

Summary of the March 2022 for KY K-12 Education Technology Leaders' Virtual Meeting

In case you missed it or want a refresher, the following is what we talked about during the March 15, 2022 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at:

<https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2022/03/edtech-webcast-march-2022/>.

Public viewing of the archived webcasts and written summaries are also available on the KDE Media Portal at: <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/>. Numbers in **RED** indicate the timestamp for that portion of the discussion so it can be easily located on the full digital recording.

This was a virtual meeting with our OET staff and all the districts joining via Microsoft Teams and/or YouTube. We will continue to make these available from our KDE media portal so that you can watch the archived discussion and share with the appropriate people in your district. Several GoSoapBox poll questions were posed throughout the meeting and district EdTech leaders were asked to respond to all the questions as it assists us in planning and getting a feel for how to best move forward. Your voice and your feedback are important and extremely helpful to us. Please remember that in addition to these webcasts being available on the KDE Media Portal, each month's webcast is accompanied by these written summaries. We encourage you to share the link and all or any portion of these summary notes with staff throughout your district who may find the information beneficial to them in their position.

(2:04) Quick Look Back at KySTE 2022 - Being back at KySTE made things seem normal and this was a tremendous event! Thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered to put KySTE, the CIO Summit and the presentations together. High fives to KySTE staff; it was wonderful. Putting together an event this size is a lot of work and it was great in every aspect. Marty Park commented that this is truly a premiere event and conference where you can see all the hard work and collaborative efforts; the level and depth of the content was phenomenal.

This year's CIO Summit was a success and we had a very high percentage of our CIOs in attendance and providing feedback. We revised the format and agenda slightly this year to allow for a more in-depth discussion with fewer questions to accommodate our time slot. All the table comments, once submitted, will be reviewed and we'll cover the common themes and big points in a future webcast.





(7:11) The 2020-2022 Stilwell Award – During the closing ceremony, David announced the 2022 Stilwell Award and provided some comments on what this year's award, that spans the previous two years, means to all of us. After KySTE, David shared these comments in an email:

In case you weren't at the Kentucky Society for Technology in Education (KySTE) conference's KY K-12 CIO Summit last Wednesday morning or the closing ceremony of the KySTE conference on Friday afternoon, I gave a brief heads up about the 2020-2022 Stilwell award to the district CIOs during the end of the CIO Summit on Wednesday morning and then fully announced to all the KY K-12 CIOs, DTCs, digital learning coaches, library media specialists, technicians/network admins, virtual/remote learning leaders, data systems staff, STLP coaches/mentors, STLP students (e.g., student help desks in districts) and our OET staff during the KySTE closing ceremony on Friday afternoon. During breakfast, I happened to run into one of our previous Stilwell "red suspenders" award winners from a few years ago. Beneath his jacket he was proudly wearing his Stilwell red suspenders that were presented to him as part of being a Stilwell award winner. He then described, with great pride, what it meant to him to be recognized and appreciated as a Stilwell award winner. Lots of folks do great things who are never publicly thanked or recognized. This is especially true in the technology field where the average person is not aware of the great skill, long hours and dedication that it takes to make the EdTech work and then help folks do wonderful magical/educational things with it. No money comes with our Stilwell award but folks greatly appreciate a simple "thanks" and "high five" for a job well done when going above and beyond the call of duty. Nearly everyone of our Stilwell award winners had never been publicly thanked or recognized for their role in helping KY K-12 be successful until they received the Stilwell. We always totally surprise the recipients and this year was no different. Tomorrow morning, during our monthly webcast with district CIOs/EdTech leaders, I'll once again announce the 2020-2022 Stilwell special medal, using the notes below to talk from, for those district folks that were not at KySTE last week and then will discuss the planned next steps that are also listed below.

The following are the notes read by David Couch during the closing KySTE ceremony:

- Like most of you all, over the past 3 days, have laughed and smiled continuously, harder and longer than anytime over the past 2 years. This was just so wonderful and therapeutic. Thanks KySTE!
- Over past 2 years, my peers in the other 49 states regularly said, "KY K-12 EdTech is what they strive to be". Our secret sauce in KY K-12 is our relationships with each other in this room. No other state has "this".
- KY K-12 EdTech is the pioneer and "the national leader" in most aspects of K-12 EdTech. Our KETS Timeline (at [KETS 2018 - 2024 Master Plan - Appendix G - Kentucky Department of Education](#)) and 2022 Digital Readiness Infographic (at [KETS 2018 - 2024 Master Plan - Appendix B - Kentucky Department of Education](#)) easily supports that statement.

