SUECON is Back! We are gearing up for The Southern Utah Educators Conference when we will be heading “Back to SUECON” in November 2015! Great Scott! Are you as excited as we are? You should be because it is going to be EPIC! . . . . “Whoa, this is heavy Doc!” Call for Presenters is open through September.

Keynote Speaker: Diana Laufenberg - For the past 16 years Diana has been a secondary social studies teacher in Wisconsin, Kansas, Arizona and Pennsylvania. She most recently taught at the Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia, an inquiry-driven, project-based high school focused on modern learning. Her practice has deep roots in experiential education, taking students from the classroom to the real world and back again. Prior to her work in Philadelphia, she was an active member of the teaching community in Flagstaff, AZ where she was named Technology Teacher of the Year for Arizona and a member of the Governor’s Master Teacher Corps. Diana was featured on TED.com for her “How to Learn? From Mistakes” and recognized for earning National Board Certification. Her publications include a featured piece on the New York Times Learning blog, co-authoring a chapter in an educational leadership book, and an article in the Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy. In 2013, Diana Laufenberg partnered with Chris Lehmann to start Inquiry Schools, a new non-profit working to create and support learning environments that are inquiry driven, project based and utilizing modern technology. She currently serves as the Managing Director and Lead Teacher for Inquiry Schools.

Augmented or Virtual Reality - A Powerful New Technology

Augmented reality is an exciting new technology that uses your hardware and software to augment what you are actually seeing in real life. For example, Theodolite: a cool little app that acts as your compass, GPS, map, and two-axis inclinometer. Great for hiking and active sports in general.

Another example that is currently available is DanKam for iPhone: an augmented reality application for those who are suffering from color-blindness. It is an experimental application at this point, but it could have huge potential.

Another example is SnapShop Showroom: a wonderful AR application that makes buying furniture or redecorating a room or house much more convenient.

Source: 40 Best Augmented Reality iPhone Apps
Welcome UCET’s New Board Members!

The UCET President Elect position and four elected board member positions were filled via elections conducted on Friday, April 3, 2015. The election results were announced in the closing session that same day.

To find out more about what the UCET board does, visit About and Board. All candidates submitted a short bio and answer to the question, “I would like to serve on the UCET board because...” We look forward to getting to know our new board members.

Elected Board Members 2015-2017

**President Elect - Michael Hakkarinen, @EdTecHakk, Instructional Technology Trainer, UEN**

**Dani Sloan – @DaniKSloan – Technical Trainer, Utah Education Network**

**Justin Andersen – Teacher, Salt Lake City School District**

**David Horan – @downrightdave – 4th Grade Teacher, Alpine School District**

**Chandra Martz – @ChandraMartz – Educational Technology Specialist, Canyons School District**

#utedchat Highlights - April

This last month we wrapped up UCET 2015, offered tips for students on safe social media, and suggested different methods of teaching soft skills. Thank you @lars3eb, @camilleco, @michelle_zey, @covili and @sthompsonpc for being Chat Leaders. You can check out all the Storify archives and plan ahead for next month at http://www.ucet.org/utedchat/

Our UCET 2015 chat had conference attendees from first timers to old timers (@yorgus has over 25 years). Attendees loved meeting others passionate about ed tech and connecting with their PLN peeps in real life. The @getkahoot games were listed as a top activity and everyone enjoyed the @utahsown snacks and prizes. Just in case you’re looking for more yummy snacks - http://utahsown.org is full of goodness. Presenters encourage us to think about presenting for next year, perhaps with a friend. Conferences goers enjoyed getting to know @coolcatteacher and @jaymcfarland through the stories shared in the keynotes.

@MrJFawson “We are going to be on the leading bleeding edge. Sometimes we lead, sometimes we bleed.”
@coolcatteacher

@misterlarsen“Are you going to teach the same year 30 times or teach 30 years with each one better than the last?” fave from @coolcatteacher

@DaniKSloan A3: I liked when @coolcatteacher said, “Stronger connections=Less Fear.” Kind of what #UCET is all about!

@RRScotta A3: @JayMcFarland helped me to have faith in every student. Also, we need to inspire the kids in school that #justgoogleit

@MaryTouchet A3 @JayMcfarland Great ideas for education changes: Teach Coding, Tech Certificates for Grads, Learning for Ss who know...

