

**Nancy Licko**  
**President**  
[nlicko@gmail.com](mailto:nlicko@gmail.com)

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

- Special points of interest:
- 2nd Annual RICE Mini-Conference
- Using Pictures in Lessons
- Your Own Personal Learning Network

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## Welcome back to the New School Year

It's back to school time for all of us. I hope your year is going well. The RICE officers have planned some great opportunities to gather, share, learn and network. We have scheduled all of our training for the 4:00 – 5:30 pm time period on Thursday nights. The one change will involve locations. As a result in changes in the space available at the Rock Island Regional Office in Moline, our meeting locations will vary. We will still have pizza and door prizes and wonderful talented presenters.



Our September 9th meeting will join with the Black Hawk Reading Council at Long-fellow Elementary School in Rock Island for an opportunity to explore digital photography and how to develop engaging lessons using these images.

Our meeting on November 9 at the ROE offices in Moline will explore Atomic Learning tools and how they can help you. If you are a member of ICE/RICE, you have free access to Atomic Learning's just-in-time learning. Join us to learn how Atomic Learning can provide you any-time access to training on a huge variety of software and lesson creation ideas. If you are already using Atomic Learning, share with us what you found helpful.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual RICE Mini-Conference will be held on January 22, 2011 at Edison Junior High School in Rock Island. We will offer sessions on whiteboards, Web 2.01, podcasting, digital images, Word press blogging and more. We'll start registration and continental breakfast at 8:00. The first of three session opportunities will begin at 8:30 until noon. Be sure to save the date and watch for registration information.

Of course, we'll all be targeting the ICE Conference in St. Charles, Illinois on February 22-25, 2011. This year's conference marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Illinois Computing Educators. Rushton Hurley of NextVista.org is already listed as the keynote speaker for Thursday. Our own Ginger Long will have charge of the ICE booth again. Be sure to stop by for the RICE Krispie treats.

Our April 14, 2011 meeting at the Moline ROE will feature opportunities to share the latest and greatest in tech tools and software along with the awarding of awards and grants. Plan to share any ideas or products that you found useful.

Please make sure to mark your calendar for these meetings. Come share, learn and network with us. And, of course, be sure to bring a friend. The purpose of RICE is to



### RICE Information

*"Illinois Technology Conference for Educators occurs every February at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, Illinois. Over a 100 national vendors displaying products and offering more than 250 breakout sessions."*



Next RICE Meeting  
November 9, 2010 at the  
ROE in Moline

## ICE/RICE Membership Benefits

STAR Online ([www.star-online.org](http://www.star-online.org)) has over 50 modules in a virtual teaching and learning community. It is an interactive, self-paced staff development model, which allows participants to gain knowledge and skills in the application of educational technology. Email the ICE office for your access password ([info@iceberg.org](mailto:info@iceberg.org)).

Illinois Technology Conference for Educators (IL-TCE) occurs every February at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, Illinois ([www.il-tce.org](http://www.il-tce.org)). There are two days of pre-conference intense training workshops on a variety of technology topics, followed by two full days of the conference. We have over a hundred national vendors displaying their products and offer more than 250 breakout sessions, with leading innovators in technology as our keynote speakers. CPDUs are available.

ICECube is our quarterly newsletter of professional articles about technology in education. Written by leaders in the field throughout the state and beyond, information is provided to enrich your experiences and knowledge. All members are encouraged to contribute to our newsletter.

TECH2010 is a student technology showcase that continues to impress state legislators and their constituents from year to year. For the past eighteen years, public policymakers from around the state have banded together to promote the most comprehensive and diverse demonstration of classroom technology in the Midwest by those who use these technologies on a daily basis -- students and teachers.

The "Collaboratory in Your Classroom" eCourse is for educators who want to use the Collaboratory to develop technology enriched, standards-aligned, project-based learning activities for their students that meet Illinois Learning Standards and Goals. Librarians, media specialists, and technology facilitators who are collaborating with classroom teachers attending the Collaboratory online class are encouraged to participate. The eCourse is free, and Illinois participants may receive 15 CPDUs for completing this class.

