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# Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network Newsletter – Fall 1994

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## **Nebraska Earth Science Education Network**

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### **Fall 1994 Newsletter**

Issue Number 3

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#### **NEW NESEN COORDINATOR**

Julie Dial assumed the responsibilities of NESEN coordinator on September 12, 1994. Julie has a Bachelors of Science in geology, a Texas science composite teaching certificate and Nebraska teaching certificates in Earth and Natural sciences. Julie has six years of teaching experience in junior high earth science and two years experience in high school geology. Julie is looking forward to working with the NESEN steering committee, the Conservation and Survey Division, and the earth science community across the state. The former NESEN coordinator, Dave Gosselin, is still actively involved in NESEN and will serve as Julie's supervisor. If you have ideas about NESEN feel free to contact Julie at 402-472-3471 or E-mail: dial@unlinfo.unl.edu .

#### **NASA SUPPORT FOR NESEN**

A proposal to NASA to support the Nebraska Earth Science Education Network has recently been funded. A specific goal of this proposal is to enhance the access to, and exchange of, information through the use of electronic networks. More specifically, this is a pilot project to demonstrate that electronic communication combined with adequate educational support can make a difference in education. To accomplish this goal, we intend to extend Internet connectivity to seven Nebraska locations. These include: O'Neill, Northbend, Raymond, Diller, St. Thomas More, Westside, and Scottsbluff. After this step we will develop, distribute, and support educational materials and information over this network. We are currently coordinating with NDE, local ESU's and U.S. West to establish the electronic connectivity. Once connectivity is established, participating teachers and one or two selected students will receive training on the use of Internet and related technologies. The participating students will be part of a reverse mentoring concept where the students, who have more time to work on the machines and investigate Internet, will help the teachers become familiar with the network and its many educational aspects. As part of the demonstration aspect of this project, participating teachers will develop individual activities using data and information available from Internet and NESEN sources and assist in the development of educational packages. These packages will highlight the use of NASA data and information in the classroom to examine relevant local natural resources issues. The content of the educational packages will change over the project, but a tentative title for the packages is "Investigating Nebraska's Natural Resources Systems from Space." The activities, described in the packages will focus on the multidisciplinary aspects of earth science and will incorporate math, social sciences, and art. This multidisciplinary approach will provide opportunities for other teachers at the various institutions to become involved.

#### **NESEN AT NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SCIENCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The annual NATS fall conference is scheduled for October 27 - 29 at Camp Calvin Crest in Fremont, Nebraska. Several NESEN sponsored earth science workshops and activities will be offered this year thanks to the hard work and dedication of the members of the NESEN steering committee. Enclosed you will find a flier describing the individual workshops. If you can not attend NATS please share this information with your colleagues, who might be interested in participating and/or are not on our mailing list. We look forward to seeing you all at NATS.

## **K-12 EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT NORTH-CENTRAL/SOUTH-CENTRAL MEETING OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

Plan now to attend the joint North Central/South Central Section Meeting of the Geologic Society of America in Lincoln, NE., April 27-29, 1995. One of the primary purposes of GSA is to foster communication between academic researchers, industry, college and pre-college geoscience educators. K-12 friendly sessions include:

**Thursday, April 27, 1995: NAGT - GSA - (NESTA)** Sponsored session on college-related educational activities.

### **Friday, April 28, 1995: EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION DAY**

State Geological Survey Educational Materials and K-12 Educators Lesson Plan Share-a-thon: These two activities will provide 1) teachers the opportunity to see what materials are available from other states and 2) the state surveys and other professionals an opportunity to see the materials and to learn the methodologies teachers use for earth science instruction.

### **GSA - NESTA - NAGT sponsored forum on K-12 Earth Science Education**

An afternoon forum will focus on the opportunities, challenges, and benefits of K-12 earth science education for the geoscience community.

### **Saturday, April 29, 1995: K-12 Friendly Field Trip**

The opportunity to make contact, interact, and exchange information should prove fruitful for both geoscience professionals and geoscience educators.

## **EARTH SCIENCE WORKSHOPS- SUMMER 1995**

The following new workshops will be available for summer of 1995. **Rural and Urban Applications of Soil Surveys:** Activities will relate soils to the environmental and economic factors of agricultural, residential, and industrial development. **Understanding the Earth in Four Dimensions:** Will include a series of exercises in utilizing maps, converting point data into three dimensions, and interpreting the geologic record of Nebraska. Last summer's workshops were greeted with such enthusiasm by Nebraska Earth Science teachers that these workshops are also being scheduled. These workshops included **What's In A Rock** and **Nebraska's Dynamic Water System; A Geoscientific Approach**. Detailed information will be available at NATS concerning times, dates, and places.