Most attendees seemed to select #ucet15 sessions based on topic and others by presenter. If they attended with friends or colleagues they shared notes.

@ronaldfisher A4 that’s the hardest part when you want to be in two or three or four spots at once, sometimes too many choices caused me stress

@bwe545 A4 both so I usually had 3 or 4 classes I wanted to go to. friends split up and took lots of notes. We’re going to share on mon
UCET Grants - Go for it!!!

The grant program administered by Utah Coalition for Educational Technology is funded by our vendors. This program will award a variable number of grants each year, not exceeding $1,500 per grant. The program’s purpose is to help support those teachers striving to demonstrate technology can...

- employ creative and innovative ways,
- support Utah Core Curriculum connections,
- demonstrate student learning and achievement,
- fortify the school community.

Any UCET attendee, having attended all sessions may apply for the grant. Grant funds must be used to purchase technology from a UCET vendor. All materials and services purchased with UCET’s funds as a result of this award are the property of the school or district. A panel representing UCET will meet in late May to determine which applications will be funded.

**Deadline & Maximum Award - May 15 for $1,500**

Grant Chair - Robert Gordon, robert.gordon@ucet.org

Helpful Documents

- Grant Program Description - http://goo.gl/h3oKKx
- Grant Scoring Rubric - http://goo.gl/XWO38M
- Vendor List - http://goo.gl/6ZGgla
- Vendor Map - http://goo.gl/colwfD

Proposal Submission via Google Form at http://goo.gl/McSIBA

---

**Tech Report: Arubixs Portal Smartphone**

A new product is scheduled for release next year. Portal can be comfortably worn on either forearm and features no ports or cord connectivity, freeing your hands and pockets to keep your life active, connected, and hassle-free. Click on the photo above to watch a news feature about this product.

Portal is scratch & shatter proof, water resistant, and flexible, making it an ideal companion for the most demanding activities.


---

**SciGirls**

http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/scigirls/?topic_id=796

From the website: “SciGirls has the bold goal of changing how millions of girls think about science, technology, engineering and math – or STEM. Each half-hour episode highlights the processes of science and engineering, following a different group of middle school girls who design, with the help of scientist mentors, their own inquiry-based investigations on a variety of topics. They also learn how rewarding and fun it is to work with their peers, and the shows’ female mentors offer girls a glimpse of exciting STEM career possibilities.

SciGirls educational materials provide gender-equitable teaching strategies and hands-on inquiries based on the concepts modeled in SciGirls’ videos. The SciGirls approach is rooted in research on how to engage girls in STEM. A quarter of a century of studies have converged on a set of common strategies that work, and these have become SciGirls’ foundation—aka the SciGirls Seven. All SciGirls activities were created with the SciGirls Seven in mind and incorporate as many strategies as possible.”
UCET Awards for 2015

In the opening session of #ucet15, we were pleased to announce our award winners and honor all award nominees. We’ve included a bit of the nominating statements for each award winner in this issue of the newsletter and on our website. Award details and all nominees can be found at http://www.ucet.org/awards/

**Glen Andersen - UCET Outstanding Teacher of the Year**
(Washington County School District, Teacher Grade 5) “Every time I am in Mr. Andersen’s classroom, it strikes me that THIS is what education is about, THIS is what every child deserves. He understands how technology can individualize and inspire learning in students. I often see his students deeply engaged in work on their ipads whether responding to their classmates or teachers in writing, creating movies, practicing math skills, taking an assessment, or working on a class project. Our profession needs more “Mr. Andersens”; he not only understands what he needs to do in order to be successful in the classroom, he willingly shares his expertise and passion with all those around him.”

**Jared Ward - UCET Outstanding Leader of the Year**
(Canyons School District, Educational Technology Specialist) “Jared makes technology accessible and less intimidating to virtually every teacher he works with. He has helped teachers at Brighton and Jordan High become excited about using Canvas, Chromebooks, iPads, and other technology. Through his persistent and compassionate teaching, he helps even the most resistant teachers understand how these tools can make their classrooms better and help their students be more engaged.”