- The past 2 years are my proudest of my 30 years at KDE. When the lights were brightest on KY K-12 EdTech, we all came through. 30 years of teamwork and a solid foundation really paid off in a meaningful way.
- These past 2 years have been like 10 years in EdTech years for all of us involved with KY K-12 EdTech. Has most certainly aged me 10 years.
- The Bill Stilwell “red suspenders” award is the highest honor that KDE provides in K-12 EdTech. Goes to an individual or organization that goes above and beyond the call of duty. Here is its’ history and past recipients: [The Stilwell Award - Kentucky Department of Education](#)

This year we have a “special version” of the Stilwell “red suspenders” award. KY K-12 Education Commissioner Jason Glass and I are presenting the 2020-2022 Stilwell medal to... **each of you**. One of the US Army’s most prestigious awards is the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM). The MSM is the medal that I cherish the most receiving as a military officer for Operation Desert Storm. The Stilwell medal is our equivalent version of the MSM and will be presented to you for your successful and meritorious tour of KY K-12 EdTech duty to your organization/district and our state beginning on 10 March 2020 during the 1st day of the 2020 KySTE conference and ending on 11 March 2022 the last day of the 2022 KySTE conference. During that timeframe you survived and thrived amongst all the chaos and intensity.

Over the next few months, we will identify the specific ways the EdTech teams in your district/organization made a significant and overwhelming difference, going far above the call of duty and will communicate this to you, your district’s/organization’s leadership and your board. This medal is to all you CIOs/EdTech Leaders, DTCs (district technology coordinators), STCs (school technology coordinators), technicians/network admins, digital learning coaches (DLCs), Library Media Specialists, virtual/remote learning leaders, student/staff data systems staff, certain STLP services and our OET (Office of Education Technology in the KY Dept of Education) staff that helped with the delivery of KY K-12 EdTech services during the past 24 months.

This special Stilwell meritorious service medal is our heartfelt way to say, **“Thank you for what you did and sacrificed over the past 2 years. You are amazing!”**

Congratulations! Thank you.



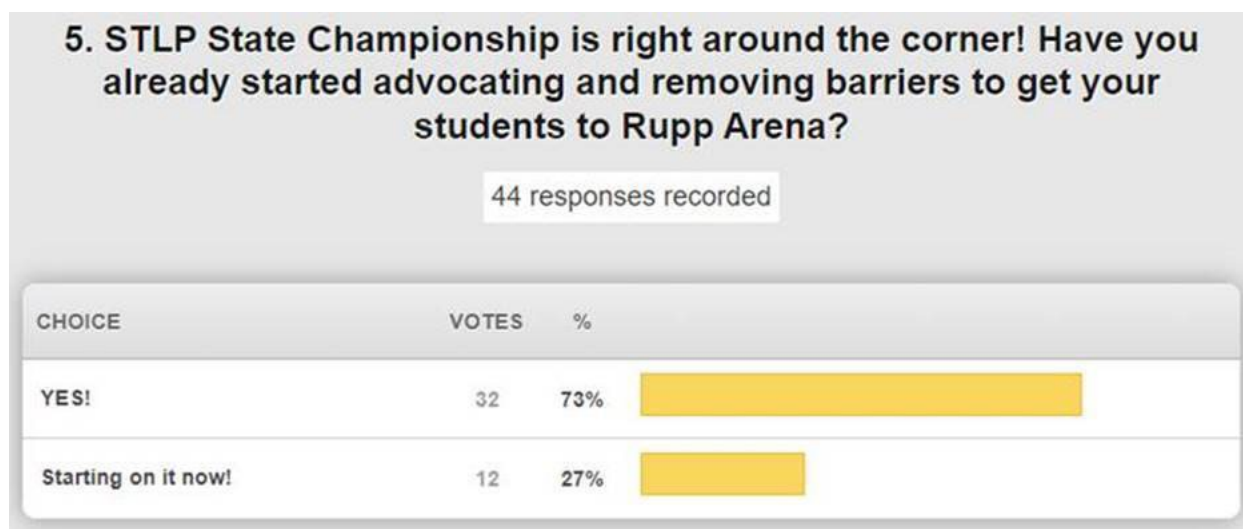
Our plan is to have our STLP students design the medal and we’ll be preparing the communication and delivery methods. We really want to emphasize to your leadership/board just how much you accomplished and how much you overcame to make the last two years successful. If you have suggestions on how to make this more meaningful, please share. We’ll also be planning a Red Suspender Day for the near future and have more details soon.

