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DCP Today

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

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The Light Bridge Project: Using DCP to Prepare New Teachers to Use Technology

Light Bridge, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education's program, Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology (PT3), employs the CalREN/DCP network, now known as the CalREN/DC network, to pilot and establish revolutionary practices in preparing pre-service teachers to use technology in the classroom. The goals of the project are to:

- Strengthen teacher education programs through the development of rich video content;
- Establish a student teacher support and supervision system that assures high quality support and assistance at a distance; and
- Disseminate teacher education video content, online resources, and student teacher support and supervision system.

Light Bridge is a collaboration headed by Sonoma State University, with a broad array of public and private partners. It is utilizing MERLOT (another example of CSU-DCP application coordination) to support dissemination of promising practices and resources among college campuses. DCP is a major partner in the project, providing broadband access to partner K-12 schools and serving as the distribution network to reach all teacher-training institutions in the state.

Specific examples of Light Bridge activities include: developing and maintaining rich visual teacher education content; piloting the use of video conferencing for teaching, supervision, and mentoring of pre-service teachers; and, capturing the classroom performance of pre-service teachers for analysis and constructive criticism by mentor teachers and university supervisors over the network. Project staff are currently in the process of developing a series of digital video modules that demonstrate to new teachers and those in teacher preparation programs effective teaching practices, and how to use technology to enhance teaching and learning in core subject areas.

For more information, contact: <http://www.sonoma.edu/projects/lightbridge/>

Two New Grants to Put Technology in Classrooms

Federal School Renovation Technology Grants

The California Department of General Services-Public School Construction has just released information on another a grant program that could potentially support classroom level use of the CalREN/DCP network. In some instances, schools with CalREN/DCP network access do not have the necessary hardware to make optimal use of the network. However, the School Renovation Technology Grants can address this need for qualified schools with grades 4-8.

To obtain information about the Federal Renovation Program grant, please visit their web site at <http://www.opsc.dgs.ca.gov>.

Multimedia Media Computer Funding from CDE

Providing additional funding for Multimedia Computers in Grades 4-8, the California Department of Education (CDE) announced a new program to fund hardware acquisition to lower the student-to-multimedia computer ratio to in 4th-8th grade classrooms. Approximately \$33 million in federal funding will be made available to recently renovated schools in California for this purpose through a competitive grant process. Eligible applicants include school districts and county offices of education that serve any combination of grades 4-8.

To qualify for funding, a school must have undergone repairs or renovations within a specified time period. Additionally, the applicant must have completed the 2002 Online California School Technology Survey between January 14, 2002 and June 30, 2002 for each school in the district for which funding is sought. In addition to filing an application, the applicant agency must submit a current county office of education approved E-Rate plan or local governing board certified education technology plan.

The specific application process and deadlines can be found on the CDE Web site. To be find out more about notified of this grant opportunity, visit the CDE web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov>.

DCP Network Installation Update

As of September 3, 2002, circuits and equipment have been installed and tested at 60 of the 70 DCP Round One node sites, providing network connectivity in 88% of the counties in California (51 of the 58 counties) and network access to approximately 75% of the public K-12 schools statewide.

Operational DCP Sites with LAN Connections: (48)

SLO COE, Orange COE, Kern COE, Fresno COE, Merced COE, Tulare COE, Kings COE, Monterey COE, Riverside COE, Stanislaus COE, San Benito COE, San Bernardino CSS, Bishop Union, Santa Cruz COE, Imperial COE, San Joaquin COE, Santa Barbara CEO, Pomona USD, San Diego COE, Chaffey JUHSD, Red Bluff HS, Santa Clara COE, Ventura CSS, Contra Costa COE, San Francisco COE, Los Angeles COE, Calaveras COE, Mendocino COE, San Mateo COE, Sacramento COE, Monterey Peninsula College, Sutter County Schools, Sonoma COE, El Dorado COE, Victor Valley CC, Alameda COE, Yolo COE, Butte COE, Lake COE, Placer COE, Shasta COE, Marin COE, Colusa COE, Siskiyou COE, Tuolumne COE, Amador, Solano COE and Nevada JUHSD.

Installed DCP Sites without LAN Connections: (12)

Los Angeles USD, Madera COE, Mariposa COE, Dos Palos HS, Glenn COE, Napa Valley, CA Dept. of Ed, Yuba COE, Plumas COE, Truckee Donner PUD, Lake Tahoe USD and Sierra West.

Status of the Remaining Round One Sites:

Connectivity of the following sites has been impacted due primarily to a lack of circuit availability and/or special construction requirements. Efforts to connect these sites to the network continue.

- Sierra East;
- Humboldt County Office of Education;
- Del Norte County Office of Education;
- Alpine County Office of Education;
- Riverside County (Indio location);
- Lassen County Office of Education;
- Mono County (Mammoth location);
- Trinity County Office of Education;
- Modoc County Office of Education; and,
- Tulelake Basin Joint Union School District.

K-20 Collaboration via the DCP Network and "Virtual Events"

An important byproduct of the DCP network (CalREN/DC network) will be greater K-20 collaboration. With 52 of the 58 counties now connected to the network, a number of "virtual events" are taking place as pilot projects aimed at gathering insight into how to turn this vision of online K-20 collaboration into a reality.