**Kyle Hansen - UCET Outstanding Young Educator of the Year**
(American Leadership Academy, Teacher Grade 5) “Kyle has an enthusiasm for learning. He has the ability to engage students, parents, administrators and fellow teachers in collaborative growth and creating a community of learners. Daily, he strives to make learning fun. Throughout all activities, he tries to bring out the best in each student he works with by actively involving them in instruction, transforming the students into collaborative community members and engaging learners at all levels.”

**Robert Gordon - Making IT Happen**
(Canyons School District, Secondary Ed Tech Team Lead) “Robert skillfully empowers administrators, teachers, and students in their effective use of educational technology by always looking for engaging ways to teach such use. In spite of his ability to fix most of the problems people bring to him, Robert’s first priority is consistently to teach his “students” – with kindness and tact – to solve their own problems, using current technology and instructional skill.”

**Teacher Highlights**

UCET would like to congratulate the Zions Bank KSL Teacher Feature Award Winners for April.

- Staci James, Scera Park Elementary - April 22, http://goo.gl/hNgfCG
- Michael Lloyd, North Lake Elementary - April 8, http://goo.gl/gFPrrB
- Laurie Benson, Rosamond Elementary - April 1, http://goo.gl/IpEJJ8

“KSL NewsRadio, Zions Bank and Burt Brothers Tire & Service are proud to honor Utah’s best teachers with the KSL Teacher Feature Awards! Since 1994, Teacher Feature has highlighted outstanding teachers throughout the State of Utah. Winning teachers are announced every Tuesday morning, September through June, on KSL Grant and Amanda’s Morning Show.” - Zions Bank KSL Teacher Feature, http://www.ksl.com/?nid=191&sid=467810

If you have a staff member you’d like us to highlight, please email tricia.jackson@ucet.org
Artificial intelligence is getting smarter by leaps and bounds — within this century, research suggests, a computer AI could be as “smart” as a human being. And then, says Nick Bostrom, it will overtake us: “Machine intelligence is the last invention that humanity will ever need to make.” A philosopher and technologist, Bostrom asks us to think hard about the world we’re building right now, driven by thinking machines. Will our smart machines help to preserve humanity and our values — or will they have values of their own?

Adobe Slate — Make your words and images move

Named App Store Editors’ Choice, Slate lets you turn your next newsletter, report, invitation or travel adventure into a gorgeous visual story that delights readers on any device. Simply tap to select a unique look — beautiful fonts, color and magazine-style design are automatically incorporated. Fluid movement and elegant motion are applied instantly. Share your Slate story link anywhere. Grab attention, increase awareness and inspire action. Stand out.

In-app purchase of 20GB of cloud storage available for $1.99.

Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPad.
Teacher Professional Development Programs at the NASTAR Center

The National AeroSpace Training and Research, or NASTAR, Center is hosting a series of teacher professional development programs throughout the month of July. Here’s your chance to experience acceleration in a centrifuge, pilot an airplane simulator, or explore the gas laws in an altitude chamber. Each one-day workshop is worth eight hours of continuing education.

One-day workshops are planned for multiple dates in July. To see a full list of workshop dates, visit http://www.nastarcenter.com/nastar-teacher-professional-development-program-dates-for-2015.

For more information about the workshops and to download a registration packet, visit http://www.nastarcenter.com/education/teachers.

The NASTAR Center is located in Southampton, Pennsylvania, a northern suburb of Philadelphia. The center is an Affiliate Member of the NASA Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium. Funding from the NASA Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium supports these programs, so they are offered at no cost to teachers.

Questions about this series of workshops should be directed to Greg Kennedy at gkennedy@nastarcenter.com.

New NASA Lithograph Available - Free for Educators

http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/OtherPRINT/Lithographs/m16_eaglenebula_litho.pdf

The Hubble Space Telescope has revisited the famous “Pillars of Creation” in the Eagle Nebula, providing astronomers with a sharper and wider view of the giant structures where young stars are being born. The image was issued in anticipation of Hubble’s 25th anniversary.

The original Hubble photo, taken in 1995, revealed never-before-seen details of three giant pillars of cold gas bathed in the ultraviolet light from a cluster of young, massive stars.

The Hubble image of the tall pillars of gas, taken in visible light in 1995, made the Eagle Nebula famous. Astronomers had seen the pillar-like structures in ground-based images, but not in detail. Because it is relatively nearby, the Eagle Nebula gives astronomers a clear and up-close view of these kinds of star-making pillars.

