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


PUBLICATIONS

DCP Today

Volume 5, Issue 1
January, 2004

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](#)

- Governor's 2004-05 Budget Funds "High Speed" Connectivity for K-12
- Block Grant Proposed for 22 Categorical Education Programs
- Governor's Budget Includes Funding for the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) and Statewide Educational Technology Services (SETS)
- Summit on Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age
- John Vaile Departs CENIC
- State Superintendent Jack O'Connell Holds December Web Cast
- DCP E-Rate Consortium for 2004-05
- CENIC 2004 - Lighting a Path for Your Imagination
- CUE Conference
- Statewide Education Groups Highlight DCP Efforts

[About CENIC](#)

[About DCP](#)

[Subscription Information](#)

[Digital California Project News](#)

Governor's 2004-05 Budget Funds "High Speed" Connectivity for K-12

The Administration's 2004-05 state budget proposal was released on Friday, January 9, 2004. CENIC's preliminary interpretation of the proposal's impact on DCP's activities is that the Administration has presented an avenue for continued funding of the network.

Historically, DCP has been funded by an allocation from the non-Proposition 98 portion of the General Fund. Funds flowed to the University of California, which contracted with CENIC to operate the DCP by extending higher education's California Research and Education Network (CalREN) to K-12 schools, districts and county offices of education. Page 77 of the Governor's budget summary for higher education notes that UC's state funding was reduced by: "\$14.3 million by eliminating General Fund support for the Digital California Project. It is anticipated that K-12 schools may contribute voluntarily to continue the most beneficial elements of this program."

However, in the summary of the budget for K-12 education, the Administration has proposed the means for continuing State support for the network infrastructure through funds allocated to K-12 education from the Proposition 98 portion of the General Fund. Page 65 of the K-12 summary of the budget reads: "Internet Access- \$20.2 Million is provided to county offices of education to provide high-speed internet access to the schools." This appears to provide the fiscal resources to continue the DCP (including connectivity to CalREN) for the K-12 community.

Fortunately, the 2004-05 proposed budget recognizes the full amount necessary to operate the DCP project on an annual basis. The \$14.3 million appropriated for the current fiscal year (2003-04) is not sufficient to fund the program on an ongoing basis, and is being supplemented with one time funding to continue DCP through June 30, 2004.

Block Grant Proposed for 22 Categorical Education Programs

The Governor's 2004-05 budget proposes to "block grant" 22 categorical education programs and shifts the \$2 billion in categorical funding into school districts' revenue limits (i.e. per pupil funding provided to operate districts/schools). Local districts would receive the funds without being required to spend dollar for dollar on the program which originally generated the funds, and presumably without having to comply with the original requirements that were imposed as a condition of receiving the funds. However, at this time no budget language has been provided regarding the status of statutory requirements currently tied to categorical funding.

Several of the categorical programs included in the block grant may be sources of funding currently used to finance technology use. Such programs include the Instructional Materials (\$175 million), Drop-out

Prevention program (\$21.9 million), School Library Fund (\$4.2 million), School Improvement (\$396 million) which are all sources of funds that may have been expended on technology at the local level. Funding for the California Technology Assistance Program (CTAP) is not a part of the proposed block grant.

Governor's Budget Includes Funding for the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) and Statewide Educational Technology Services (SETS)

The Governor's proposed budget for 2004-2005 maintains the current funding level of \$14.8 million for the 11 CTAP regional technology assistance services and the three SETS programs. SETS includes the California Learning Resource Network (CLRN), Technical Support for Education Technology in Schools (TechSETS), and the Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL). Senator Nell Soto is introducing legislation to authorize continuation of these programs, as they would sunset January 1, 2005. The legislation will propose changes to CTAP and SETS services including support for implementation and use of the high-speed Internet and to increase support for Federal programs such as the No Child Left Behind Act.