<http://collaboratory.nunet.net>

### Web Services

ICE provides to its members free email, 5 MB of server space to post personal or classroom web pages, and FTP access to personal documents on the server. Contact [info@iceberg.org](mailto:info@iceberg.org) for more information.

### Scholarships

Ice provides annual scholarships to its members and families given in the following categories:

- ICE members pursuing advanced degrees
- ICE members attending professional development workshops and conferences,
- ICE members taking online classes

ICE members' children pursuing a degree in Education

## Using Pictures in Lessons

### **OVERVIEW**

One of the advantages of having computers and an Internet connection in schools is that it allows teachers and students to make use of the resources available on the Internet. Since teachers have not always had access to large numbers of pictures and other graphic resources, the NCRTEC is providing some [lesson plans](#) created by teachers that demonstrate some ways in which pictures and other graphic resources might be useful in a classroom. The intent is not to provide lessons that other teachers would use straight "out of the box", but to provide some ideas about how pictures might be effective in their own lessons.

Some of the strategies in these lesson plans are:

- Bridge time and space (Pictures from the Civil War or from Mars)
- Simplify the complex (Maps and charts which show only the necessary data)
- Make the abstract concrete (Real-life instances of fractions or geometry)
- Challenge preconceptions (Pictures of a summer day in an Icelandic city)
- Provide context (The odd legs and neck of a flamingo being used to find food in shallow water)
- Develop aesthetic appreciation (Photographs showing the beauty of a wetland area)

Practice identification (Sorting pictures of reptiles and mammals)

A frequent strategy for helping students extract information from pictures is:

1. Start by having students examine the picture.
2. Ask students to describe what they have observed.
3. Have the class discuss differences in observations.
4. Ask students to interpret what they have seen.

Have students defend any conflicting interpretations by referring to the original picture.



*“The intent is not to provide lessons that other teachers would use straight “out of the box,” but to provide some ideas about how pictures might be effective in their own lessons.”*





“Blues, Jazz, and Rock ‘n’ Roll Music on the Mississippi link, gives you information on presenting your curriculum with Music.”



## Using Pictures in Lessons (Cont.)

### Lessons

**[Where Did You Get Those Ears?](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/gene/gene1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/gene/gene1.htm>) Genetics, high school, Grades 9-10

**[How Weeds Impact Agriculture and Modes of Eradication](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/weed/weed1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/weed/weed1.htm>) Agriculture II, Grade 10

**[Blues, Jazz, and Rock 'n' Roll Music on the Mississippi](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/river/river1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/river/river1.htm>) Music with Social Studies and Geography integration, Grades 7-8

**[Wetland: Past, Present, Future](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/wetlands/wtlnds1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/wetlands/wtlnds1.htm>) Ecology, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, Grades 5-8

**[What Do You See?](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/see/see1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/see/see1.htm>) Language Arts and Writing, Grades 3-6

**[Biome Investigation](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/biome/biome1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/biome/biome1.htm>) Science, Math, and Technology, Grades 4-6

**[Fractions in Pictures](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/fraction/frac1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/fraction/frac1.htm>) Fractions, Grades 5-8

**[Using Pictures to Compare Lifestyles of Native Americans Past and Present](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/native/native1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/native/native1.htm>) Culture of Native Americans in Present-Day Society, Grades 4-6

**[Properties of Matter](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/matter/matter1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/matter/matter1.htm>) Physical Science, Grade 1

**[Technological Advances in Communication: The Pony Express Rides the Information Highway](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/techno/techno1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/techno/techno1.htm>) Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Grade 5 and up

**[Where Should I Put This Business? A GIS Simulation and How It Can Work for You](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/gis/gis1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/gis/gis1.htm>) Geography, Math, Social Studies, and General Science, Middle School

**[Graphic Literacy: How to Help Your Students Get the Most Out of Pictures](http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/graphic/graphic1.htm)** (<http://www.ncrtec.org/tl/camp/graphic/graphic1.htm>) Any Graphic Content Material, K-12

## Sources for Images

Finding the right image can be difficult. Finding royalty free images can help. Here are a few online sources for images.

Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/>)

Possibly the best online photo management and location, and easy to search. Many are creative commons licensed.