In 2014, Hubble again observed the Eagle Nebula, this time with one of its new cameras, the Wide Field Camera 3. The versatile camera took images of the pillars in visible and in near-infrared light.

Many more free NASA lithographs are located here...http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/OtherPRINT/Lithographs.html...at your Utah NASA Regional Educator Resource Center!

For other NASA materials, visit TeacherLINK or the main NASA Portal!
What happens when a billion people get computers? | Matt Dalio & Jimmy Calí | TEDxUFM

Matt Dalio explains how giving access to computers can change the life of billions. He presents a living proof of that, having a conversation on stage with Jimmy Calí, a 12 years old kid who learned to speak English in eight months using his computer.

Matt Dalio founded Care Foundation at the age of 16 to offer orphaned children a brighter future. He also is CEO and Chief of Product at Endless Mobile.

Jimmy Calí is a 12 years old who loves to read books and play video games, he has learned to speak English language in eight months using his computer, he also is learning programming using Khan Academy videos.

This talk was given at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community.

Learn more at http://ted.com/tedx
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp4Z4EVFA0g&feature=youtu.be&t=3m33s

Education on Air - Google Education

Want to inspire educators to innovate in their classrooms? Looking for some ideas to engage students and increase productivity near the end of the school year? Encourage educators to register for Education on Air, a free online conference. Join the discussion about how we can improve education and better prepare our students for an ever-changing world. On May 8-9 tune in for panels, keynotes, and workshops from over 100 educators, business leaders and others.


Tell Spec- What's in Your Food

by Sara Jensen, USU Student

Tell Spec is a small hand held food scanning device that tells you the allergens, nutrients, calories, and ingredients in your food. You simply aim the scanner at the food and press the button and in a matter of seconds information about your food will appear on your smartphone.

How does it work? Light is made up of particles called photons. When you aim the scanner at the food, some of the photons are absorbed raising the energy states of the molecules in the food and replacing them with lower energy photons. The spectrometer inside the tell spec will then sort these photons by wavelength and count them. The resulting numbers describe the chemical compounds found in the food. The spectrum of the food is sent to the Tell spec analysis engine in one of their servers which then processes the information. Tell spec will send relevant information to your smartphone about your food based on selected data preferences.

This device is really useful for those with food allergies such as gluten. A description about other harmful substances in your food and how much it contains will also come up on your smartphone.

http://tellspec.com
https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=15&v=2GJMAFUp6cs

Education on Air - Google Education

Want to inspire educators to innovate in their classrooms? Looking for some ideas to engage students and increase productivity near the end of the school year? Encourage educators to register for Education on Air, a free online conference. Join the discussion about how we can improve education and better prepare our students for an ever-changing world. On May 8-9 tune in for panels, keynotes, and workshops from over 100 educators, business leaders and others.


Tell Spec- What's in Your Food

by Sara Jensen, USU Student

Tell Spec is a small hand held food scanning device that tells you the allergens, nutrients, calories, and ingredients in your food. You simply aim the scanner at the food and press the button and in a matter of seconds information about your food will appear on your smartphone.

How does it work? Light is made up of particles called photons. When you aim the scanner at the food, some of the photons are absorbed raising the energy states of the molecules in the food and replacing them with lower energy photons. The spectrometer inside the tell spec will then sort these photons by wavelength and count them. The resulting numbers describe the chemical compounds found in the food. The spectrum of the food is sent to the Tell spec analysis engine in one of their servers which then processes the information. Tell spec will send relevant information to your smartphone about your food based on selected data preferences.

This device is really useful for those with food allergies such as gluten. A description about other harmful substances in your food and how much it contains will also come up on your smartphone.

http://tellspec.com
https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=15&v=2GJMAFUp6cs
The Apple Watch

by Dave Wilkins, USU Student

We’ve seen Apple revolutionize many different gadgets and devices over the past decade, but finally, they’ve released the Apple Watch. There’s been talk about this for a while now. Many consider it a mini iPhone strapped to your wrist with many of the same capabilities as the iPhone. You can answer phone calls, send and receive text messages, play music, monitor your health, and use many other similar apps that you find on an iPhone. The most obvious difficulty with using these apps is the size of the screen. The Apple Watch is Apple’s first new product in the past five years - the last being the iPad - and also its first major launch since the death of Steve Jobs. This watch does more than just tell time.