These programs have evolved over the past 25 years to meet specific needs that have been documented by statewide surveys as well as research about the necessary condition for effective technology use as a learning and administrative resource. It has been well documented that CTAP regions enabled many school districts to be able to receive and implement Federal and state grant programs including the No Child Left Behind Act's Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grants, E-Rate funding, California Teleconnect funding, and others. CTAP and SETS programs provide important support for the local planning and implementation of the DCP's high-speed network in the following ways:

- CTAP provides regional assistance to local educational agencies including but are not limited to:
 1. how to connect to the DCP network,
 2. content resources to access on the network,
 3. how to incorporate use of the network into technology and staff development grants, and
 4. use of the network to deliver and receive professional development.
- CLRN supports use of the DCP network by providing web-accessible information that includes:
 1. identification of high quality Internet resources appropriate for use over high-speed Internet,
 2. information about the alignment of electronic learning resources to the California Content Standards, and
 3. an online lesson plan builder that enables users to design and have reviewed for content alignment, lesson plans that would be appropriate applications of technology.
- TICAL offers professional development focused on "digital school leadership" for:
 1. educational administrators in the areas of: data-driven decision making,
 2. integrating technology into standards-based curriculum,
 3. technology planning, professional development needs of staff, and
 4. maintains a web portal that features hundreds of resources that have been reviewed and recommended by practicing administrators to assist with digital school leadership.
- TechSETS services relevant to the DCP include:
 1. planning assistance for installing telecommunications infrastructures,
 2. information about local network planning services, and
 3. technical training and web-based information to local technology coordinators and technical staff.

In general, these services go hand-in-hand with DCP and will continue to provide the information and support necessary for optimal use of the DCP network. Together, these programs expand teaching and learning opportunities to all areas of the state, while helping educators to more effectively implement state and Federal initiatives such as No Child Left Behind and any other educational initiatives requiring professional development and local support in future years.

Summit on Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age

On December 8th, 2003, one hundred and thirty K-12 and higher education professionals attended a one day conference on the use of technology in education co-sponsored by the California Postsecondary Education Commission, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and DCP. The summit highlighted how technology can enhance teacher education and professional development, expansion of online courses, the role of technology enabled resources in K-8 classrooms, online assessment tools, and the use of virtual meetings, conferences and field trips.

The featured speaker was Carol Twigg, Executive Director of the Center for Academic Transformation Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Bob Moore, Executive Director of CPEC moderated the event which was the first in a planned series to foster greater collaboration between higher education and K-12 to enhance teacher and student use of technology in K-12 classrooms.

John Vaile Departs CENIC

Thomas W. West, President and CEO of CENIC has announced the resignation of John A. Vaile, Ed.D. from the CENIC management team so he can expand his role as principal partner in Enterprise Learning Solutions, a leading consulting and technology integration company serving California, Washington, Oregon and other western states. Enterprise Learning Solutions specializes in the development and deployment of enterprise-wide technology solutions for school district administration, curriculum, and instruction. Dr. Vaile has served CENIC as the Director of Development for CENIC's Gigabit or Bust Initiative since August 1, 2003. Previously he was the Director of Educational Applications for CENIC's DCP, a role he assumed in April 2001.

Vaile has contributed to creating a sound foundation for the DCP project, especially through his work with K-12 school districts, county offices of education and the California Department of Education. In addition to this work, Dr. Vaile served as the DCP liaison to the California State University, Community Colleges and private institutions of higher education. His early work with the project provided a framework for understanding the essential characteristics of content that the DCP has begun to deliver to the schools across the state. In recent years he has provided support for the California Parks Department's Parks Online Resources for

Teachers and Students (PORTS). PORTS proved the feasibility of providing educational resources and virtual field trips to schools throughout the state. He was also instrumental in the initiation of a video conferencing system among the county offices of education and in recent months he played a vital role in launching the Gigabit Initiative working with a wide range of potential participants. Vaille intends to stay involved as a volunteer.

In accepting Vaille's resignation, President West remarked "Dr. Vaille brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to CENIC. He was a key figure in launching the DCP and Gigabit projects. His relationships with leaders in K-12 education throughout California and across the nation enabled us to engage a wide range of these key individuals and their organizations in the development and evolution of the DCP. His experience in working with multiple constituencies was very instrumental in getting numerous individuals and groups to participate in the Gigabit project. Dr. Vaille has left his imprint on CENIC."

