Digital Education Initiative Action Items, 2012-2016
Action Item Update presented to the NITC, 12/10/2013

Narrative: The Digital Education Initiative has many exciting developments in simultaneous motion as a result of the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC) BlendED Initiative. BlendED includes such components as identity management, learning management, content management, data analytics and professional development. Nebraska ESUs are currently participating in, and being recognized for, a national pilot project for InCommon federated identity management services. The ESUs are also working on envisioning a successor program to the original LB 1208 lottery incentives. Higher education tends to develop digital education assets more at an institutional or sector level, but is monitoring the BlendED Initiative by K-12 for possible programmatic crossovers. All levels of education are experiencing a proliferation of tablet devices and smart phones, high density wireless, and more Internet access, making digital education for all learners more likely.

1) **Action:** Promote the usage of the National Repository for Online Courses (NROC) content by Nebraska educators.
   Status: Continuation for 2014-2016; The ESUCC plans to include the NROC learning objects in the statewide content repository managed by the ESUs.

2) **Action:** Fully deploy a statewide digital content repository interface that allows the assignment of digital property rights and the uploading, cataloguing, metatagging, searching, and downloading of digital learning objects by Nebraska educators.
   Status: Continuation for 2014-2016; The ESUs achieved a decentralized deployment of Safari Montage content servers in 2013 to provide a system of digital content storage and retrieval. Training took place in November 2013 and usage is expected to grow quickly.

3) **Action:** Develop and deploy a statewide learning management system for every K-12 teacher and learner, grades 6-12.
   Status: Continuation for 2014-2016; This is a future action item for consideration by the ESUCC.

4) **Action:** Train teachers in effective instructional design to integrate synchronous and asynchronous technologies.
   Status: Continuation for 2014-2016; The responsibility for effective instructional design is shared between the teacher training institutions, ESU Professional Development Organization, and the ESU Distance Education Advisory Council.

5) **Action:** Coordinate and facilitate a statewide directory services federation effort that will enable students and teachers a single sign-on to associated learning management services and content management resources.
   Status: Continuation for 2014-2016; The ESUCC staff are working with University of Nebraska staff and facilitators from the InCommon Alliance to develop a K-12 schema for student and staff identity management atop Network Nebraska-Education.

6) **Action:** Coordinate and facilitate a statewide data dashboard system that allows teachers and administrators the ability to merge local achievement data with statewide testing data to depict each student's academic progress.
   Status: New for 2014-2016; The Nebraska Department of Education has a grant to work with 10 school districts in a pilot project during 2013-14.

7) **Action:** Research the potential feasibility of a software-based, individualized education plan for every Nebraska K-12 student that shows their progress on every state academic standard.
Status: New for 2014-2016; This is a future action item for consideration by the Nebraska Department of Education and local school districts.

8) **Action**: Provide guidelines for cooperation between K-12 and higher education institutions regarding K-12 students who are taking dual-credit courses using remote learning technologies.
Status: New for 2014-2016; The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education may facilitate dialogue between K-12 schools and higher education to accomplish this action item.

9) **Action:** Provide professional development in a "flipped learning" concept where the teaching is done on-line to provide professional developers a greater opportunity for coaching and mentoring activities during the in-person contact time.
Status: New for 2014-2016; This is a future action item for consideration by the ESUCC.

10) **Action.** Set a deadline, and establish standard(s) related to the deployment, administration and maintenance of content management systems by K-12 schools.
Status: Discontinued in 2013; Industry standards are common to almost all content management systems, making state-level content management standards unnecessary.