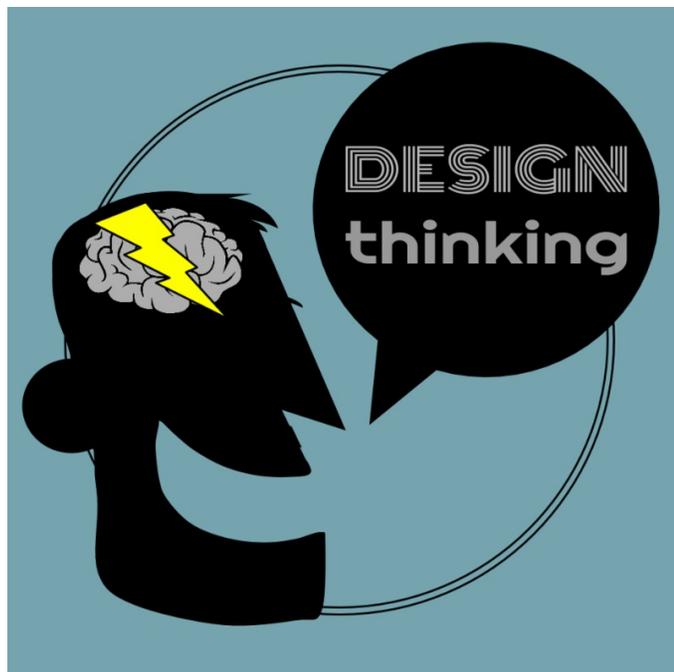




Are you inspired and you'd like to share with others? Do you have a great idea others would benefit from? We're looking for contributing writers to help write short articles on inspiring and innovative ideas. [Submit your article idea here!](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

[DeICE MiniCon](#)

January 9th, 9:00-12:30

[NICE MiniCon](#)

January 30th, 8:30 - 1:30

[STEM Read @ Bloomington Junior High](#)

January 30th, 9:30 - 3:30

[2016 SIT Conference](#)

February 20th, 8:30-2:00

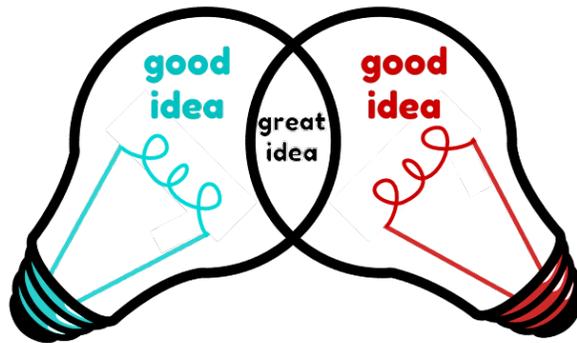
[ICE Conference](#), "Welcome to the Future"

February 23rd through 26th

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Design Thinking: Purposeful Cycle of Instruction & Assessment for Students

By Jason Klein



The phrase design thinking has become something of its own buzzword in everything from the tech sector to management across industries to marketing to the creators of many different types of physical goods. When the concept of design thinking is un-packed across a variety of contexts and applied to education, it becomes clear that good educators have always been great design thinkers.

What is design thinking?

At its heart, design thinking is a specifically applied problem-solving process that recognizes that multiple cycles of iteration will be necessary to accomplish a refined product, activity, or service. Likewise, it's uniquely focused on asking the designers to think about the needs and uses of the end-users or beneficiaries throughout the process. There are countless examples of design thinking that can be found ([here from the d.school](#), [here from IDEO](#), and [here in an actual school](#), for example). In all cases, the design thinking framework is a problem-solving process that focuses on the end-user, being creative throughout, and evolving the solutions as new information is gathered over time about the effectiveness of the existing solution.

[Continue...](#)

New ICE Executive Director

By Amber Heffner, incoming Executive Director



My name is Amber Heffner, and I am excited to be your next Executive Director of ICE. My most recent position has been as the Director of Technology at Washington Community High School for the last three and one-half years. Prior to that, I had educational experience as an Assistant Principal, School Counselor, and Science teacher. I have also had the privilege of being a part of TECH 20XX for the past 3 years, serving as the co-chair of the event and on the ICE Governing Board the past two years.