Apple has said, “[The] Apple Watch is unlike any device we’ve ever made. But we wanted interacting with it to be just as easy and intuitive as using your iPhone or working on a Mac. So we invented all-new ways to select, navigate, and input that are ideally suited to a smaller device worn on the wrist. The result is an experience that’s both unique to Apple Watch and quintessentially Apple.”

The Apple Watch comes in three different models: Watch, Sport, and Edition. They vary greatly in price and style.

**Watch:** $349 - $399: Stainless steel or space black stainless steel case. Sapphire crystal. A range of stylish bands.

**Sport:** $549 - $599: Anodized aluminum cases in silver or space gray. Strengthened Ion-X glass. Colorful, durable bands.

**Edition:** $10,000 - $12,000: 18-karat gold cases in yellow or rose. Sapphire crystal. Exquisitely crafted bands and closures.

I’ve highlighted some features of the Apple Watch below taken from Apple’s website.

**Fitness:** A smarter way to look at fitness.

Apple Watch gives you a complete picture of your all-day activity. The three rings of the Activity app show your daily progress and help motivate you to sit less, move more, and get some exercise. It’s also an advanced sports watch, giving you real-time stats for a variety of the most popular workouts. Over time, Apple Watch learns your activity and fitness levels. It uses that information to improve the accuracy of your measurements and suggest personalized all-day activity goals. It even provides custom reminders to encourage you to achieve them.

**Messaging:** Never miss a message.

You’ll know right away when someone sends you a message, because a notification appears front and center on Apple Watch. Hold up your wrist to read the message, or lower your arm to dismiss it.

Your wrist now takes phone calls.

Use the built-in speaker and microphone for quick chats, or seamlessly transfer calls to your iPhone for longer conversations. To mute an incoming call, just cover Apple Watch with your hand.


Projections of the Future

by Jordan Haws, USU Student

Smartphones are becoming more and more common place in today’s world, and some are even claiming to replace computers. Now, there are still definite advantages to having full computer, but one of those advantages might be at an end. Having such a small keyboard on a phone or tablet can get frustrating, so Celluon is a company that has come out with the most recent in virtual keyboards.

The Bluetooth projector itself is only the size of a large lighter, but can ideally give you the full range of motion of a much more normal sized keyboard. In concept, it’s actually not too crazy of an idea. The Celluon Epic, as it is titled, puts out an infrared beam, and then a projected keyboard on top of that. When the infrared beam is broken by a finger, it senses where beam is broken and matches it to the corresponding key. It’s as easy as that.

The price? Under $100.

ChromeBit - a Chromebook in a Stick

Google has just introduced ChromeBit - a Chromebook in a stick. On the end of the stick is an HDMI connector. Plug this into your TV and your set becomes a Chromebook computer. The HDMI port can angle so you can get the stick plugged in no matter where the ports are on your TV. According to Gizmodo, “In addition to your Rockchip RK3288 (with quad-core Mali 760 graphics) you get 2GB of RAM, 16GB of solid state storage, 2x2 dual-band 802.11a/b WiFi, Bluetooth 4.0, and a single full-size USB 2.0 port on one end.” The price? Under $100.
Smart Home Technologies
by Jordan Robertson, USU Student

Today is the technology of tomorrow, almost everything can be used with or somehow can be combined to make our lives easier with technology. This especially comes in hand when we look at what technology can do for us in our homes today. These technologies can include controlling your home temperature, letting you into your house without getting keys out of your pocket, to even starting your dinner at night before you even take a step into the kitchen. What do all of these devices have to offer? Convenience.

Something that we can all agree on is saving money and putting paper back in your pockets. And that’s what the Nest Learning Thermostat is doing for us today. The nest controls your homes heating and cooling unit by replacing your old conventional thermostat on your wall. The Nest Thermostat learns your ways and knows when you are at home or out and about.

The Nest is really easy to connect up to your home. The normal time for the average Joe to install the Nest is about 20 – 30 minutes and it does not require any tools. They provide you with a screwdriver and everything to install your device. Once you get it up and running you will need to connect it to your home wifi and then you are ready to install the app on your phone.

