



## LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET




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### DCP Today

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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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#### **A Working Model for Regional Delivery of Online Content**

The Digital California Project (DCP) delivers high-speed connectivity to county offices of education throughout California. The challenge now for county offices of education and regional service providers is to determine how to organize and deliver digital content and resources to every school/classroom. To meet this challenge in their region, the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education (SLOCOE) has developed a groundbreaking K-12 Educational Resource Portal. The portal is designed to host the specific digital resources and tools teachers and students need to meet state and local performance standards.

The SLOCOE K-12 Educational Resource Portal is not just a convenience; it is becoming an essential tool to integrate digital resources into classrooms. Developers of this portal claim it is less of a "shopping mall" web page, and more of a boutique, specializing in high quality products and services. Several important features distinguish the SLOCOE from a common web site:

- The school district, school, or an individual classroom teacher can customize portal content and tools that can be accessed by students and parents anytime, anywhere.
- Educators need only minimal technology skills to successfully use most portal tools in a managed learning environment, thereby reducing Internet search time and confusion.
- Password authentication allows educators direct access to their reliable, ready-to-use digital resources in a single location.
- Real time access to student performance data hosted on the portal facilitates the use of student performance data and aids in monitoring student progress on No Child Left Behind, state and local tests.

Classroom teachers are using the SLOCOE K-12 Educational Resource Portal to achieve multiple instructional objectives. Ready-to-use lessons, primary resources, test builders, and other digital reference materials are being used by teachers to augment and enrich their units of study in such areas as American History, math and World Geography. Web-based tools are being used to host curriculum units, homework, quizzes and student grades. Many teachers use online programs to extend learning opportunities for students and to improve school-home communications.

Professional development providers are using the portal as a resource for training. CTAP Technology Certification Training, AB 75 principal training, and BTSA mentoring are a few examples how online resources are being used. When these programs are specifically designed to take advantage of the "big pipe" that the Digital California Project delivers, they will not only be effective, but they will be more convenient and cost effective than traditional training models, reducing the number of face-to-face meetings that are often difficult because of hectic schedules of educators.

Additionally, the SLOCOE K-12 Educational Resource Portal offers educators other useful tools. Schools have real time access to student performance data provided by third parties. Easy access to student performance data helps teachers and principals make instructional decisions and evaluate the effectiveness of programs. A search engine developed by the Merced County Office of Education enables teachers to search the SLOCOE media library by content standards. And, this fall, an online registration tool, Go Sign Me

Up, will be introduced, permitting educators to register for training courses. Together, these tools give the portal added value and make it easier for more educators to use digital resources as a regular part of their instructional program.

The use of an educational portal is cost effective. It provides the K-12 environment service providers valuable and exciting opportunities for regional and statewide collaboration. A portal at the end of every DCP node will allow instructional media centers, curriculum developers and technology specialists to share a common format for delivering resources. Other benefits include:

- Shared development costs, leaving more dollars for quality standards-based educational resources;
- Simple, seamless integration of systems and tools from commercial sources, county offices of education, and grant-funded service providers and,
- More market influence with commercial service providers.

Finally, a K-12 Educational Resource Portal encourages collaborative partnerships. Anytime, anywhere access enhanced by the robust CalREN-DC Network invites greater parent participation, strengthens communication among students, parents and teachers, and encourages confidence and community support of our schools.

For more information on SLOCOE online programs, contact Gary Schonfeldt at [GSchonfeldt@slocoe.org](mailto:GSchonfeldt@slocoe.org).

Source: San Louis Obispo County Office of Education

#### **CENIC's E-Rate Application Certified**

The CENIC-DCP 2003-2004 e-rate application has been successfully "certified in window," which means that all technical standards were met to allow the application to be accepted. The next steps may involve Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) questions about the CENIC-DCP consortium, its costs for data circuits, and other inquiries that establish the validity of the application. This process can take weeks or months. After the application passes through PIA, the final step will be the issuance of a Funding Decision Commitment Letter (FDCL), which specifies whether discount funding is approved and to what extent. Last year, CENIC received its FDCL in August.

#### **Update on Last Mile Awards**

Applications for CENIC's Last Mile Awards were sent to the over 500 Local Education Authorities that submitted Letters of Agency (LOAs) to join the CENIC e-rate discount consortium for 2003-2004. Over 50 districts returned completed applications to CENIC, requesting connectivity for approximately 130 sites where connectivity is currently 128kbps or less. From the pool of 130+ sites, a lottery-like, random process was used to rank the sites sequentially. No additional rating system was employed to rank applications.

The top-ranked 34 sites (in 24 districts) are finalists in the award process. Finalists will participate in one of two statewide phone conferences for guidance in preparing implementation plans, which must be submitted to CENIC by June 2. Upon receipt of the implementation plans, CENIC staff will work directly with the finalists to determine exact award conditions and amounts. Awards will be based on the cost of providing T-1 level connectivity to the award sites, with no award exceeding \$100,000 per district. Disbursements for 2003-2004 are expected in June.

The 24 finalists are listed below. Finalists awarded funds for more than one site in the lottery are identified by number of sites awarded in parentheses (). All other finalists were awarded funds to connect one site each.

- Jefferson SD;
- Plainsburg Union Elementary;
- Golden Feather Union Elementary;
- Manteca Unified SD (5)
- Browns Elementary;
- Marin COE;
- Delphic Elementary;
- Ukiah Unified Elementary;
- Atascadero Unified SD (3);
- Mendocino COE;
- Monterey COE (2);
- River Delta Unified SD (2);
- Twin Ridges Elementary;
- McCabe Union Elementary SD;
- Fort Bragg Unified SD, Paradise Unified (3);
- Manzanita Elementary SD;
- Delhi Unified School;
- Bret Harte Union High;
- Tuolumne COE;
- Grenada Elementary;
- Trinidad Union Elementary;
- Willits Unified SD; and,
- Jamestown Elementary SD.

