



## LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET


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## PUBLICATIONS

### DCP Today

Volume 4, Issue 2  
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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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#### **RICHNESS of K-12 TEACHING and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SHOWN at DCP PSC MEETING**

The January 29 program steering committee meeting included discussion and presentations on a wide range of topics representative of the richness of K-12 teaching and professional development.

Winston Doby, UC Vice President of Educational Outreach stressed the University's continued commitment to invest resources to ensure diversity in the UC system. Doby described how Governor Davis has called upon the UC to implement initiatives in the areas of teacher professional development, principal leadership, AP online coursework, and the Digital California Project (DCP). He described the DCP as a model program that is delivering educational tools cost-effectively.

The Governor's initiatives and the pending loss of the resources that accompanied those initiatives have triggered an effort within UC to reexamine the proper role for UC in K-12 education. The UC has been working with leaders from the California County Superintendents' Educational Services Association (CCSESA) to define UC's role within the broader context of K-12 needs, and to identify the resources all educational partners within the eleven CCSESA regions could bring to the table to help meet the needs. In addition, in September 2002, UC formed a Strategic Review Panel to develop recommendations from external stakeholders regarding UC's role within K-12. A report of the recommendations will be presented at the March UC Board of Regents meeting.

For more information about K12 outreach programs of the University of California, visit <http://k12.ucop.edu/>.

John Vaille described use of the CalREN network in support of the Jason Virtual Argonaut Project. The CalREN-DC network and Internet2 will be used to deliver the broadcast content of the Jason Foundation's Jason XIV Expedition "From Shore to Sea". In this fourteenth expedition, the JASON team will explore the terrestrial and marine ecosystems that extend from California's coast to the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary to learn how such systems affect life on our planet.

For more information regarding participation in Jason's Argonaut program, please contact John Vaille ([Jvaille@cenic.org](mailto:Jvaille@cenic.org)).

For more information about the Jason Virtual Argonaut Project, visit <http://www.oshean.org/oshean/JasonVirtualArgonauts>.

Alan Phillips and Todd Finnell of the Imperial County Office of Education gave a presentation on video conferencing and the BORDERLINK project. The easy-to-use system is used for both teacher professional development and educational uses. While Alan was on-site in Sacramento, meeting attendees were able to interact with Todd who participated in the presentation from his desk in Imperial County

The goal of the BorderLink Project, funded by a Technology Innovation Challenge Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, is to remove barriers to opportunities for rural, under-served post-secondary students by using technology, a goal common to the DCP. Operated through the Imperial County Office of Education, BorderLink has scaled IP video conferencing throughout the San Diego region. It is currently delivering video conferencing to 17 districts, and their 58 schools.

For more about the BorderLink Project, visit <http://www.borderlink.org>.

#### **McGRAW HILL/OCDE PILOT**

The Orange County Department of Education, in conjunction with McGraw-Hill, is planning to host a pilot training of teachers over the CalREN/DC Network to be web cast across the state. Participants will offer insight as to how to conduct future training sessions over the network effectively and help develop a "best practices" model.

#### **SAN DIEGO SUPERCOMPUTER CENTER EDUCATION**

Rozeanne Steckler, Director of Education for the University of California San Diego National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure at the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), presented information about a program offering science courses and experiments that are widely available on the Web. SDSC has a wide range of education and community outreach programs that bring cutting-edge research and science curriculum into the home and classroom. SDSC provides support to both local and national entities that promote mathematics and science education for K-12, undergraduate, and graduate level students.

For more information about the SDSC's K-12 programs, visit <http://education.sdsc.edu/>.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

##### **State Legislation**

**Educational Technology Grant Program:** Recently chaptered California legislation (SB 192) modifies the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Federal funding for the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grants by restricting the competitive grants to grades 4-8 as well as other requirements. Districts and consortia of school districts will be able to apply for EETT funds under this program when the RFP, is approved and made available, in March or April. The total amount of funding (\$40 million) divided among the 11 California Technology Assistance Program (CTAP) regions based on the number of students who qualify for Title I are to be disbursed at \$300 per Title I eligible student in grades 4-8 within each grant award.

Stay tuned to the California Department of Education for details at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/edtech/>.

