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### DCP Today

Volume 4, Issue 1  
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Welcome to DCP Today, CENIC's monthly electronic newsletter detailing the latest news about the Digital California Project.

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##### **English for All Delivered via DCP**

The English for All (EFA) web site and related support materials are designed for older adolescents and adults who want to learn English. The goal of the product is to improve English language skills of learners to function better in their school, work place, or community. A unique aspect to the EFA learning program includes twenty 15-minute video episodes for students to view and learn from.

Learning to speak English is a complex process. Learning via streaming video the size of a postage stamp running at 6 frames per second isn't adequate. The EFA video is digitized at a high frame rate so that learners can see mouth formation and important body language. Ideally, the video should be made available to users at a minimum speed of 3 Mbps - a speed that can be supported by the CalREN/DC network and most school connections.

Each EFA video features a multi-ethnic staff and a friendly wizard, explaining language and skill content throughout each story. On the EFA web site, video segments are interspersed with interactive vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, and life skill lessons.

The EFA web site and support curriculum are delivered via multiple servers at the Sacramento County Office of Education, one of the node sites of the Digital California Project. This multimedia program was produced by Los Angeles Unified School District and Sacramento County Office of Education under funding made available for the Cyberstep Project ([www.cyberstep.org](http://www.cyberstep.org)) through the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education.

For more information on English For All, please visit the web at [www.myefa.org](http://www.myefa.org).

##### **The DCP Program Steering Committee Approves Plan for Coming Year**

The DCP Project Steering Committee recently approved the project's plan for the coming year. Following this plan, the DCP will continue to implement strategic initiatives to achieve the goals outlined in the original DCP Plan:

- Facilitate access to rich content resources for teaching and learning in K-12;
- Create an environment that facilitates collaboration between California's K-12 and higher education communities; and,
- Operate a robust statewide network for the K-20 community in California.

To achieve these broad goals, CENIC staff will focus on the following tasks related to Content, Collaboration, Connectivity and Capacity:

##### **Content**

- Work with appropriate state agencies and institutions to establish procedures for identifying and reviewing content disseminated via the network on a user-friendly K-12 website.

- Work with educational content providers to establish models for hosting content on the CalREN/DC Network.
- Work with teachers, administrators and students to develop an easy means to access CalREN/DC-enabled educational materials.

#### **Collaboration**

- Develop means to facilitate virtual events to enable online collaboration within K-12 and between K-12 and higher education.

#### **Connectivity**

- Continue build-out of the network to remaining counties and node sites and work with node sites and regional liaisons to assist with connectivity of their Wide Area Networks to the CalREN-DC node.
- Address "last mile" connectivity and the need to close the connectivity gap.

#### **Capacity**

- The ability of educators and students to use resources delivered over the CalREN/DC network is critical to realizing the full value of the DCP. CENIC staff will work within the limits of available resources to assist county offices of education, districts and schools with capacity-building efforts.

### **E-Rate Consortium Update**

CENIC has received over 600 letters of agency from K-12 local education authorities throughout California expressing an interest in renewing their participation in the CENIC E-Rate Consortium. Participation in the consortium will enable CENIC to receive circuit discounts that are not otherwise claimed by school districts and help CENIC acquire federal E-Rate discount funding for the Digital California Project's K-12 node site installations. Letters were drafted from all 58 County Offices of Education and over 540 school districts.

CENIC staff will now turn to the task of producing discount application and supporting documents, to be submitted by the end of January.

For additional information on the CENIC E-Rate discount funding consortium, contact Van Wilkinson at [vwilkinson@shastalink.k12.ca.us](mailto:vwilkinson@shastalink.k12.ca.us).

### **The CalREN/DC Network Reaches 55 Counties**

As of January 24, 2003, 55 of California's 58 counties have connectivity to the CalREN/DC network.

With Mono County's node site installed at the Mono County Office of Education, only connectivity to Humboldt, Del Norte and Alpine counties remains. Connectivity to Humboldt and Del Norte counties is expected by March, 2003, while construction on the Alpine County node site may be delayed due to weather conditions, but to what degree has not yet been determined.

