spare a bit of time, or have questions about how you can help, please contact our Mini-Conference chair: Helen Lazzaro lazz04@gmail.com

NICE Awards Mini-Grants in May 2011

NICE awarded funding for educational projects in the form of a mini-grant at our May 2011 meeting. We had a record number of submissions and each idea was unique and worthy of our support. As much as we would have liked to fund all of the grant proposals, we are happy to announce the our 2011 mini-grant recipients:

- Nancy Jones: for “Learning Assistance” project at Sacred Heart School, 6250 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660.
- Mohammed Ahmed for “Microsoft Windows Lab” project at Muslim Community Center School, 8601 N. Menard Ave., Morton Grove, IL 60053.
- Mary Christine Dion for “Las Noticias, ipresentado por Flip!” project at Marie Murphy School, 2921 Illinois Road, Wilmette, IL 60091-1103.
- Mimi Batson for “iPod Touch Learning Center” project at Townline Elementary School, 810 N. Aspen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061.
- Carol Vrotny & Kristy Cunningham for “Who Am I and Where Have We Been?” project a Grass Lake School, 26177 W. Grass Lake Road, Antioch, IL 60002.

Mini-grant awardees will share their projects and activities as Poster Sessions at our January 2012 NICE Mini-Conference. We look forward to hearing about the educational accomplishments and learning opportunities that our mini-grants helped to inspire.

SUBMIT a proposal to present @ the ICE Conference 2012: Innovate - Collaborate - Educate
Pheasant Run Resort and Conference Center
St. Charles, IL
Feb. 28 – Mar. 2, 2012

The deadline for submitting workshop proposals has passed, however, please consider submitting a proposal for a Breakout Session or a Poster Session.

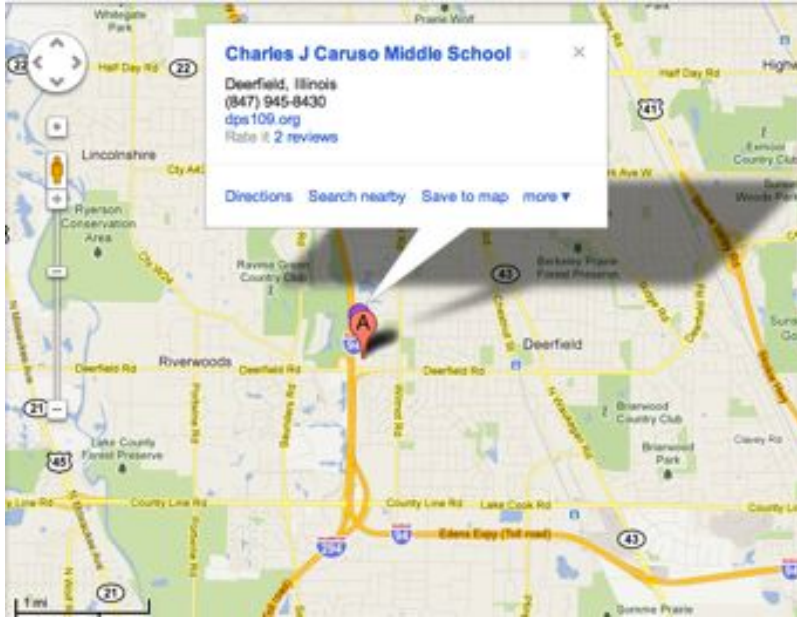
Proposal deadlines are:

- **October 1, 2011**
General Conference breakout session proposals
- **November 1, 2011**
Poster session proposals

Visit the the ICE website for more information about the 2012 conference:

http://iceberg.org/ice_conference





Caruso Middle School
1801 Montgomery, Deerfield, IL 60035

Directions to Caruso Middle School

Caruso Middle School is located at 1801 Montgomery Rd., just East of I-294 (Tollway) and north of Deerfield Rd.

From the South

I-94 (Edens) north, proceed north on IL Route 41 to Deerfield Rd. West. -- or, I-294 (Tollway) to Deerfield Rd. East) to Castlewood Lane. Turn North to Montgomery, and take the first left to school.

From the North and West

Take I-294. Exit at Deerfield Road. Turn left (east) at the exit ramp. Turn left (north) on Castlewood Lane (the first left after you cross the tollway) to Montgomery Rd. Turn left (west) to school.

Please visit our blog for updated NICE information:
<http://ice.typepad.com/nice/>

Attend a 2011-2012 NICE Meeting:

Oct. 25: "What Can a PLN Do?"
Edgewood Middle School
929 Edgewood Road, Highland Park

Dec. 3: "Innovating with iPad Devices Workshop"
Watch for details about this Saturday workshop -- Location TBD.

Jan. 28: NICE Mini-Conference
This winter's NICE Mini-Conference will be hosted at Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire.

Feb. 28-Mar. 2: ICE Conference
Plan to attend this year's Illinois Computing Educator's conference held in St. Charles, IL at the Pheasant Run Resort.

Mar. 19: "Potpourri of Practical Programs"
Join us at Maine South High School in Park Ridge, IL

May. 3: "Share-A-Rama – the Sequel"
Location TBD.

Northern Illinois Computing Educators
c/o Laura Montgomery
Deer Path Middle School
95 W. Deerpath Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045

NICE Executive Board 2011-2012

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