Photobucket (<http://photobucket.com/>)

Offers image hosting, photo sharing, and video sharing.

123RF (<http://www.123rf.com/search.php?word=similar:3472678>)

Create a login to be able to download images into your Lightbox.

If you have pictures you wish to store or share, here are some other ideas.

MyPhotoAlbum (<http://www.myphotoalbum.com/>)

Free photo storage.

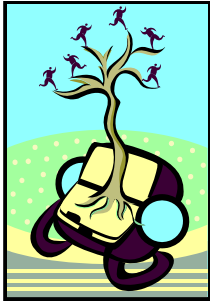
Snapfish.com (<http://www.snapfish.com/snapfish/welcome>)

Free photo storage and sharing. Prints can be ordered for pay.

Picasa Web Albums ([https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?hl=en\\_US&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fpicasaweb.google.com%2Flogin%3Fcontinue%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fpicasaweb.google.com%252Fhome&service=lh2&ltmpl=gp&passive=true](https://www.google.com/accounts/ServiceLogin?hl=en_US&continue=http%3A%2F%2Fpicasaweb.google.com%2Flogin%3Fcontinue%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fpicasaweb.google.com%252Fhome&service=lh2&ltmpl=gp&passive=true))

Free album storage from Google. You need a Google account login (Google accounts are free!)





*“A personal learning network can develop into a rich and complex resource over time.”*



## Your Own Personal Learning Network

Written by: Jason Campbell

For several years, the concept of a **Personal Learning Network (PLN)** has widely conquered the web. Tech-savvy educators around the world are synchronously and asynchronously joining forces and communicating. **Blogging**, **micro-blogging**, and social networking have created a culture of "connectedness" whose insight, increasing knowledge, and experience has the potential to revolutionize the present education field.

Do you have your own **PLN**? If not, then it's time to get started.

A few basic tools/techniques are all that is necessary to start. A **personal learning network** can develop into a rich and complex resource over time. Here's a short overview of the three important components for building a **PLN**:

### 1. Social Networks

Facebook and Myspace are admired and very popular social networks that bring individuals together who share common interests. Educators who are seeking a venture into social networking, Ning may be better suited for them. There are Ning networks dedicated to nearly every topic possible. Join an active and recognized network like Classroom 2.0 and then branch out as your contribution and interests develop.

### 2. RSS (Really Simple Syndication)

RSS is a system for delivering frequently changing web content. News sites, blogs and other online publishers can syndicate their content via an RSS feed. Google Reader and Bloglines are among the more famed RSS aggregators. Sign up for an account and when you read a **blog** or other self-motivating and active content provider that you like, simply subscribe to their feed and let the RSS reader convey the web to you.

### 3. Micro-blogging

This is a form of **blogging** built on brief (140 characters) text updates. Presently, **Twitter** is the highly dominating micro-blogging tool and it's really easy to use. The stream of user updates creates a stable flow of information. That's why micro-bloggers build a network of individuals whose updates they choose to follow. The keys to success are following people who post interesting and relevant content. You should also be an active participant in the network.

Developing a strong **PLN** is a valuable and useful endeavor that will pay many times over for the time invested.

Note from our President, Nancy Licko:

I found this blog while researching Personal Learning Networks. I thought it simplified the process of developing a Personal Learning Network.

I hope you find it useful.

**RICE 2nd Annual Mini Conference January 22, 2011**

RICE is finalizing plans for this years Mini Conference which will be held at Edison Jr. High, in Rock Island this year. This year we will be offering 3 mini sessions for each participant with Whiteboard sessions available for any slot.

Cost of this years Mini Conference will still be \$5 for any member of RICE/ICE and \$15 for nonmembers.

Some of the session choices will include:


- Word Press
- Digital Images and Story Telling
- Whiteboard Sessions
- Digital Photography & Photoshop Elements



Watch for more information coming soon!



*“RICE 2nd Annual Mini Conference, January 22, 2011 at Edison Jr High, Rock Island.”*



<http://www.iceberg.org/rice>  
<http://ice.typepad.com/rice/>

Keep tuned into upcoming RICE news for the 2010-2011 School Year and more information on the **2nd Annual RICE Conference.**

