



LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET



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DCP Today

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Welcome to DCP Today, CENICs twice-monthly electronic newsletter detailing the latest news about the Digital California Project.

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Digital California Project News

USC Unveils New Remote Media Immersion Internet Technology

Remote Media Immersion (RMI), a new Internet technology that generates an immersive 3-D experience on home theater-sized screens, was recently unveiled by the Integrated Media Systems Center (IMSC), part of the University of Southern California's School of Engineering and a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center.

RMI merges the flexibility and interactivity of Web browsing with hi-fi imagery and immersive audio, delivering a superior experience to traditional Internet and broadcast video technologies. IMSC researchers used the high-speed capabilities of the Internet to transmit multiple streams of picture and sound across the nation for a big-screen presentation that dramatically surpasses the quality achievable with high-definition broadcast television. They used less than half the compression needed for broadcasting HDTV, thereby affording greater clarity of the final picture. RMI uses Yima software and hardware streaming architecture, also developed at IMSC, which delivers multiple, simultaneous high-bandwidth streams of images and sound synchronized with each other. Multichannel Immersive Audio uses multiple loudspeakers and algorithms to generate the sound field that can immerse a group - rather than just a single individual - in extremely realistic audio environments.

RMI was developed as a distributed application, rather than a point-to-point system. A number of servers in multiple cities can host a movie, and all may be called on to transmit various parts of the movie's video and audio streams, offering critical protection against delays in Internet traffic and other problems.

For more information about USC's IMSC, visit <http://imsc.usc.edu/>.

Governor's Mentoring Project

On June 7, mentor supervisors, after school coordinators, and K-20 educators participated in a pilot videoconference workshop: "Keys to Building and Sustaining a Successful Mentoring Program." This interactive videoconference workshop was delivered over the CalREN / Digital California Network between the University of California, Irvine, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. In addition, it was webcast with a real-time chatroom to involve participants at the Los Angeles and Sacramento County Offices of Education.

During the two hour videoconference/webcast, Jim Kooler, Director of the Governor's Mentoring Partnership and presenter Elsy Arevalo, Mentoring Institute Director from Friends for Youth in Los Altos, discussed the background and importance of mentoring, shared information about mentoring research and quality program delivery, and facilitated interactive dialogue among more than 100 participants from Irvine, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Sacramento.

The topic of the workshop was considered particularly timely. In the past few years, the concept of mentoring has gained state and national appeal as a method of helping youth navigate complex social issues. Its popularity makes mentoring appear to be an easy answer to many of today's concerns about youth.

However, to succeed in helping young people reach their full potential, mentoring programs need to adopt a series of proven best practices. With pilot efforts such as the June 7 workshop, videoconferencing/webcasting is being explored as a time-efficient, cost-effective way to engage citizens throughout California in learning about best practices for developing and sustaining successful mentoring programs.

Building upon the success of the June 7 event, a series of mentoring videoconferences are being planned for 2002-2003 under the sponsorship of the Governor's Mentoring Partnership, Evaluation Management and Training, University of California Office of the President, University of California, Irvine Department of Education and Instructional Resources Center, University of California, Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Orange County Department of Education, Sacramento County Office of Education, and CENIC. As part of the 2002-2003 series of videoconferences on mentoring, it is being proposed that participants will be able to earn one University of California Continuing Education Unit for attending each workshop and completing a follow-up assignment. A Mentoring Certificate is being considered for participants who successfully completion of nine units.

Source: Leann Parker, UCOP

Network Installation Update

This week, equipment installations are scheduled on three additional node sites --Nevada COE, Sierra West and Alpine COE node sites. Considerable progress is being made in the northeastern part of the state, where quotes are expected from service providers to connect the node sites in Modoc County. Special construction is nearing completion at node sites in Trinity and Lassen counties, and circuit due dates are expected when the construction work is completed.