On July 31, 2002, a third pilot event was held. The session featured a live web cast in which the California Department of Education and the Office of the Secretary of Education provided information about 21st Century Community Learning Center grants to 32 remote sites located at county offices of education and CSU and UC campuses. Participants at the remote sites were able to submit questions to the presenters via a live chat room. The web cast was archived online by the Sacramento County Office of Education and is available for repeated viewing by those writing grant applications. Links to the webcast:

Part 1: Introduction - Program Components
<rtsp://real.scoe.net/webcast/part1.rm>

Part 2: Academic Assistance Component - Evaluation Requirements
<rtsp://real.scoe.net/webcast/part2.rm>

Part 3: Funding Schedule - Application Checklist
<rtsp://real.scoe.net/webcast/part3.rm>

Part 4: Application Grant Narrative - Conclusion
<rtsp://real.scoe.net/webcast/part4.rm>

An evaluation component is built into pilot events such as this to provide lessons learned. Additionally, UC Irvine is developing a cost/benefit analysis. Ultimately, DCP staff hope to work with the DCP Program Steering Committee and others to identify what is required to support and create the infrastructure for widespread use of DCP to facilitate similar K-20 interactions over the network.

No Child Left Behind: New Opportunities for Technology

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, probably the most significant national education legislation this year, was enacted by Congress to improve the academic achievement of all students. A re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), NCLB provides \$6 billion nationally to significantly modify or create programs such as Title II, Part B, Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT).

NCLB provides greater flexibility to states and schools to meet student needs with a major emphasis on evidence-based education (EBE). EBE includes the documentation of improved academic achievement of low achieving students and the procurement of research-based resources with evidence of effectiveness with these student populations. Given these conditions, there will be high demand for electronic learning resources that 1) are aligned to state standards, 2) document research-based effectiveness, 3) incorporate built-in student assessments and 4) point teachers and learners to performance-improvement strategies.

NCLB presents exciting new opportunities for technology in education. The NCLB-required district plan, for example, can include the use of technology applications to develop and assess reading skills, or use high-speed telecommunications networks to deliver professional development and provide access to digital resources.

Staff members in the California Department of Education are working to define the application process as quickly as possible. For information about this program, send e-mail to Doug Jann at djann@cde.ca.gov or contact <http://www.NoChildLeftBehind.gov/index.html>

DCP Applications Coordinating Team Completes Their Task

In the past year, the DCP Applications Coordinating Team (DACT) has laid a solid foundation for the project and its future. The DACT members established a framework for the development of a statewide resource for California's students and educators, and have assured that the project's activities are firmly focused on helping students achieve and helping California's educators meet the challenges of increasing student performance.

Currently, the State of California is experiencing the worst budget crisis in its history.

Throughout this summer the DCP team has developed strategies to accomplish DCP goals within current budget restraints. In doing so, it became clear that some valuable efforts must be reduced or eliminated. In light of this, it is unfortunately clear that budget constraints require that the DACT be brought to an end. However, DCP's commitment and efforts to facilitate and enhance use of the CalREN/DCP network for instructional purposes will continue.

The project knows that the dissolution of the DACT will not end members' support of and involvement in the DCP or the project's need for their expertise. They will be called upon as special advisors in the coming years. Please join the DCP in thanking the DACT members for their tremendous efforts:

Rowland Baker, Santa Cruz County Office of Education;
 Catherine Banker, California Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission;
 John & Ruthmary Cradler, Educational Support Systems;
 Hall Davidson, KOCE/Coast Community College District;
 Todd Finnell, TechSETS & Imperial County Office of Education;
 Bridget Foster/Sandra Burdick, California Learning Resource Network;
 Larry Hannah, California State University Chancellor's Office;
 Don Kairott, California Department of Education;
 Don Lake, Los Angeles County Office of Education;
 Marc Liebman, Marysville Unified School District;
 Virginia McBride, Community College Chancellor's Office;
 Tim McClure, Curriculum & Instruction Steering Committee;
 Mike Mellon, Monterey County Office of Education;
 Peter Milbury, Chico Unified School District; George
 George Muñoz, Computer-Using Educators, Inc.;
 Lori Musick, KOCE-TV/Saddleback Valley USD;
 Leann Parker, University of California, Office of the President;
 Allan L. Rogers, Global SchoolNet Foundation;
 Mary Ann Sanders, California Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development;

Barbara Starr, California Technology Assistance Project;
Nancy Sullivan, California Department of Education;
Glen Thomas, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association;
Skip Sharp, San Diego County Office of Education

Innovative First Mile Strategies Workshop

CENIC's Innovative First Mile Strategies Workshop is scheduled for October 9 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, CA. This NGI Roundtable event will identify the opportunities and obstacles to achieving one gigabit per second connectivity throughout California by 2010. CENIC has gathered more than 20 luminaries from the industry, government and academia to discuss the best means to bring one gigabit into every business and each home over the next eight years. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.cenic.org/Workshops/NGI/09October02/index.html>.

Renaming the DCP Network-CalREN/DCP Network

Long time readers of DCP Today will recognize that a new name has begun to be applied to the network supporting the DCP. Previously, network services supporting the DCP were referred to as "the DCP network", even though the DCP has never really been supported by an entirely separate K-12 network since portions of the network have always been shared with higher education institutions in the State. With the implementation of CENIC's new fiber-base backbone network this year (about which there will be articles in the CENIC Today publication), even greater sharing the network will occur among California educational institutions. As such, it is even less appropriate than before to use the term DCP Network as this name implies a dedicated network entirely separate from that serving other educational segments and institutions in the State. Therefore, the term CalREN/DCP network is begun to be used in this newsletter to refer to DCP network services. Eventually, the network serving the DCP will become known as simply the CalREN/DC network.

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, SBC, 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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