**Online Classroom Programs:** AB 294, by Assembly Member Daucher, adds new requirements related to online classroom programs. 1) Limit participation of a pupil in an online course from qualifying for more average daily attendance than for an equivalent course taught in a traditional setting. 2) Require a school district to maintain records of pupil academic performance in online classroom programs and to submit that information to the State Department of Education. 3) Require the State Department of Education to describe clearly in the application form the academic performance information necessary for submittal. 4) Require the Office of the Secretary for Education in consultation with the State Department of Education, to convene a working group to assess the online classroom pilot project and the fiscal costs of offering instruction through online classroom programs.

**Library Construction:** SB 40 by Senator Alpert would enact the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2004, for submission to the voters at the 2004 direct primary election. Among other things, the bonds would fund remodeling or rehabilitation of existing public library facilities including any necessary upgrading of electrical and telecommunications systems to accommodate Internet and similar computer technology.

**County Superintendents' Role in Technology and Education:** Governance-SB 6, by Senator Alpert, would require each county superintendent of schools to perform additional duties. One of these new additional duties is to "Serve as the primary catalyst and facilitating officer to ensure that all public schools in the county have access to a technology infrastructure that enables electronic exchange of information and educational materials." This is a small part of a bill that revises governance in California education including; modification of the role and function of the State Board of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and county superintendents, establishing the California Education Commission to govern a statewide education data repository, and to coordinate communications planning efforts between education sectors.

##### **State Budget**

**Educational Technology Budget Status:** As of February 20, 2003, the Governor and the legislature had taken action to reduce by 10% funding in the current fiscal year for the 11 regional California Technology Assistance Projects (CTAP) which provide staff development, technical assistance, and help with grant preparation. The Statewide Educational Technology Services (SETS), which include the California Learning Resource Network (CLRN), TICAL, and TechSETS, will not be cut. For the 2003-04 fiscal years, the Department of Finance has proposed that the statutory authorization for 64 categorical programs is repealed and the funds be distributed in a 'block grant' to schools based on average daily attendance (ADA). CTAP and SETS are among the 64 programs included in the block grant.

##### **Federal Budget**

###### **Enhancing Education Through Technology**

The EETT component of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) funding may sustain a small cut of roughly 1% in FY 2003. This year the EETT or technology component of NCLB for California is in the area of \$86 million with half presently dispersed to schools on an entitlement basis and the

other half through the competitive EETT grants mentioned above. EETT is an appropriate source of funding for schools to make instructional use of the DCP network for either delivery of instruction to students or to provide online professional development for teachers and administrators.

Preparing Tomorrows Teachers for Technology (PT3) grants for FY 2003 will receive 'level funding' at \$62.5 million, allowing continuation of existing grants and a new competition for grants under this program. Several PT3 projects' partners of DCP are using the network to provide online video modeling of teaching practices, to pre-service teachers, by school of education faculty. At least six of the CSU Schools of Education and two private universities are receiving PT3 funding.

#### **E-Rate**

As of February 20, 2003, it is reported that the E-Rate telecommunications discount program will continue but with some potential changes in the application requirements. However, more details have not become available on E-Rate at this time.

#### **NETWORK UPDATE**

The Digital California Project is now only three counties away from serving all of California's 58 counties. The most recent county DCP node to have been installed and tested is located at Mammoth High School in rural Mono County the three remaining counties awaiting connectivity are Alpine, Humboldt and Del Norte. In Alpine County, final trenching is scheduled to be completed this week to extend the site's demark, and as soon as Verizon completes construction on the last segment, Qwest will be able to deliver the circuit to the Alpine County Office of Education. While a specific circuit due date is still pending, all involved stakeholders are hopeful that the Alpine County node site will be connected to the DCP network in the next sixty days or less. We have previously reported that SBC was able to deliver the circuit between the Humboldt County Office of Education and Del Norte County Office of Education node sites. CENIC is pursuing several possible solutions to provide connectivity to the CalREN-DC network for both Humboldt County Office of Education and Del Norte County Office of Education as soon as possible.

The counties with approved Round 2 network enhancement plans are continuing to make progress and implement their plans. Nearly all counties have received the equipment CENIC has ordered on their behalf, and most counties have placed their initial circuit orders. Preparation work to install the additional Round 2 node sites is also continuing, with current plans calling for the additional node sites installation by the end of May 2003.

To read an article previously published in the DCP Today, visit [http://www.cenic.org/DCP\\_Today/DTv3\\_16.html](http://www.cenic.org/DCP_Today/DTv3_16.html).

#### **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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