



## LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET


 
[About CENIC](#)
[Network](#)
[Services](#)
[Projects](#)
[Associates](#)
[Publications](#)
[Events](#)


## PUBLICATIONS

### DCP Today

Volume 4, Issue 6  
June, 2003

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

#### QUICK LINKS

[CENIC Today](#)  
[DCP Today](#)  
[GB Today](#)  
[Brochures](#)  
[Reports](#)  
[Presentations](#)  
[Video Presentations](#)  
[Other Documents](#)  
[CENIC Home](#)

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### [Digital California Project News](#)

- CTF Funding Gains Support after Statewide Team Effort
- San Diego County Office of Education - Delivering at a Distance
- CENIC Releases Last Mile Report
- DCP Holds Statewide Network Meetings
- Network Update

[About CENIC](#)

[About DCP](#)

[Subscription Information](#)

---

#### [Digital California Project News](#)

#### **CTF Funding Gains Support after Statewide Team Effort**

The California Public Utilities Commission provides funding to offset a portion of the ongoing costs of high-speed Internet access (including access to the Digital California Project network) for schools, libraries, selected hospitals and specified community-based organizations. The funding comes from the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF), which is supported by a fee that is collected on the portion of telephone bills that are attributable to intra-state long distance calling. CTF has been of great help to school districts and county offices of education that are connected to DCP, and has enabled DCP to survive despite recent state budget cuts by providing funding for circuits that CENIC leases on DCP's behalf.

In January, the Governor's proposed 2003-04 budget captured accumulated, unspent revenues in the CTF and anticipating loaned those funds to the State's General Fund to help address the budget deficit. Subsequently the Assembly proposed elimination of the CTF. Following a major advocacy effort, the legislature followed by adopting budget language that includes the Governor's CTF proposal, and specifies that the rate on phone bills may not be raised to replenish the amount diverted to the General Fund. CENIC staff offers a special thank you for all who helped in the advocacy effort!

#### **San Diego County Office of Education - Delivering at a Distance**

The Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center (JRRTC) at the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) is "building it so they won't have to come". Over the past year, the JRRTC staff has been webcasting important meetings and events to their constituent districts. The response from the field is: We want more!

Starting in September, SDCOE will begin using VS Webcasting by Virage to deliver "Meetings On Line" to their clients. This technology takes traditional webcasting to the next level by adding simultaneous full resolution Power Points or other applications delivered along with the streaming video. Add real time voting and polling and Q and A chat windows, and the live meeting environment can be experienced from any computer with a web browser.

The live meeting environment, complete with on line documentation and web links, can be immediately archived and published after the event. JRRTC staff plans to use this technology to develop on line HR training CDs to cut down on the repetitive tasks involved in employee orientation, saving time and money. Over 80 events are already scheduled for next school year using this technology and the list is growing daily.

SDCOE also operates ITV Cable 16, the San Diego Educational Access Channel, which reaches over 900,000 households in metropolitan San Diego County. Unfortunately, there are many outlying rural areas in San Diego County that cannot get ITV. In response to these rural district's requests, ITV is now being broadcast to those districts using IP Multicast technology.

The last-mile DCP grants have enabled rural districts to obtain DS-3 connections to the DCP network through the SDCOE Network Operations Center. The ITV Multicast is broadcast within the county WAN to

these districts by utilizing the unused bandwidth on these connections. This fall, students in Borrego Springs can watch ITV and participate in SDCOE's award winning MathVision math homework helpline call-in program just as students in studying in the city.

### **CENIC Releases Last Mile Report**

A new report, Broadband Networks in K-12 Public Education: Achieving Last Mile Connectivity to California Schools, is now available on CENIC's Digital California Project web site. This report examines the status of last mile connectivity in California's K-12 educational system as of December 2002, offering recommendations for increasing connectivity to the high speed, high bandwidth network (the CalREN Network), serving the K-20 education community in California.

The report indicates DCP has made significant progress in accomplishing its original goal of providing CalREN access to all 58 counties in California. Of the 58 counties, 56 now have the ability to access the CalREN Network, and it is expected that the remaining two counties, Del Norte and Humboldt, will have access by the end of 2003.