The last planned Round I node site to be installed will be the Tulelake Basin Joint Union School District site in Modoc County, which already has connectivity through the Modoc County Office of Education.

#### **Round II Enhancements**

CENIC is working with regional liaisons to coordinate Round II enhancements to the network. The following counties are slated to host one or more Round II node sites: Los Angeles, Madera, Humboldt, Mendocino, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino and Tulare.

### **CalREN/DC Network Update**

Fifty-four of California's 58 counties are now connected to the CalREN/DC Network with the recent connection of Modoc and Trinity Counties, two of California's most Northern and remote counties. Once Mono County is connected, expected by the end of 2002, only Del Norte, Humboldt, and Alpine Counties will await connectivity.

The following is a summary of the status of these remaining three counties:

**Alpine County:** CENIC is awaiting circuit availability for Alpine County. Verizon ran into construction and permit issues related to crossing Native American-owned land. An alternate fiber route has been located and maps approved by Verizon engineers. Unfortunately, with temperatures already reaching as low as 10 to 15 degrees, trenching may be delayed. Additionally, with snow on the ground, a county imposed winter building moratorium may cause additional delays.

**Humboldt and Del Norte Counties:** Both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties are delayed due to unresolved right-of-way issues under negotiation.

#### **Round 2 Build Out Moves Forward**

Most counties are well underway with their Round 2 network enhancements. It is now anticipated that CENIC will add an additional seven Round 2 node sites to the DCP infrastructure. Implementation planning for these additional node sites is now underway. Be sure to follow Round 2 progress in upcoming issues of DCP Today.

### **California's Online-Learning Potential Evaluated**

Dr. David Meaney, Superintendent of the Sacramento County Office of Education and Vice Chair of the Digital California Project's Program Steering Committee, was recently named the recipient of the American Association of School Administrators President's Technology Award. The prestigious award recognizes superintendents who demonstrate vision and leadership in educational technology.

Superintendent since 1989, Dr. Meaney has been a teacher and administrator at all levels of education for over 37 years. Throughout his career, he has been recognized as a driving force behind innovative educational programs, including the development of school improvement programs based on effective schools research, the application of Total Quality Management to education, and the effective application of computers and technology in education.

#### **Content Provider's Provide CENIC DCP with Valuable Insights at December 10th Workshop**

On December 10th, CENIC's Digital California Project hosted a working group of approximately sixty representatives from various educational resources providers and state government. The purpose of the day-long meeting was to discuss the next steps required to promote greater availability of online educational resources over the CalREN/DC network. CENIC staff acquired valuable insight and suggestions on how to address potential content accessibility issues and private content providers were given the opportunity to provide comments on a variety of scenarios for content hosting.

After the opening plenary session, attendees separated into two discussion groups. One group focused on issues surrounding what infrastructure and policies need to be in place to optimally facilitate the availability of content over the network, while the second group provided suggestions for the development of a K-12 online learning resources web site.

The content provider discussion group focused on issues such as management of digital assets, licensing, ADA compliance, professional development, standards, student information, hosting, and what should be the next steps in the development phase.

The web site discussion provided input into what links should be included on the web site, the need for and obstacles in conducting valid research into the benefits of online teaching and learning, and the importance of coordinating with the California Learning Exchange (CLRN) when deciding what applications will be featured.

The providers expressed interest in continuing to work with CENIC DCP on these issues. As a result, three committees will be formed to meet during the first quarter of 2003, addressing content hosting, content availability and content alignment to state standards.

#### **CENIC Unveils New Look For DCP On The Web**

The web site for information about the Digital California Project (<http://www.cenic.org/DCP.html>) has been updated with a new look for 2003. The site has been reorganized, and an improved menu format makes it easier to find information. Included as a new feature is a list of current events that may be of interest to readers of DCP Today. In the near future, the site will also feature profiles of interesting ways in which the network is being used by the California K-20 education community. Comments and suggestions about the DCP Web site are always welcome and may be sent via email to [webmaster@cenic.org](mailto:webmaster@cenic.org). Questions about DCP and/or CENIC may be sent via email to [info@cenic.org](mailto:info@cenic.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, 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. 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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