#### **Governor's May Budget Revision Includes Funding for DCP**

On May 14th, the "May Revision" to the Governor's Budget was released. As a whole, it signified a continued commitment to protect education technology in California, including continuing the Digital California Project funding at the current level, a level which has reflects approximately \$11 million in cuts over the past two years.

Included in the Budget document is a \$1 million cut in Educational Technology. This reduction is considered relatively small, considering the \$6.5 billion in total cuts. As a result, should the legislature concur, programs such as CTAP and SETS (which includes CLRN, TICAL, and TechSETS) will continue.

### **CENIC Honors Educational Broadband Programs Accomplishments**

California's K-12 broadband overachievers recently received well-deserved recognition during the 2003 annual CENIC Conference in Santa Barbara. The Next Generation Internet (NGI) Roundtable presented six On the Road to a Gigabit awards. K-12 projects, earning three first place awards and two honorable mentions, were well represented and highly visible at the ceremony.

The On the Road to a Gigabit awards honor California visionaries for applying network technology in innovative ways that encourage the development and implementation of a ubiquitous, gigabit state-wide network by 2010. The On the Road to a Gigabit awards recognize the best uses of high performance networking in the following areas: Biggest, Fastest in the West, Community, Education, Gigabit or Bust, Innovation and Partnership.

K-12 winners included:

- Education  
First Place:  
UCSB Center for the Teaching of Social Justice Interactive Video of the Internet Events  
Dr. Judith Green, Center for the Teaching of Social Justice, UCSB  
Read about their achievements at:  
<http://www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2003/education.htm>
- Honorable Mention:  
Orange County Department of Education  
Sandra Lapham, Orange County Department of Education  
Read about their achievements at:  
<http://www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2003/educationhm.htm>
- Gigabit or Bust  
First Place:  
Gigabit Ethernet Fiber-Optic Network, Imperial County  
Todd Finnell, Imperial County Office of Education  
Read about their achievements at:  
<http://www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2003/gigabitorbust.htm>
- Partnership  
First Place:  
El Monte Union High School Gigabit Network, El Monte UHSD and SBC/Pacific Bell  
Garett McKay & Ken Mills, El Monte Union High School District & SBC/Pacific Bell  
Read about their achievements at:  
<http://www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2003/partnership.htm>
- Honorable Mention:  
Light Bridge, Sonoma State University  
James Fouché, Light Bridge, Sonoma State University  
Read about their achievements at:  
<http://www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2003/partnershiphm.htm>

The NGI Roundtable judges received dozens of nominations and applications for the newly launched award program. With the high number of awards going to K-12 programs, it was readily apparent that K-12 programs are making great strides at building advanced-services networks that serve California's primary and secondary education communities.

### **Two Successful Statewide Events Hosted on the CalREN-DC Network**

#### *High School Pupils' Success Act Grant Bidders' Conference*

The brainchild of Assembly Member Darrell Steinberg (Sacramento), and administered jointly by the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Office of the Secretary for Education (OSE), the High School Pupil Success Act (HSPSA) is a program intended to facilitate increased student achievement by supporting the development of district-community partnerships, public engagement, school transformation and systemic district reform. The HSPSA will be implemented in two phases. In Phase I, school districts awarded grants must form a "district-community partnership" with a community-based organization. Together with the involvement of the whole school community including parents, teachers, and pupils, the district-community partnership must develop a five-year reform and redesign plan for the development of effective high schools for all pupils in its district.

On May 6th, the CDE and OSE sponsored a webcast-enabled workshop to assist local districts in conforming to the grant application requirements for Phase I of the program. Hosted at the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) and through the efforts of the SCOE technical team, the event was a success, enabling staff at district and county offices throughout California to participate, including:

- Sonoma COE;
- Siskiyou COE;
- Sacramento COE;
- Alameda COE;
- Santa Clara COE;
- Stanislaus COE;
- Mariposa COE;
- SLO COE;
- Imperial COE; and,
- Los Angeles COE.

*The California Children and Families Local Commission Workshop*

Approved by voters in 1998, Proposition 10 was the ballot initiative that established the California Children and Families Program and State Commission, and authorized the establishment of county commissions. On May 20th, a live webcast, hosted by the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities was held via the CalREN-DC Network. The purpose of the event was to provide technical assistance to local county commissions, staff and interested parties that will assist them as they implement their local county based plans.

The technical team at UC Irvine provided the lead studio site for the webcast. Armed with a high quality camera, minimal lighting and a few microphones, they turned a university student center conference room into a first rate video studio. As a result of all their hard work during and prior to the webcast, it was a technical success, leading to spontaneous applause at its conclusion.

In addition to the UC Irvine site, over 200 hundred participants were able to view the conference and chat live online, through a chat room provided by SCOE, at the following remote sites:

- San Joaquin COE;
- Shasta COE;
- Sacramento COE;
- Monterey COE;
- Stanislaus COE;
- Riverside COE;
- Los Angeles Unified School District;
- Fresno COE;
- Sutter COE;
- Marin COE;
- San Luis Obispo COE; and,
- Modoc COE

Those participating in both webcasts expressed enthusiasm for using the CalREN-DC Network for similar events in the future; with many emphasizing the fact that they would not have been able to participate had the workshops required travel.

#### **About CENIC**

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, University of Southern California, California Community Colleges and the statewide K-12 school system.

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment and operation of a set of robust multi-tiered advanced network services for this research and education community.

More information about CENIC can be found at [www.cenic.org](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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