NITC Ed - Emerging Technology Task Group Meeting
Location: Boystown Headquarters Building, Omaha
Date: 2/7/2013

Attendance: Steve Hamersky, Jeff Stanley - on site
Clark Chandler, Jeff Johnson, Yvette Holly - remote

During the course of the meeting the group developed 4 question areas to ask the NITC Ed Council. The group would like to have the Ed Council discuss or share ideas on the following:

Question Area 1
What would be best for the NITC to focus and promote for educators and students?
What are technology areas that smaller schools cannot support?
What can we offer schools that schools cannot get on your own?
What would be better done as a collective?
What are you unable to do on your own?
What would be most helpful?
What would be of interest regarding instructional issues?
How could the network support instruction?

How will we keep pace?
How will we know what is emerging? Each week there is something new. Before you know it, technology has passed you by. How can we follow emerging technologies in a pace that keeps up? Will we ever be able to keep up with the pace of technology within the time constraints of the Ed Council? How can we help government keep up?

After building Network Nebraska, now what?
What Network Nebraska services would be useful to the educational community?
How will Network Nebraska keep pace with changes in technology and education?

What general principles or areas in technology would not be out paced?
We need to look at more general principles. Selecting a statewide learning platform is too specific a goal for the Emerging Technology group. Choosing a specific product may be good right now, but we would not want to tie the use statewide to a specific platform or vendor.

What are the large scale projects that scale well?
Network Nebraska is a good example of a general project that allows educational institutions throughout the state to benefit. Technologies that scale up and can be shared statewide are valuable to propose and track by the education council. Cloud computing could be a similar large technology that could scale well. Technology will likely trend toward cloud systems and scaling would be useful on a state wide basis. Cloud computing is based on large data centers for storage and document handling which would be good for a statewide application. Doing something with the cloud would benefit everyone.

Question Area 2

What trends in technology will disrupt education?
How can we deal with that?
How can we help educational institutions?
Is this a concern for anyone else?
What is our role in helping deal with the disruption of education due to technology?
Is technology driving educational programs or is instruction driving educational technology?

What are appropriate uses for adaptive learning systems?
For example a virtual professor that is developed to interact with students could disrupt the entire educational model. Online classes are more economical through the use of virtual learning processes and the resulting financial changes might make certain types of education a better investment and provide students a customized educational experience.

Question Area 3

How can the Ed Council better coordinate technology within the state?
Would better communication between NITC councils be helpful?

How could we benefit from coordination with other NITC councils?
In the past the Ed Council would coordinate with other NITC councils. It could be helpful to restart some joint meetings with other councils and try to coordinate services on a large scale. There is a need for the Ed council to pull from other services and make technology more affordable to many different groups within the state. Discussions with other NITC councils might allow for more coordination and sharing of resources which could cut down on redundancies.

Question Area 4

Could we help get educators from higher education to help drive technology changes?
How could we talk about the disruptive nature of technology as applied to education?
How can we better prepare students better for transition between levels of education?
Would hosting quarterly discussions with higher education about technology be helpful?
Should there be more sharing at Ed Council meetings about impacts of technology on education?

What roles for the Ed Council?
(1) Review requests for funding as related to educational technology and advise the state on technology funding.
(2) Coordinate a discussion around how technology is changing education. There are some very disruptive changes coming in educational delivery through technology and there is a need to get an academic group together to help guide the transition. Need to guide how delivery and learning will occur with the new technologies. The technology should help instructors improve education. Instruction should drive the adoption of technology in education. Without an organized effort it may be that technologists are driving educational changes.