



# IDLA NEWS

IOWA DISTANCE LEARNING ASSOCIATION'S  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 2

 **idla.org**

## Conference Update! I@CON 2009

April 17, 2009 is the date for the IACON Conference, the annual joint conference for the Iowa Distance Learning Association and the Iowa Association of Communication Technology. This year's theme is From Traditions to Possibilities.

Concurrent Sessions have now been added to the IDLA Web site, <http://www.idla.org>, under the Conference at a Glance link. There are a wide range of topics being explored from a technology showcase, to using Web 2.0 to developing hybrid courses. Presenters are coming from many differ-

ent universities and colleges, as close as Iowa State University and as far as Purdue University.

There are also two fantastic keynote speakers, Kristen Betts from Drexel University and Barry Dahl from Lake Superior College. To learn more about them, visit the Web site.

Awards for Innovative Programs and Points of Presence will be given out this year again. Please make sure you submit a nomination for your program, if you think it is

award worthy!

There are also several vendors that will be at the conference, showcasing their products and doing demonstrations. This will be a great way to learn about emerging technology and options for you in your classrooms or businesses.

The IDLA and IACT Boards are proud and excited to offer this annual great opportunity to our members, current and new. We hope you join us April 17th in Altoona at the Adventureland Inn for I@CON 2009!

## A Word from the 2009 President, Pat McGinty

Greetings,  
The excitement is building as we approach the annual IACON Conference. We hope you are planning to join us at Adventure Land Inn in Altoona, IA. The day promises to be an adventure, exploring the latest trends in Distance Learning.

We have assembled a rich day of learning and sharing with 2

dynamic keynote address as well as timely and informative break out sessions.

The economic times we face, call for effective, productive and cost saving options as we deliver education and training. We hope the conference we have planned will arm you with new tools and ideas, as we explore distance learning delivery together.

We welcome your membership and renewal.

Thank you,

Patrick McGinty  
2009 IDLA President

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*The Iowa Distance Learning Association is a non-profit association formed to promote the development and application of distance learning to education and training. Our goal is to bring together professionals in distance learning areas from education, corporate training, government and military organizations to share our experience, knowledge, and expertise to better serve lifelong learners. Please visit our Web site at [www.idla.org](http://www.idla.org) for more information.*

# IDLA Welcomes Two New Board Members: Abbie Gaffey and Amy Papp!

In the past few months, IDLA has been fortunate to find two very accomplished new Board members. Abbie Gaffey is a Iowa State University Extension Field Specialist and works primarily in the area of Community and Economic Development. She is also a graduate student in the Community Development On-line Master's Program, which is a program of the Great Plains IDEA. The program is multi-institutional and trans-disciplinary; it won an IDLA award last year, and it also won a national award in 2008 from the Commu-

nity Development Society, a national organization.

Amy Papp comes to us from the private sector, which is fantastic! She is the virtual classroom specialist from Nationwide Insurance and has great interest in the mission of IDLA. She is hoping to bring others along into the group from her company as well as others in private industry.

These two members add great diversity to our board, in terms of their careers and interests as students and educators.

Welcome Abbie and Amy!

## USDLA News: Annual Conference 2009

The annual conference for the United States Distance Learning Association will be held on April 26-29, 2009 in St. Louis, Missouri at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark. As stated on [www.usdla.org](http://www.usdla.org), "This conference is an opportunity to share ideas, learn about distance learning programs and products, and gain a better understanding of the field."

Late registration is open until April 26, 2009.

The USDLA Web site offers many resources for people working in distance education, as well as information about scholarships and awards. IDLA was the first state chapter for USDLA, and we are proud to be a strong state chapter!

USDLA also has a Facebook page! Check it out!



## Conferences! Conferences! Conferences!

There are so many great conferences for distance educators or for anyone working with distance education technology. Here are a few of them to check out for 09!

March 22-24: WEMTA, Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association, Madison, WI

March 23-25 EDUCAUSE Midwest Regional Conference, Chicago, IL

March 31-April 3: Web 2.0 Expo, San Francisco, CA

June 28: National Educational Computing Conference, 30th Annual, Washington DC

August 4-7: Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning, 25th Annual, Madison, WI

October 28-30: Sloan-C 2009 International Conference on Asynchronous Learning Networks, 15th Annual, Orlando FL

For a comprehensive list of conferences, check out: <http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conf/>