In addition to the statewide report, a series of 11 regional/county reports is under development. These reports will provide a snapshot of current network connectivity to build awareness of the importance of the last mile issue in California, and to offer potential approaches for helping 100 percent of California's K-12 schools obtain network connectivity.

The statewide study of last mile connectivity was a cooperative effort of CENIC, the California Department of Education (CDE), K-12 networking professionals and telecommunications carriers. The CDE provided baseline information, including school enrollment data; the K-12 networking professionals provided connectivity data; and CENIC and the telecommunications carriers prepared cost data.

The report may be found at: [http://www.cenic.org/DCP/Last\\_Mile\\_Report\\_statewide\\_final\\_June2003.pdf](http://www.cenic.org/DCP/Last_Mile_Report_statewide_final_June2003.pdf)

### **DCP Holds Statewide Network Meetings**

On June 2, 3, and 4, the Digital California Project (DCP) took to the road, giving network node site representatives an opportunity to visit with CENIC staff in their own backyards. These DCP "road shows" were staged at three different locations (one each in Southern California, Central Valley, and Northern California sites). The meetings provided a forum to share information about CENIC and DCP with node site representatives. Equally important, node site representatives were encouraged to share information about their experiences as the newest members of the CENIC team.

The overall feedback was very favorable. In fact, there was unanimous praise for the network services CENIC delivers. The following were typical of the comments heard:

- "My technical staff have improved (their skills) by working with CENIC engineers.";
- "CENIC technical staff have been first-rate in every interaction."; and,
- "(With CENIC) we get to deal with competent staff with a common goal." goal."

One of the common themes at all three meetings was the need for a campaign to promote the value of the CalREN Network to the K-12 community. Overwhelmingly, node sites reported greater reliability and performance since obtaining connectivity through CENIC. Many noted that it is precisely this enhanced network performance that has allowed teachers and students to use technology in the classroom. A sampling of comments includes:

- "DCP is a better experience.";
- "It (the network) is always up now, not like before.";
- "(This network is) faster, more reliable; overall, it's better and cheaper!";
- "The reliability is a BIG difference and we appreciate it.";
- "Network problems took most of our staff time before DCP; now we don't have network problems, and staff can focus on moving us forward (in using technology)."; and,
- "Our students weren't able to use Web-based resources with the old network because it was too slow and too unreliable. With DCP, we now see students using on-line resources daily."

Additionally, several other common themes were heard at all three meetings, including:

- CENIC should continue to assist with last mile efforts. It was repeatedly expressed that 100% connectivity at T-1 should be viewed as a milestone toward greater end-to-end connectivity; and,
- CENIC plays a technological leadership role for node sites and should expand the scope of this role.

### **Network Update**

As of June 30, 2003, the number of counties connected to the CalREN Network at K-12 node sites remains at 56 of California's 58 counties. Awaiting connectivity to the CalREN-DC network are Humboldt and Del Norte counties, with relief on the horizon following the announcement that SBC and Caltrans have agreed on a means to allow the construction for laying fiber optic cables, while legal issues are resolved.

Additionally, CENIC and a number of rural node sites were pleased to have realized network connectivity in recent weeks. These included Alpine COE, Tulelake Basin Joint USD, Mammoth COE/Mammoth High School, Lassen COE, Trinity COE and Modoc COE. This means the once envisioned microwave network will not be necessary, optimizing reliability and minimizing costs.

Onsite visits to the Round 2 node sites have been completed and circuit orders have been submitted. As soon as the new backbone hub sites are ready, CENIC will proceed with circuit installations to the Round 2 node sites.

**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**

You can subscribe to DCP Today online by visiting our website:

[http://www.cenic.org/dcp/dcp\\_today/DTcover.html](http://www.cenic.org/dcp/dcp_today/DTcover.html)

Or, you can subscribe to DCP Today by sending e-mail to

[listproc@cenic.org](mailto:listproc@cenic.org)

with the following request in the message body:

```
subscribe dcp-today youremailaddress
```

To unsubscribe, send email to

[listproc@cenic.org](mailto:listproc@cenic.org)

with the following request in the message body:

```
signoff dcp-today
```

Website questions: [webmaster@cenic.org](mailto:webmaster@cenic.org)

Last Update: December 14, 2004