(16:16) Lightspeed Update – Lightspeed had a booth at the KySTE event and they had some of their senior leadership there to talk with attendees. Phil and David talked about the work that Lightspeed has been doing in

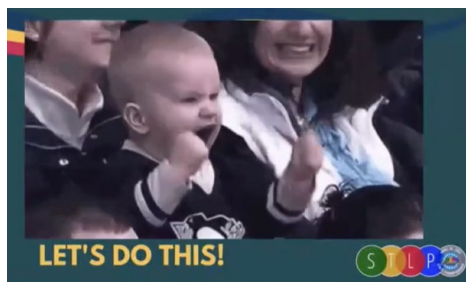
working toward a resolution with the Infinite Campus issue. Lightspeed has been very transparent and very professional in working toward a resolution. Just for reference, the Infinite Campus issue does not affect Chromebooks or iPads; however, it does affect our Windows and Mac OS devices and it has been seen more prevalently with power users of the IC application who use Edge and Chrome browsers.

Rob McCartney prepared a video update and it was shared beginning at the **(18:00)** mark. Some of Lightspeed's top engineers have been working onsite at affected school districts to work directly with staff and locations that are experiencing the issues between Infinite Campus and Lightspeed. We now know what is causing the issue with IC and a few other customer products. He explained the issue in detail, how it is connected to the browser being used and how the problem results in IC closing down. Being onsite and recreating these issues has been extremely helpful in the resolution process. There is a new smart agent—version 10.1.1, but this did not resolve the issue. Developers are finalizing a new smart agent version and we'll be testing this new build with the fix. Once testing is complete and successful, we'll push this out statewide. We are also working on the 2.0 agent that will filter browser traffic differently for all browsers.

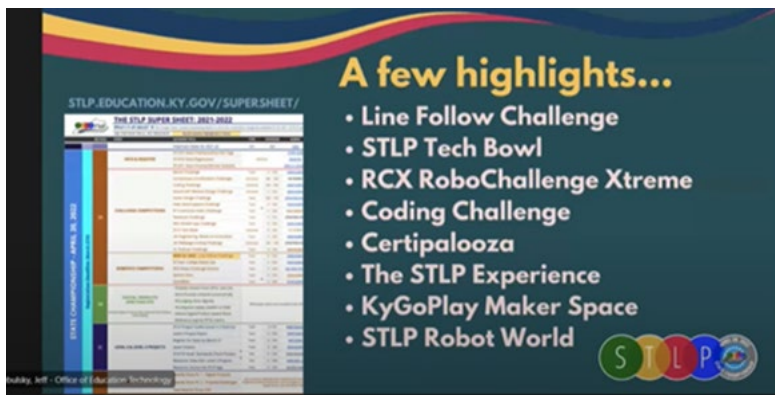
(33:02) STLP State Championship--Rupp Arena on 4/20/22 – STLP is an excellent way that we are showing how technology is used and being continually integrated into the learning environment. STLP State Championship is right around the corner and we posed the following question about removing barriers to attendance on April 20, 2022.



Registration is happening now and the goal today was to bring the hype!!!



Our STLP Engineers were recognized for their work at KySTE; it was great to have them come together and work in this role once again throughout the conference facilities. The feeling described about attending KySTE in person is the same feeling we want to bring to Rupp Arena on April 20th. We will be back at Rupp in a newly renovated Central Bank Center; we are going to be using about 95% of the new space and that affords us tons of room to space out and allow for growth. There will be two award shows this year and some returning/new events:



The road to Rupp happens in 4 ways:

1. Regional competitions that happened in December
2. Participate in the 20+ live challenges that happen at the STLP State Championship
3. Just attend and get involved
4. Digital Product (DPOJ) Competition

Registration is happening now through March 27th to let us know you are coming. Visit <https://stlp.education.ky.gov/> for all the details! Also on this day, the Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative (KVEC) will be hosting their meeting from this venue and the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) is also hosting their meeting on-site and attending the STLP activities. We've attempted to host the KBE at one of our STLP State Championships twice before, so third time's the charm.