The Nest app is on your apple/android app store and is free to download. The app is full of useful tools that will allow you to save money. The first step is to input on the app when you are going to be in and out of the house with your busy schedule, this way it won’t be blowing 75 degrees out into an empty house. The app also allows you to access the Nest Thermostat to turn the air off and on and change the temperature from a different location. Studies have shown that the Nest thermostat has an average of saving customers 20 percent on the energy bill.

Have you ever burnt something in the oven and the fire alarm will go off? Next thing you know you’re waving a towel in front of the device, but the smoke detector will still not turn off? Well luckily now the Nest smoke/Carbon Monoxide detector is here to save you. If you burn something in the oven, the Nest Smoke alarm will warn you before going off, you wave your hands in front of so it will turn off and not make the blaring noises we have all come accustomed to.

Not only is this device a fire alarm, it is also a Carbon Monoxide Detector. The Nest will tell you in actual clear words what the problem is. The device will tell you where the issue is and will tell you to get outdoors immediately. This way you and your family can be safe and outdoors before something serious will happen. The Nest Smoke detector is run on batteries, and when the batteries get low the device will send a text message to your phone to replace them.

Safety is very important to our lives, it gives us the security of thought knowing that we are safe. And for this reason we have been using keys on our home doors. But keys can be a hassle when you’re bringing in groceries or coming home in the rain to get your keys out of your pocket and unlock your door. But fear not! Kwikset has now made a smart lock that unlocks your door once you get close with either your phone or a digital fob (key). You just press on the side of the lock and the door mysteriously opens.

The Kevo smartlock also has a regular deadbolt, just in case your 4 double AA batteries decide to die on you. Kwikset made an app for your apple/android device, so users can create digital keys for anyone who has the app. And you can also manage those digital keys just in case you want to kick that son of yours out of the house.

Besides all the useful safe features that technology is bringing us today, technology is also bring us a good time to eat dinner in our busy lives. Belkin has made a device called the Belkin WeMO smart slow cooker. This device is the first smartphone-controllable slow cooker. On apple/android devices users can download the app and customers can adjust the crock-pot’s setting from anywhere. The app will also send the users useful information to their phones, such as reminders, cook time, cooking temperature, as well as being able to check the status of the dish. Nothing is better than coming home to a crock-pot meal after a long day at work.

These technologies are just some examples of smart home devices that are coming out in the market today. Who knows maybe we will finally get those teleport machines that will allow us to travel house to house without even stepping into a car in the near future.

https://nest.com
The Evolution of the Web - http://evolutionofweb.appspot.com

The web today is a growing universe of interlinked web pages and web apps, teeming with videos, photos, and interactive content. What the average user doesn’t see is the interplay of web technologies and browsers that makes all this possible.

Over time web technologies have evolved to give web developers the ability to create new generations of useful and immersive web experiences. Today’s web is a result of the ongoing efforts of an open web community that helps define these web technologies, like HTML5, CSS3 and WebGL and ensure that they’re supported in all web browsers.

The color bands in this visualization represent the interaction between web technologies and browsers, which brings to life the many powerful web apps that we use daily. Have fun exploring this interactive timeline!

Tonight’s Bedtime Story - Fairy Tales for Sleepy Children

www.tonightsbedtimestory.com/ebooks/

Check our eBooks section for FREE easy to print PDF versions of the stories. As of today, we have 79 classic fairy tales. More to come soon...

Stories include:

• Adventures Of John Dietrich
• Beauty And The Beast (Walter Crane)
• Brother And Sister
• Cinderella Or, The Little Glass Slipper (Felix Lorioux)
• Clever Alice
• Fortunatus
• Graciosa And Percinet
• Hop-O’-My-Thumb (Felix Lorioux)
• House Island
• Jack And The Bean-Stalk
• Jack The Giant-Killer

Work With Students Remotely With These Tools

Source: http://goo.gl/KIaKN9

Frank Freeman wrote:

“Google Hangouts While Skype is always a great option, I find that Google Hangouts works more smoothly for online sessions. Their screen sharing feature is fast and intuitive, and it allows the presenter to share either a single application or the entire screen. Integration with other Google tools is a cinch, and students love Google Effects, which allows them to draw on the screen, or wear silly hats and props.