Personally, I am dedicated and passionate about everything I do. I am originally from a small town and grew up on farm in West Central IL where my grandparents and parents ran a grain elevator business. I learned at an early age the importance of collaboration, teamwork, dedication, and customer service. My family has been an inspiration in what they accomplished because of their strong beliefs in those areas, and I have embraced them in my life as a leader, educator, and within my own family as well.

[Continue...](#)

ICE Leader You Should Know: Catherine Neumann



Catherine Neumann has worked in education since 2006. A graduate of Illinois State University and Lewis University, Catherine taught Career & Technical Education (Business) courses at Bolingbrook High School, moved into Administration as the Instructional Technology Specialist in 2011 and is currently the Manager of Instructional Technology for Valley View School District 365u.

Catherine has been an ICE member for almost 10 years and is the current President of ICE Cold (serving Western Suburbs of Chicago). When discussing the future of technology in education, Catherine often asks the audience to ponder: "What impact would a pencil have had on education if students had to go to a pencil lab to use it?".

"Welcome to the future" of ICE

By Jerry Swedberg, ICE President

This year's conference theme "Welcome to the Future" is a great description of the past few months for Illinois Computing Educators. We have seen a number of exciting developments recently so I'd like to take the time to highlight and celebrate a few of them.

First, let me say how excited the Executive Board is to see a new ICE chapter. This chapter, called State Line ICE or SLICE, serves the northwestern part of the state. They serve members from the far west suburbs to the

Illinois-Iowa state line. This includes members from the Rockford area. Chapter leaders have begun organizing and planning for activities and potential mini-conferences in the near future. It's truly great to see the possibilities for supporting SLICE members.

If you read my recent announcement regarding our new Executive Director, you already know about the second exciting development I want to share. I must admit being somewhat stressed about finding a replacement for our current Executive Director, Margaret Johnson. As president of ICE, I took the responsibility of finding her replacement as the number one priority for the organization. Our Executive Director is vital to the stability and growth of ICE now and in the future. I'm proud to say that our Executive Board and the search committee shared this commitment to find a great leader to become our next Executive Director. We are excited to have Amber Heffner as this new leader. Amber's introduction and bio are also included in this edition of the newsletter.

Third, the ICE Executive Board is proud to offer nearly \$10,000 in mini-grants to member teachers. These grants will assist teachers in their quest to improve instruction through technology innovations big and small. Judy Satkiewicz and Lorie Jessup have done great work to build this program to help teachers make the future happen in their classrooms. We look forward to highlighting the winners and their grant projects at the conference in February.

The fourth exciting development I would like to share is planned improvements to the ICE website. The ICE Executive Board and Margaret Johnson have spent considerable time researching improvements and potential development partners. The result of this work will be a two-phased process of improving the site. The first phase of this will be some upgrades to the look and function of the site. Users will see a fresher, more modern look to the site. Behind the scenes, upgrades will be implemented now that will lead to improvements in the future. As our new Executive Director comes on board in January, we will begin planning for the bigger, phase two, improvements. The anticipated launch for phase one improvements is at the ICE conference in February.

Finally, as always planning and preparations for ICE 2016 have been in full swing since last spring. The Conference Committee has selected a great roster of national speakers and we will be introducing some exciting new features, such as Breakout.edu, digital badges and more. Watch for the pre-conference booklet to be mailed to schools after Thanksgiving as we open registration the first week of December.

As you can tell, the past few months have been very busy for the ICE office and for the Executive Board. All of these activities have been in addition to the normal flow of activity. I appreciate the hard work of everyone involved to make these developments happen. I hope you can see from the list I've shared that each of these developments has a significant impact on the future of ICE. The future of ICE is here and the road ahead looks very bright.

info@iceberg.org

STAY CONNECTED



The ICE Newsletter is co-edited by [Amanda Pelsor](#) and [Michael Johnson](#)