(44:56) From the KETS Corner by Mike Leadingham – Mike asked everyone to review his latest email message detailing several items for our EdTech leaders. Below you can find excerpts of that email along with items that have been highlighted/were discussed in more detail during today's presentation.

Below you will find a few reminders and awareness items that I feel it is important to ensure we have a consistent understanding of. As always, many of these topics you likely have already had some discussion with your KETS Engineer and we will also touch base on during the upcoming District EdTech Webcast on Tuesday, March 15th. Be sure to contact your KETS Engineer for any follow-up, additional clarification, or assistance as needed.

Be sure to also review my previous KETS Corner communication, attached below, for additional detail on many of these topics.

Great conversation and takeaways on each of the three CIO Summit Topics on Wednesday. I look forward to additional info. sharing on these topics, as well as additional activities to capture your input, contribution, and provide opportunity for your participation as we move each of these efforts forward. **As discussed, the Next Generation K-12 Internet will be a focused activity beginning now and through the rest of the calendar year.** Be prepared to provide additional observations and input into the progress on the MP Areas of Emphasis. The People Side of Technology certainly continues to present challenges in which we need to work together on how to make progress. We'll certainly be discussing each of the CIO Summit topics further through a variety of ways, including our EdTech Webcasts with David C. and through locally led KE discussions.

We have recently engaged with District Facilities Support Services within the KDE Office of Finance & Operations to review the overall structure and processes associated to the Technology Building Wiring Checklist. Our goal is to ensure this requirement to consider all technology & connectivity implications of any facility improvement or construction project is most easy to navigate and find benefit in for both the district leaders and the construction representatives working with the districts. It is important for you, as the EdTech Leader for your district, to be engaged during the initial conversations and design work of any facilities project. The District Facilities Support Services will be capturing feedback and sharing info. on this topic with the architect partners that work with districts leaders at upcoming meetings in March &

April. We'll also be seeking additional feedback from you, as well as providing you with more updates and guidance on this topic as we continue reviewing and making improvements.

The final day to file for Erate eligible products and services creeps ever closer. The window remains scheduled to close on Tuesday, March 22nd.

Mini-bids and 470's need to be nearing completion. Reference previous communications for important reminders regarding responsible management of your Erate activities. Be sure to reach out to your KE for any last minute assistance or guidance. Jody Rose, Scott Kane, and Caprice Gay conducted an excellent presentation during KySTE on the best practices and what to watch out for while navigating the Erate program and maximizing your district's benefit from the program. We'll ensure highlights from this presentation continue to be made available to everyone for continued awareness and understanding of how to maximize this program.

We've received minimal input to include in a state response to the Erate Notice of Proposed Rule Making, to address "Promoting Fair and Open Competitive Bidding in the E-Rate Program". Be sure to provide comment directly yourself or provide any thoughts or ideas to your KE for us to consider including in a state response. Due dates have been updated to March 28th for initial comments, and April 27th for reply comments. We will consider providing an initial response on behalf of the KETS Program; however, will for sure provide a follow-up response before the April 27th deadline. Additional info. is in previous communications.

I've heard of many examples of great progress and activities contributing to District Technology Planning. The completion due date remains Friday, April 15th. Both the Digital Learning Team and KETS Engineers will continue to work with you on this important work. Neil Arnett, of Pikeville Independent Schools, provided a great session during KySTE on a solid approach for EdTech planning, including a thorough representation of activities and interaction within the district to ensure a very solid, valuable, and workable plan. We'll be looking to work with Neil to pull some takeaways to share with everyone from this presentation.

The 2nd KETS Offers of Assistance is in the mail... well, about to be coming across the wire. The 2nd KETS Offers of \$12/ADA will begin within the next week.

Congratulations to each of you for receiving the Stilwell Award. For what this award stands for, each of you are truly deserving.

Tune into the upcoming District EdTech Webcast on Tuesday, March 15th for more on these topics and other KETS related activities.

I hope each of your teams are doing great as part of March Madness!

Look forward to seeing many of you again at the upcoming STLP State Championship in Lex. on Wed., April 20th.

Look for your KE to advise you with more detail and provide additional guidance or assistance as needed.

Thanks.
mL

Thanks for joining us today and we'll see you next month!