The Round 2 network enhancement work is now underway, and equipment shipments have begun. Initial funding should be sent out by June 30 to those counties with previously approved Round 2 plans. DCP Project Management is beginning to work with those counties who were approved for a Round 2 node site, as well as addressing all the details related to establishing those new sites.

Source: Edwin Smith, Network Implementation Project Manager (smithew@csu.net)

National Education Technology News

Sally Ride Launches Girls' Science and Technology Club

A new science club founded by former astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, aims to link girls who are passionate about science and technology with each other and with women already in science careers.

The goal of the Sally Ride Science Club, founded late last year in San Diego, is to keep elementary and middle-school students from losing their interest in science, math, and technology at an age when statistics show they are most likely to do so. Designed as a forum for girls to discuss math and science, learn from professional women, and participate in science-centered activities, the club aims to inspire the next generation of female scientists and engineers.

"Our philosophy is to keep young girls interested, to introduce them to women role models and show them the range of opportunities open to them," Ride said in a recent interview.

The club's current roster of 1,000 members have access to a members-only web site, monthly newsletters, and eMail updates about upcoming science events for girls. Membership costs \$30.

Eventually, Ride envisions the club spreading nationally through local chapters that meet after school.

The club is the centerpiece of Imaginary Lines Inc., a for-profit company Ride started last fall to host nationwide community science festivals for girls in grades six through eight, and to offer girls-only events with partners such as Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala. The company is also working with Smith College, an all-women's institute, to sponsor a national toy design contest for elementary school boys and girls. Future plans include developing science-centered products, such as books and computer software.

Links:

Sally Ride Science Club
<http://www.sallyrideclub.com>

Imaginary Lines Inc.
<http://www.imaginarylinesinc.com>

Source: eSN School Technology Alert

E-Rate Update

As of May 29, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has issued four waves of funding commitment decision letters for funding year 5 applications that commit a total of \$452.2 million to applicants. USAC has acknowledged that no applications for internal connections by applicants eligible for less than 80% discount rates will receive funding. USAC has not yet determined whether any applicants between 80% and 89% will receive internal connections funding.

USAC is currently grappling with implementing the recent federal court decision that invalidates the portions of the Children's Internet Protection Act that require libraries to install blocking and filtering software on any computers connected to the Internet. In a recent notice to applicants, USAC indicated that the ruling leaves intact the blocking and filtering requirement for schools receiving E-Rate funding as well as CIPA's requirement that libraries and schools develop and implement Internet safety policies.

Source: International Society for Technology in Education Newsletter

Braitmayer Foundation Grants

The Braitmayer Foundation supports programs that enhance the education of K-12 students through curricular and school reform initiatives, professional development for teachers, and local community efforts. Its grants, which range in size up to \$35,000, are to be used as seed money, challenge grants, or to match other grants to the recipient organization. For grant requests larger than \$10,000, applicants should submit an original, plus seven copies of the following documents: a two-page letter of inquiry that describes the project and its timeframe, a proposed budget, and proof of 501(c)(3) status.

The deadline is June 30, 2002. For more information see <http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/guid.htm>

About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation formed by the California Institute of Technology, the California State University, Stanford University, the University of California, and the University of Southern California to facilitate and coordinate the deployment, development, and operation of a set of seamless and robust advanced network services. The CENIC Associates program offers qualified companies the opportunity to collaborate with CENIC in pursuit of the goal of providing the most advanced network services for research and education. Cisco Systems, Nortel Networks, Pacific Bell, and the University and Community College System of Nevada are CENIC's Partner Associates.

More information about CENIC is available at: <http://www.cenic.org>.

About DCP

The Digital California Project is a project of CENIC. A multi-million dollar effort funded by the State of California, the DCP was designed to build the necessary network infrastructure needed to prepare California's schools to take advantage of tomorrow's advances in network technology. In essence, CENIC is developing an advanced-services network to serve the entire California K-20 education and research community.

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