



## LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET


 
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### DCP Today

Volume 5, Issue 3  
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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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#### **Senate Budget Subcommittee Considers Funding For K-12 High Speed Network**

On March 15th the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Senator Jack Scott (D-Altadena), held a hearing to discuss the \$21 million in the Governor's 2004-05 State Budget for K-12 high speed Internet connectivity. The \$21 million is sufficient to enable county offices of education, districts and schools to maintain connectivity to the statewide CalREN network as previously provided by the Digital California Project Funding.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) noted that the Governor's budget did not provide last mile funding for schools and districts to take advantage of the network, and thus districts must spend funds to connect. They also noted that few products currently require high speed networks, and that the network was not cost effective based on the potential uses. Later in the hearing the LAO noted that it wanted to work with the field to identify whether the network results in cost savings or just higher levels of service. The Department of Finance noted that 75% of the schools and 82% of the district offices are currently using the network, and the Department thinks that the network is worthwhile.

Several representatives from the education community testified in support of the budget item (#6110-182-0001) including Sue Burr and Paul Tichinin of the County Superintendents' Educational Services Association, Brian Lewis of the San Diego County Office of Education, Jeff Frost of the California Suburban School Districts' Association, Mike Kilbour representing the Orange County Department of Education and the Humboldt County Office of Education, and Laura Wasco representing the San Bernardino County Office of Education.

The item was considered after the Subcommittee had discussed a number of other budget items during which education representatives had argued for maximum spending flexibility at the local level. Senator Scott asked why those in support wanted funding centrally for a single statewide networking effort. Representatives responded that it would not be possible to obtain the same capacity and functionality if funds were dispersed to individual districts. The Senate Subcommittee deferred action on this item until mid-May.

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance is scheduled to consider the \$21 million for high speed Internet connectivity on Tuesday, April 20th. If you would like to share your views regarding the importance of the \$21 million for high speed networking with the members of the Assembly Subcommittee, please contact:

Assembly Member Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), Chair  
 Assembly Member Wilma Chan (D-Oakland)  
 Assembly Member Lynn Daucher (R-Brea)  
 Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles)

Assembly Member Carol Liu (D-La Canada Flintridge)  
 Assembly Member Sharon Runner (R-Lancaster)

Mailing Address:

State Capitol  
 P.O. Box 942849  
 Sacramento, CA. 94249-0001

**Assembly Budget Subcommittee Discusses CTF Discounts And Related Issues**

On Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on State Administration, chaired by Assemblyman Dutra (D-Fremont), held a hearing to discuss the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's) California Teleconnect Fund (CTF). The CTF, which provides 50% discounts on telecommunications services to schools, libraries, public hospitals and community based organizations, was funded in the 2004-05 State Budget at \$5 million – an amount that is estimated to be roughly \$34 million lower than the amount needed to maintain existing discounts. In addition to discussions surrounding the appropriate funding level, the committee considered a series of recommendations by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) including:

- Requiring schools and libraries to maximize Federal funding available through E-Rate as a condition of receiving CTF discounts.
- Targeting CTF funding based on need (i.e. populations that have been found to have the lowest level of access to advanced telecommunications services).
- Cap the overall funding level in order to minimize program growth.

The Assembly Subcommittee deferred action on this item until mid-May. The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection, Public Safety and Energy, is scheduled to consider CTF funding on Thursday, April 29th. If you would like to share your views regarding the importance of continuing CTF discounts for schools, libraries, hospitals and community based organizations with the members of the Senate Subcommittee, please contact:

Senator Byron Sher (D-Stanford), Chair  
 Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica)  
 Senator Bruce McPherson (R-Santa Cruz)

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 P.O. Box 942848  
 Sacramento, CA. 94248-0001

**CPUC Consideration of Onerous California Teleconnect Fund Requirements Delayed**

A potentially devastating California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) resolution negatively affecting school district revenues for the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) was delayed on March 16 due to the action of several education groups. Resolution T-16763 contained language that would have required all school districts to fill out a new form each year within a narrow 60 day window period and then submit that form to their telecommunication carrier(s). Failure to provide the carrier(s) with this new form would allow the carrier(s) to stop CTF discounts for the district.

A coalition of concerned educators, organizations, and consultants contacted the CPUC before its March 16 meeting and were successful in having the onerous sections of the resolution pulled from the agenda temporarily until April 16th. As of this writing, that same coalition is at work with the CPUC to modify and clarify language in the resolution so that K-12 districts are not imperiling their CTF discounts.

**Del Norte County Unified School District is Now Connected and Using the DCP Network**

On Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>, Del Norte County USD Superintendent Frank Lynch used the DCP Network to engage in a real-time video conference with Sacramento County Office of Education Superintendent Dave Meaney. This marks the application of the high-speed DCP network for Del Norte County USD. During the past years of waiting for the availability of a circuit to connect to the DCP network, the district has obtained funding for two grants that will soon begin using the network for online math courses delivered from Sonoma State University and for history teachers and students to begin sharing their US History projects and lessons with counterparts throughout the country. School administrators will now be able to actively participate, through video-conferencing, in meetings that they previously couldn't attend due to the time and expense incurred when traveling long distances.

