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DCP Today

Volume 5, Issue 2
February, 2004

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

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Governor's 2004-05 Budget

The Governor's 2004-05 State Budget moves K12 network funding from the UC budget to the K-12 portion of the budget. The Governor's budget provides \$21M for this purpose. DCP is working with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association to develop a common effort to support this funding for DCP in the 2004-05 State Budget. Since the Governor's budget was released in January, the Legislative Analyst's Office has recommended that the funding be deleted from the budget. DCP and CCSESA will be working to provide compelling information to the Legislature about the educational benefits provided by DCP to K-12 schools and school districts. In late March or April, the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees on Education will vote on this issue. County Office of Education and school district input about the value of the DCP to classroom programs and district administration will be critical to the inclusion of the \$21 million in the final budget proposal. DCP will be working with CCSESA on this issue and will let the DCP/K12 community know of actions that will help support continuation of this funding.

Senate Passes FY04 Appropriations Bill

Over three months after Fiscal Year 2004 commenced, the Senate approved the FY04 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which contains funding for all federal education programs, on a vote of 65 to 28. President Bush is expected to sign it shortly. From an education funding perspective, the bill provides a very mixed blessing. While the larger formula programs such as Title I and IDEA received decent sized funding increases over last year, other programs saw their budgets cut or, in some cases, eliminated. The Enhancing Education Through Technology formula program received level funding in this bill, which actually represents a small cut because this year's budget makes permanent the \$5 million reduction that the program sustained from what was supposed to be last year's one-time across-the-board cut.

Other education technology programs fared poorly in this bill. The Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology program, the federal government's only investment in pre-service teacher technology training, was eliminated entirely. Additionally, the Star Schools and Community Technology Centers programs suffered major funding cuts. A new state data program, which would have provided states with grants to create longitudinal data systems and assisted them with complying with No Child Left Behind mandates, saw no funding.

Source: John Cradler, Educational Support Systems

CENIC and SBC Extend Additional Benefits for K-12 Charter Associates

SBC DataComm, under an agreement with CENIC, will provide CISCO Systems hardware to school districts and county offices of education at 38% off the manufacturer's list price. Cisco SmartNet maintenance is also offered at 30% off the manufacturer's list price. If services from SBC are purchased, such as staging, installation, project management, and professional services, an even larger Cisco hardware discount (39%) is offered. For further information, contact your local SBC representative or call Merilynne O'Brien at 925 803 6019 or contact her at merilynne.obrien@sbc.com.

Federal Administration Releases FY05 Budget

Recently, the Administration released its FY05 budget which provides \$818 billion for discretionary programs, an increase of \$31 billion from FY04 appropriations. The bulk of the funding increases in the budget are for the Department of Homeland Security (\$3 billion increase) and the Department of Defense (\$26 billion increase). Although the Administration proposes \$57.3 billion for Department of Education programs, an increase of \$1.7 billion from the FY04 appropriations levels, the vast majority of the increases go towards major programs, with smaller programs, such as education technology grant programs, sustaining major cuts. Specifically, the budget proposes to increase Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by \$1 billion for each program. The Administration funds at a constant level the education technology grant program at \$692 million. The budget compensates for these increases by eliminating many programs, including funding for the Star Schools program, the Community Technology Centers program, Ready to Teach, and the Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology program. The proposal to establish a State Data Grant Program, which currently has no funding, also received no funding in the proposal.

California Postsecondary Education Commission Professional Development Grants

The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has funded six professional development pilot projects to examine effective ways of supporting teaching and learning. CPEC is the first state agency in California to specifically reference the Digital California Project network and solicit proposals that include use of technology in professional development programs.

The six grant recipients that will utilize technology and CalREN as an integral part of their professional development programs include the following:

- The UC Davis School of Education, Davis' M.I.N.D. Institute, the Orange County Department of Education –Special Education
- CSU Fullerton's Department of Education, CSU Fullerton's Mathematics Department, and the Orange County Department of Education- Mathematics
- CSU Chico Regional and Continuing Education -Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) program
- Cal Poly Pomona College of Education, College of Science, and the Mathematics Department. – Math and Science teacher recruitment/training
- Pitzer College, Claremont International Studies Education Project and the Los Angeles Unified School District –World History/United Nations Program
- CSU San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus, College of the Desert and the Coachella Valley Unified School District, The K-12 Alliance and West Ed. - help for current teachers to become "highly qualified teachers" and to develop learning communities

John Ittelson, CSU Monterey Bay professor and Director of The IDEA Lab, will provide video and project information for CPEC's web site. The pilot projects funded by CPEC will demonstrate the high speed/high bandwidth capability of the DCP to provide online professional development programs.