Google Docs is outstanding for helping students write papers or short-answer responses. The application allows multiple contributors to simultaneously edit the content of a document, and add comments as well. When students and parents use the application for the first time, they are always excited to see their instructor typing in real time.

AWW: A Web Whiteboard awwapp.com is a free white board tool perfect for demonstrating solutions to math problems remotely. I highly recommend the purchase of a nice computer mouse, such as those used by gamers, as it will allow for more precision when drawing on the whiteboard.

Calendly This app has greatly simplified the scheduling of my online sessions. It syncs with my calendar, so I can just send a single link to my students and it will let them know my availability. It blocks out times when I’m unavailable, and sends me an email when students schedule time with me.”
FingerReader

A WEARABLE INTERFACE FOR READING ON-THE-GO
http://fluid.media.mit.edu/projects/fingerreader

The FingerReader is a wearable device that assists in reading printed text. It is a tool both for visually impaired people that require help with accessing printed text, as well as an aid for language translation. Wearers scan a text line with their finger and receive an audio feedback of the words and a haptic feedback of the layout: start and end of line, new line, and other cues. The FingerReader algorithm knows to detect and give feedback when the user veers away from the baseline of the text, and helps them maintain a straight scanning motion within the line. Video Demo: https://vimeo.com/86912300

Augmented Reality
by Kelson English, USU Student

Augmented reality is technology that allows you to look at the physical world around you, but augmented with computer generated images and information.

For the last few years, technology has been moving in a way that enables us to unchain ourselves from our computers and perform tasks on more mobile devices, such as phones and tablets. 2015 and the upcoming years will provide even more than that. Imagine checking your email, making phone calls, or reading new articles, without a physical screen or keyboard. This is becoming a reality with advancements in Augmented Reality technology. Products such as Google Glass and Sony SmartEyeglass Attach, which are forecasted to be available to the public within the next year, will provide users with data to their view without having to hunch over a computer or phone.

Some advertised uses for these augmented reality eyewear gadgets include recording video, taking pictures, GPS, and even tips while doing sports. With this technology, texts, graphics, and videos will be able to be superimposed into the user’s real time environment. By providing users with real time imagery this will be able to enhance activities from the classroom to the mountain biking trail.

Speak Up Report

The latest Speak Up report will be released April 30, sharing what students had to say about using technology for learning - both how they are using it and how they want to use it. A record 431,000 K-12 students took the online surveys nationwide this year.

The report will be released at a Congressional Briefing on Thursday at noon which will feature a panel of students (elementary through high school) who will share their opinions and experiences on technology and learning.

The briefing will be streamed live here: http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/CongressionalBriefingLiveStream.html

This year’s student report, Digital Learning 24/7: Understanding Technology – Enhanced Learning in the Lives of Today’s Students, provides landmark findings on the efficacy and value associated with popular digital learning initiatives: blended learning, online learning, school-assigned mobile devices and STEM learning.

Note that the findings of the surveys of adults (educators and parents) will be released in late May.
Adobe Ink & Slide
by Joe Bainbridge, USU Student

Adobe has engineered a new stylus for iPads called Adobe Ink & Slide. This new stylus has a lot of features that make it a great purchase if you create and manage artwork. The Adobe Ink & Slide is one of Adobe’s newest and innovative ideas to stay connected to Creative Cloud. Allowing you to connect and manage all of your data in the palm of your hand.

The Adobe Ink & Slide is packed with a lot of features that sets it apart from other styluses. According to Adobe.com, Adobe Ink & Slide is compatible with iPad 4+, iPad Air 1, iPad Mini or iPad Mini with Retina display. The Ink & Slide is designed with an aluminum shell, which makes it light and easy to handle. It is also developed with a fine-tip, allowing more precise writing and drawing. The Ink & Slide also has a built in color wheel with over hundreds of LED colors to choose from. Another great feature is the ability to draw and design perfect shapes and lines.

An interesting feature that sets the Ink & Slide apart from other styluses, is the ability to connect to Creative Cloud on the fly. Using the stylus, you can connect to Adobe Clipboard and sync, manage, and view your artwork. From there you can easily share your work! The Adobe Ink & Slide is a great tool for artists and all iPad users.