Del Norte County USD is located in one of the most rural and geographically isolated areas of the state. The demand for access to the DCP Network has been expressed by school district staff and parents. Due in part to publicity about the potential DCP, the community became increasingly interested in access to a high-speed network to serve a range of public and private entities. Because of the many challenges in establishing this connection it should be considered a major milestone for Del Norte County USD and CENIC. Connecting the Del Norte County USD would not have been possible without collaborative effort that included local community advocacy for the DCP connection, influence by state and local legislators and the Governor, information disseminated through the press, CENIC-sponsored studies to document the need, SBC's fast-tracking new fiber construction, and the cumulative technical support provided by CENIC and the Del Norte County USD. The level of effort over the past three years to connect the 58th of the 58 county offices of education speaks to the extremely high demand and need for Internet access to a wide variety of educational and community-based information and communication resources.

The evolution of the DCP Network has prompted so much community interest that Del Norte County representatives are establishing the Del Norte Community Network (DCN). This will be a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will actively plan and seek funding to establish a community wide high-speed network. There are numerous compelling reasons for a community network including access by doctors and hospital staff to medical records and training, access by local businesses to information related to economic development, and improved communication needed by local law enforcement and forestry agencies.

For additional information contact John Cradler: [cradler@earthink.net](mailto:cradler@earthink.net)

### **Superintendent O'Connell Web Cast on High School Reform**

On March 31, Jack O'Connell held a web cast on the subject of High School Reform. Panelists joining O'Connell included:

- Senator Richard Alarcón, author of Senate Bill 1795 which will require every student to complete "a-g" requirements (the minimum course requirements for UC and CSU)
- Sue Stickel, Deputy Superintendent of the Curriculum & Instruction Branch of CDE
- Dr. Linda Murray, Superintendent of San Jose Unified School District. San Jose USD currently requires "a-g" course completion for graduation

The digitized video of the web cast is available on the Digital California web site, [www.digitalcalifornia.net](http://www.digitalcalifornia.net)

### **Quality of Service (QoS) Seminar Provided for CalREN Users**

On January 21, 2004, in support of CENIC's CalVIP project, Cisco Systems presented a free seminar on Quality of Service (QoS) for CalREN sites using Cisco-powered LAN and MAN equipment. QoS is one of the advanced network services that differentiate the CalREN backbone from the commercial Internet. When using videoconferencing over IP (H.323), QoS improves the quality of the video conference by removing the latency that can cause jittery pictures, broken up images, or drops in the video or audio stream.

The full-day seminar was held at Cisco's headquarters in San Jose, California. This seminar was offered to CCC, CSU, UC, and K-12 technical professionals, and attendees included network engineers and network administrators responsible for implementing QoS in the LAN and MAN environment. The slides from the training session are downloadable from CENIC's Web site at: <http://www.cenic.net/operations/documentation/>

Attendees of this seminar have provided CENIC with overwhelmingly enthusiastic feedback. CENIC is now coordinating with Cisco to accommodate requests to schedule a repeat of this seminar at a Southern California location and to provide additional technical seminars on other topics.

Announcements regarding the availability of future free technical seminars from Cisco will be sent directly to the technical representatives at DCP node sites. If your DCP node site representative has changed, please update our list by sending email to Ed Smith <[esmith@cenic.org](mailto:esmith@cenic.org)>.

### **Program Steering Committee Teleconference**

The February meeting of the Program Steering Committee was held as a teleconference moderated by Chair, Dave Meaney.

Participants discussed the Governor's proposal to continue high speed networking for K-12 and ways to support the proposal in the legislature. The effort to collect information from county offices and school districts about the cost savings and benefits of having statewide high speed internet network, and the Digital California Project (DCP)/California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) response to the Legislative Analyst recommendation to eliminate the \$21 million included in the Governor's budget for high speed internet service for K-12 schools were also discussed.

The issues associated with continuing telecommunications discounts from the California Public Utilities Commission's California Teleconnect Fund were reviewed. The 2003-04 "loan" of \$150 million to the State's General Fund, in combination with a moratorium on collecting new funds, has left the CPUC without adequate monies available to cover the \$39 million annual costs of the program for telecommunications discounts for schools, libraries, community based organizations and public hospitals. A recent letter from Senator Debra Bowen (D- Marina del Rey) and co-signed by Senators Alpert, Alarcón and Chesbro and Assembly Members Diaz, Firebaugh, Levine and Vargas resulted in CPUC action agreeing to raise the surcharge if the loan is not repaid. DCP will work with CCSESA to urge the legislature to restore the fund to \$39 million. Russ Selken reported the LAO's suggestion to tie receipt of CTF funds to an application for federal E-Rate. Currently some school districts apply for CTF only because of the cumbersome E-Rate applications or the low discount percentage tied to a district's free and reduced lunch count.