NetDay Hosts First Annual Speak Up Day

NetDay (www.netday.org) hosted the first annual "speak up day" to reach out to students and solicit their views on technology use during Speak Up Day. 210,000 K-12 students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Department of Defense Overseas schools submitted surveys on technology and education, sharing their ideas about using technology and the Internet for learning and for fun.

NetDay will be releasing its national report and submitting the results to the Department of Education to help shape the National Education Technology Plan. At a special briefing for its partners, NetDay previewed the national findings from Speak Up Day highlighting the following themes:

- Today's students are very tech savvy and rely upon technology as an essential component of every aspect of their lives.
- They are not just using technology in different ways; they are approaching their life and their daily activities differently because of technology.
- The way that students are using technology gets more sophisticated as they get older but do not under-estimate the younger children's capacity for using technology meaningfully.
- A new digital disconnect is emerging between students that are very tech savvy and ones that still view themselves as beginners.
- Technology is allowing today's students to be ultra-communicators.

NetDay has posted the aggregate data for participating schools on a password protected site, www.netday.org/speakupday_school_data.htm. The full report will be posted on www.netday.org, and state level data will also be available. The goal of Speak Up Day was not only to engage students in a one-day event, but also to maintain the dialogue. NetDay plans to make Speak Up Day an annual event. In addition, NetDay will be launching a Speak Up Day for Teachers in April 2004 and announcing a National Campaign for Student Voices.

Source: John Cradler, Educational Support Systems

Holt and School District Announce Online Pilot Project to Use Holt Online Learning Textbooks

Holt, Rinehart and Winston and Henrico County Public Schools announced that they are partners in a web- and PC-based learning project using online textbooks published by Holt.

Henrico County Public Schools received the 2003 Trailblazer Award from the National School Boards Association for its laptop education program which began in September, 2001. With this new partnership, where every student has a laptop, Henrico educators hope to assess how to best help teachers and students adjust to delivery of the core content in an online format.

"The benefits of an online format for a textbook are already obvious - such as how much easier it can be to track student progress and to tie in current events education - however, we want to discover additional ways to make the use of online textbooks more effective," said Dr. Mark Edwards, superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools. "This is a significant shift for teachers to make and we want to collect their feedback and enhance the learning experience for everyone."

Holt Online Learning textbooks include every page of the printed version plus interactive tutors, classroom management tools, tests, journals, audio files, video files, and additional activities that engage students in the subject matter. Holt currently publishes over 150 online textbooks in all five core subject areas including mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, and world languages.

Henrico students will have access to Holt's online textbooks in most subject areas including such well-respected titles as Elements of Literature, Holt Science & Technology, Holt Biology, Holt Call to Freedom, Allez, viens!, and Elements of Language.

In June 2004, student progress will be evaluated against benchmark tests from January 2004. Efficacy studies will also be completed and focus groups will convene to discuss the results. The study, conducted in grades 6-12, was made possible by the decision of the Henrico schools to equip every student in these grades with a laptop.

For further information, please call (800) 992-1627 or visit www.hrw.com or www.harcourt.com.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

CUE Conference Returns To Palm Springs - March 18 - 20

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.

California Community Technology Policy Group Lobby Day

On Wednesday, March 24th the The California Community Technology Policy Group(CCTPG) will host community and education technology program advocates at the 2004 lobbying day in Sacramento.

CCTPG is sponsoring a lobbying day for community based technology groups and educators to talk with legislators about the funding needs of local community technology centers and schools, as well as assuring availability to low income and disabled communities and in general, the telecommunications infrastructure. The session will be held at the Crest Theatre located on the K Street Mall and at the State Capitol Building.

A major effort for the organization is to preserve funding for the CPUC's California Teleconnect Fund and advocate for new legislation that will assist community technology programs to provide better services.

The Lobby Day is sponsored to help individuals:

- Learn how to effectively educate legislators
- Meet others interested in community technology
- Engage community members to become advocates for this important issue

For more information, visit the CCTPG website at: www.cctpg.org or contact Anna Emerald via e-mail at: AEmerald@CommunityPartners.org

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.

Subscription Information

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