



## 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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##### **Project ARISE Launch**

On Friday, April 12th, 2002, rural Northern California educators experienced firsthand the tremendous benefits of the Digital California Project in K-12 education. Early that morning, over 40 educators gathered at the Schreder Planetarium / Shasta County Office of Education for the launch of Project ARISE (Advanced Rural Integrated Science Education); a K-12 science professional development opportunity funded by the Eisenhower Foundation for the science educators of rural Shasta, Tehama, and Trinity counties. Conducted in partnership with Shasta College, this three-year project seeks to increase the quality of science education in rural northern California.

While sitting comfortably in their seats for the welcoming remarks, north state educators were treated to a completely new and unique experience. Projected on the 35 foot planetarium dome was a live Internet connection through the DCP network. Virtually present with these K-12 teachers were scientists from Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, as well as the research facility located at the Cerro Tololo Interamerican telescope in Chile. Dr. Carl Pennypacker and his staff from the "Hands On Universe" project took the lead, guiding teachers discussions and facilitating interaction between scientists, educators, and interested guests.

Educators participated in sessions with regional science leaders throughout the day, utilizing collaborative learning models integrating technology throughout, to deliver high quality professional development to science teachers from over 25 rural school districts.

The benefits of DCP to ARISE are immediate and significant. A primary goal of Project ARISE is to provide access to teachers in rural regions to the educational riches available to schools in urban areas; and DCP provides a substantial portion of the solution. Through the use of the DCP network, teachers from rural California can actively engage educators and professionals virtually anywhere in the world. "The world just got a lot smaller" stated ARISE project director Rick Fitzpatrick, explaining that educators now had access to the finest museums, experts, and colleagues from across the world.

Resources, discussion and project based collaboration are all available to these science teachers at no cost, permitting access to sources of information and support previously unavailable to teachers in these remote locations. In addition to providing access to geographically remote educational resource centers, DCP creates a forum that will be utilized by project educators in classrooms to create, collaborate and deliver high level science teaching strategies to students of the region.

Source: Rick Fitzpatrick, ARISE Project Director, rick@projectarise.org

### **Network Installation Update**

The total number of installed DCP node sites now stands at 58, or about 82%. There are currently 15 sites without LAN connections, and 43 sites with LAN connections.

Operational sites with LAN connections include 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 and Colusa COE.

Sites without LAN connections include Los Angeles USD, Amador, Madera COE, Mariposa COE, Dos Palos HS, Tuolumne COE, Glenn COE, Marin COE, Solano COE, Napa Valley, CA Dept. of Ed, Yuba COE, Colusa COE and Plumas.

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

### **HPWREN to be used at CENIC 2002**

The High Performance Wireless Research and Education Network (HPWREN) played a critical role at the CENIC 2002 Annual Conference. For the first time, CENIC and Internet2 planned the broadcast of joint sessions from the CENIC conference in San Diego and the Internet2 conference in Arlington, VA. HPWREN was used to connect to the CENIC backbone to enable the joint conference sessions to be broadcast. Steve Corbato and Bill St. Arnaud gave their CENIC 2002 talks from Arlington, and Internet2 broadcast the CENIC keynote speeches of Larry Smarr and Alan Willner to their attendees.

The HPWREN team is creating, demonstrating, and evaluating a non-commercial, prototype, high-performance, wide-area, wireless network in San Diego County. The NSF-funded network includes backbone nodes on the UC San Diego campus and a number of "hard to reach" areas in San Diego county. Not only is HPWREN used for network analysis research, but the network also provides high-speed Internet access to field researchers from several disciplines (geophysics, astronomy, ecology) and educational opportunities for rural Native American learning centers and schools.

CENIC 2002 was held on May 5 through 7, 2002 at the Paradise Point Resort in San Diego, California. The conference is generously sponsored by Cisco, SBC Pacific Bell, Juniper, Qwest, Level 3, Vega Business Technologies, Stratacache, ONI Systems, NetScout, Packet Design CNS.

### **National Education Technology News**

#### **FCC Ruling Denies eRate Funds for North Dakota Schools**

A rules change that led an estimated 200 eRate applicants-including the entire state of North Dakota-to submit part of their 2001-2002 applications after the deadline is not reason enough to grant a waiver, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) said April 24. The agency's ruling means these applicants won't get a penny from the program this year.

"Sixty-three percent of our costs were to be reimbursed through the eRate," said Curtis Wolfe, chief information officer for the state of North Dakota. "We are going to have to come up with \$1.3 million to offset the cost."

The decision affects hundreds of schools that were denied millions of dollars in eRate funding for the current program year because they failed to submit their signature page before the deadline. A change in the program's rules was the reason these forms were late. Starting with the 2001-2002 funding year, applicants who filed their FCC Forms 471 electronically also had to mail two documents-an Item 21 Description of Services Form and a Block 6 Certification Form-completed and signed by the deadline, which was Jan. 18 of last year. In previous years, these documents could be received after the deadline, but in the 2001 program year the rules changed "to protect applicants from excessive mail delays."

In addition to North Dakota, several school districts in Puerto Rico also were denied eRate funds for the same reason.

Source: eSN School Technology Alert

#### **Wearable Technology Helps Disabled Students Learn**

Disabled students are learning better -- and in some cases communicating effectively for the first time -- through an application of wearable computing technology that sprang from the initiative of an Ohio school district. The idea took shape when a teacher in the Coventry district, near Akron, Ohio, heard about Xybernaut wearable computers and asked the company to help put together a pilot program. A single test case led to the award of state grants to purchase wearable computers

for the Coventry district, and Xybernaut is creating a program to help other districts find funding. Xybernaut customized the fifth and current version of its mobile assistant, MA V, for child use. The bulk of the hardware, including an oversized battery that can last the entire school day, fits into a backpack that allows students to carry the device with ease from class to class. They put the computer, and an audio speaker integrated into the system, into a backpack. The flat-panel touch-screen monitor is the only thing that needs to be taken out of the backpack to use the system. More important than mobility, perhaps, is the ruggedness of the device. The Coventry district students receiving the equipment have cerebral palsy and other conditions that affect fine motor skills -- meaning that the device gets jostled and dropped a lot.

Source: Brian McDonough, sci.NewsFactor.com, Yahoo! News, April 24, 2002

### **NECC 2002 Workshops**

NECC 2002 (the National Educational Computing Conference) is coming to San Antonio June 17-19, 2002. Registration is still open for the conference and the NECC workshops. NECC Workshops feature:

- \* Innovative ideas and new skill development
- \* Hands-on training in multimedia, Web, and mobile technologies
- \* Time-saving productivity and management tools
- \* Effective solutions for staff development and technology planning

All NECC conference workshops are aligned with one or more curriculum criteria defined by the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) initiative. The standards define what students, teachers, and administrators should know and be able to do with technology. In the program database, accessible through [www.neccsite.org](http://www.neccsite.org), NETS are listed for each workshop and session. You can search the database using a number of criteria, including specific standards. For more information on NETS for students, teachers, and administrators, see [www.iste.org/standards](http://www.iste.org/standards).

NECC 2002 workshops are organized and operated by ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education). For more information, contact [workshops@neccsite.org](mailto:workshops@neccsite.org).

### **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.

### **Subscription Information**

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