State Superintendent Jack O'Connell Holds December Web Cast

State Superintendent Jack O'Connell conducted a statewide web cast on December 16th at the Sacramento County Office of Education. The web cast outlining recent state budget discussions and legislative action, was streamed to 61 sites throughout the state (including 39 county offices of education). Local school district superintendents and administrators participated in discussions following O'Connell's opening presentation, and then submitted questions to him for response. Sue Burr, Director of Governmental Relations for CCSESA, Terri Burns, Deputy Superintendent for Governmental Affairs for CDE, and Sacramento County Superintendent Dave Meaney joined Mr. O'Connell to respond to the questions from the field.

You can access the archived version of the O'Connell presentation online at www.DigitalCalifornia.net. The California County Superintendents Educational Services Association and DCP plan more "Policy Makers in Action" web casts to highlight issues of concern to K-12 educators. The next Jack O'Connell web cast is scheduled for February 26th.

For the first time, DCP has developed an online evaluation of the web cast to help improve the organization and details of future events. If you participated in the web cast at a local site, please go to <http://www2.scoe.net/surveyor/surveyor.pl?WebcastSurvey> to share your opinions and suggestions.

DCP E-Rate Consortium for 2004-05

The E-rate application for DCP discounts in 2004-2005 is in its final stages of preparation for filing before February 4, 2004. We received 524 letters of agency from school districts and county offices of education, which form the basis for a statewide consortium used in E-rate calculations. The consortium for 2004-2005 will compare favorably to the two prior years' consortia in size and representation across California. Each yearly consortium consists of slightly different members, depending on who submitted letters of agency and other criteria.

DCP is one of a handful of state telecommunication networks (STNs) that apply for telecommunications discounts on a statewide education network. Because STN applications are so large and complex, funding decisions are late in arriving. We are still awaiting a decision on the 2003-2004 discounts for which we applied one calendar year ago.

CENIC 2004 - Lighting a Path for Your Imagination

March 15, 16 & 17, 2004
Ritz-Carlton in Marina del Rey, California
<http://www.cenic.org/CENIC2004/index.htm>

CENIC has made tremendous progress over the last year -- installing its optical backbone network on CalREN, working with the California State Universities and California Community Colleges on plans to provide full connectivity to CalREN, launching the One Gigabit or Bust Initiative, and connecting K-12 schools in every county to the DCP. Join us at this year's annual conference to learn about what is happening and where we'll be headed over the next year.

- Join the winners of CENIC's On the Road to a Gigabit Awards and learn how their visions are leading the way to a Gigabit world.
- Discover how other educational institutions are marching ahead with 1 and 10Gigabit Ethernet CalREN connectivity with the current fiscal constraints imposed.
- Explore new techniques, hardware, and software for enhancing instruction, research, and economic development.

CENIC 2004 links you and other key players who are advancing high performance networking in California. Connect with leading educators, researchers, business people, and government representatives at this important three-day event in beautiful Marina del Rey, California.

CENIC has held the registration fees at the same level as last year. One, two and three day registration packages are available, making it easy for you to budget your time and costs. The registration fee covers attendance at the conference sessions, breakfast, luncheons, receptions and all conference materials. As an added incentive to register early, a \$100 American Express Gift Check will be awarded to one lucky person who registers and pays before February 23rd! The prize drawing will be held at the conference.

CENIC has contracted with the Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey to provide discounted hotel accommodations for CENIC 2004 at a rate of \$155 per night. Please make your hotel reservations right away as we do expect our room block to be sold out.

We look forward to seeing you in March! Sign up today at <http://www.cenic.org/CENIC2004/index.htm>.

CUE Conference

The Spring Computer-Using Educators (CUE) Conference returns to the Palm Springs Convention Center, March 18 – 20. This year's conference theme -Standards and Beyond: Empowering All Learners Through Technology and Innovation - reflects the conference focus of using technology to improve student achievement.

Beginning in 2004, CUE will be eliminating its Fall CUE conference, and holding only one conference a year - so the next CUE conference won't be until March of 2005, when it will, again be in Palm Springs.

For further information and to register for the conference, visit the CUE website at <http://www.cue.org> or call 510-814-6630.

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.

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.

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Last Update: December 14, 2004