Also related to the CTF, the \$3 million provided by SB 720 (Bowen) for the "Last Mile" connections has not been distributed due to lack of staff at the CPUC available to establish a process for distribution of the funds.

On the Federal E-Rate front, Van Wilkinson announced the full funding for the E-Rate application submitted by CENIC's statewide consortium. Wilkinson has been selected to work with E-Rate authorities to streamline the processing of large consortium applications like that of California's.

The transition of the CalREN backbone to CENIC owned fiber is being facilitated as a result of a cooperative effort with SBC, which is migrating DCP node site circuits to the new network.

Senator Soto is the author of SB 1254 which will reauthorize CTAP with a sunset date of 2009. The bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee on April 14th. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30. Check [ftp://leginfo.public.ca.gov/](http://leginfo.public.ca.gov/) and the [Senate Daily File](#) to confirm the date.

AB 2706 (Berg) would also reauthorize CTAP by extending the sunset date to 2009 and makes changes in the distribution of EETT funds to address the problems small school districts have in developing technology plans. The measure sponsored by the Small School Districts' Association, will be heard in the Assembly Education Committee in April. The hearing date will be posted at [ftp://leginfo.public.ca.gov/](http://leginfo.public.ca.gov/); check the [Assembly Daily File](#) to confirm the time and place. For more information, contact David Walrath at (916) 444-9335 or [DWalrath@M-W-H.com](mailto:DWalrath@M-W-H.com).

#### **Online Technology Conference A Success!**

The Imperial County Office of Education recently pushed the envelope of technology by holding its annual technology conference online. The conference, chaired by Alan Phillips, took place during the month of February and was available for people to attend at no cost. 43 breakout sessions were available to conference attendees in topic areas such as classroom instruction, administration, counseling and technical support.

The conference also included a "Virtual Exhibit Hall" where 19 vendors exhibited information about their companies and their products. Each vendor donated prizes for a drawing that took place at the end of the conference.

By the conclusion of the conference, 918 people from 40 states across the U.S. and 12 countries around the world registered to participate in the conference. The overwhelmingly positive evaluations proved the success of the conference and having content available online is an effective form of professional development.

If you are interested in learning more about the conference or logging in and participating, visit the conference website at <http://conference.learningtech.net>.

#### **Youth Leadership Grants**

DCP is working with a coalition of representatives from the Legislature, youth organizations and state agencies to plan for a statewide Youth Summit web cast to be held October 1, 2004. Plans are underway to link teenagers from around the state through web cast and video conference technology with presentations and facilitated discussions on issues of importance to young people with an emphasis on how young people can effectively impact public policy.

The CDE has announced Regional Youth Development Program grants for coordinating regional youth development training workshops and other activities for teenagers, school staff, school board members and community leaders. 11 county offices of education will receive grants of \$20,000 and 3 counties will receive an additional \$3,000 for advanced training of trainers who will help facilitate leadership training around the state. The grants will be used for local activities and to support the video conference/web cast technology linking the regional meeting sites.

Currently all 58 counties have a Leadership and Technical Assistance grant from CDE to provide services under the Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities and Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program Funds. The new Youth Development grants (\$20,000) are to be used to host regional workshops and provide a link to the state conference. For more information, please contact DJ Peterson at (916) 319-0548 or [dpeterso@cde.ca.gov](mailto:dpeterso@cde.ca.gov) or Tilana Green at (916) 319-0199 or [tgreen@cde.ca.gov](mailto:tgreen@cde.ca.gov).

#### **Eleven School Districts to Participate in Online Classroom Pilot Project**

According to Wayne Shimizu of the CDE Education Technology Office, it took only 4 minutes for the first 40 eligible schools to submit applications for the AB 294 Online Classroom Pilot Project. Eleven school districts, Grossmont Union HSD, Capistrano USD, Santa Ana USD, Clovis USD, San Jose USD, East Side Union HSD, William S. Hart Union HSD, Victor Valley Union HSD, Los Angeles USD, Folsom Cordova USD and Orange USD were successful applicants.

Under AB 294, 40 classrooms may be authorized to receive average daily attendance credit for instruction offered online. Two bills authored by Assembly Member Lynn Daucher, AB 885 (2002) and AB 294 (2003) were introduced after Ms. Daucher learned of problems facing a school district in her area when the state questioned whether to grant ADA for online classroom instruction. The pilot project has a 2007 sunset date with two evaluations, one convened by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and a fiscal review by the State Controller.

#### **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **UC College Prep (UCCP) Online Teaching & Learning Institute 2004**

UC Santa Cruz,  
July 21 - 23, 2004

The Institute is designed to offer the most relevant and useful technology training possible to teachers and administrators. Attendees will obtain valuable and applicable information on everything from networks and technology troubleshooting to the fundamentals of mentoring online students and teaching online. For more information, contact Jennifer Bosco Guillen, Conference Coordinator, at (866) 482-7737 (Toll Free) or Email: [uccp@uccp.org](mailto:uccp@uccp.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](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://lists.cenic.org/mailman/listinfo/dcp-today>

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

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