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Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network – Spring 2000

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Nebraska Earth Science Education Network

9 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0517

Phone: 402-472-0773

Fax: 402-472-4608

Web site: <http://nesen.unl.edu>

Email: nesen 2@unl.edu

Spring 2000 Newsletter

Issue Number 24

“Everything is Connected to Everything Else.”

Dave Gosselin, NESEN Director

Another academic year will be over soon. I am sure that everyone has had their share of ups and downs. It is very important that each of us take time and focus on our successes over the last year. I know that this is a crazy time of year, but when you have just a moment, think back to the beginning of the school year when each of those faces were new and ask yourself how have they changed over the school year. I know there is one positive thing that you can say about each student. It may be hard, but if you focus on the positive things you will find progress. The progress may only seem like baby steps, but for those that have seen the movie “What about Bob?” taking those baby steps may be the hardest part of the journey to success. Have a great summer and look forward to next year when you have the opportunity to help a new set of students take additional steps down the road to success.

NESEN Member Recognized as the Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher

Lincoln High School science teacher Steve Ferris has been honored as the 36th Scottish Rite Distinguished Teacher—described by Lincoln Public Schools officials as perhaps the most prestigious teaching honor in the district. Steve Ferris is the Lincoln High science department chairman. He teaches geoscience and earth systems, botany and applied chemistry. Congratulations, Steve!

The Nebraska Weather and Climate Web Site –

Dr. Ken Dewey, School of Natural Resource Sciences High Plains Climate Center

I have long been impressed with the public's quest for further knowledge about our highly variable weather and climate here in Nebraska. Noting the rapid expansion of the Internet, it occurred to me that I could bring a tremendous amount of weather and climate information to the public in a timely manner and to far greater numbers than are reached in my occasional public lectures, so I created the Nebraska Weather and Climate home page at the High Plains Climate Center. This web site has become a daily resource for those looking for current weather conditions across the state, weather forecasts for the region and timely information about the status of significant weather events such as drought, heat waves, snowstorms, cold waves, etc. Storm reports are also posted at this site after gathering information in text and photo form from various news sources. As this web site developed over the past year, I began to hear from teachers who were using the data for various class projects so I decided to create some areas specifically for educators. One of these areas is a link from the home page to "Weather/Science Teachers Resources" where links to educational resources are posted. I teach web publishing in an advanced meteorology course and their final products, web sites on a variety of educational topics, are also posted at a link found on the front page of the Nebraska web site known as "Student Electronic Term Paper Projects." The Nebraska Weather and Climate web site is a "work in progress" and will expand over the coming

summer to include more information directly relevant to science teachers across Nebraska. The Nebraska Weather and Climate Web Site: <http://hpccsun.unl.edu/nebraska>

Does Our Web Work For YOU?!?!?!?

Mark Mesarch

Over the last year we have updated the NESEN website (GOTOBUTTON BM_1_ <http://nesen.unl.edu>) in numerous ways. Many changes have been transparent to you, and these changes have given the website a totally new facelift. With change comes both good and bad.

The Good: Improved navigation tools help the user move around our website a lot easier. The uniformity of the site design lets users know they are still at the NESEN website. Compressing our images helps shorten download times. Information has been categorized into broader categories which also helps in navigating our site. Our discussion area no longer asks you for a password to join in the discussion, so go ahead and start an earth science discussion.

The Bad: If you bookmarked specific webpages on our site, there have been some major address changes between the old and new website. Going to these old addresses will result in you receiving the “nasty” webpage “PAGE NOT FOUND.” Two of the most numerous incorrect addresses that visitors to our site are trying to use are anything that begins with “<http://nesen.unl.edu/activities/...>” or “<http://nesen.unl.edu/methods/...>” I suggest you update your links and look for those webpages in the Teacher Resource Area at

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