



## LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET


 
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### DCP Today

Volume 5, Issue 4  
April, 2004

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

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#### **Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Considers Funding for K-12 High Speed Network**

On Tuesday, April 27th the Assembly Budget Subcommittee, chaired by Assembly Member Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), considered the \$21 million in the 2004-05 state budget for K-12 high speed internet connectivity. After providing the audience with a brief synopsis of the budget item and its intended purposes, the chair asked for comments from the audience. A representative from the California Federation of Teachers expressed concern that the funding may be an encroachment on Proposition 98 since the program used to be supported as part of the University of California's budget (i.e. the non-Proposition 98 portion of the State General Fund). Several entities testified in support of the funding including the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the County Superintendents' Association (CCSESA), the Small School Districts' Association (SSDA), the Kern, Mendocino, San Bernardino, Santa Clara and San Diego County Offices of Education, and the California Community Technology Policy Group (CCTPG).

The Legislative Analyst's Office, which had previously raised a number of questions about the project, noted that they have been working with CENIC and CCSESA. Their remaining concerns/issues surrounded the benefits that districts receive as a result of high speed connectivity and a need for more school district data input.

After a brief discussion of the possibility of funding the project from the California Teleconnect Fund (a fund administered by the California Public Utilities Commission and under the jurisdiction of a different subcommittee), the chair recommended that action be deferred pending more information about the legal and policy issues surrounding Proposition 98 and the California Teleconnect Fund.

The Senate Budget Subcommittee considered this budget item on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Action was deferred in the Senate until the Governor releases his revised budget in mid-May.

#### **New California Teleconnect Fund Rules Adopted By the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on State Administration**

On April 13, 2004 the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on State Administration adopted two new conditions that would significantly impact the amount of funding county offices of education and school districts' receive from the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC's) California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) commencing in the 2005-06 fiscal year. Specifically, the Subcommittee voted to:

1. Require CTF discounts be determined after subtracting the amount of funding that could be obtained through the federal E-Rate program (regardless of whether or not the district actually applied for or receives E-Rate funding), and
2. Change the percentage of the CTF discounts to a sliding scale that mirrors the federal E-Rate program in order to target funds to those areas with the highest poverty. (Currently, CTF provides a 50% discount on district and county office of education telecommunications bills after taking into account any discounts already provided by E-Rate. The same rate applies to all entities approved to participate in the program.)

Critics note that linking the CTF and the E-rate will be incredibly burdensome to administer and will not significantly increase the amount of E-rate funding California receives since most districts already participate in E-Rate.

The Subcommittee directed the Legislative Analyst's Office to identify the amounts that could be saved as a result of these two actions, and to make recommendations regarding alternative uses of the funds to bridge the Digital Divide. The Subcommittee deferred action on the amount of the appropriation to the CPUC for the CTF, and deferred action on a proposal to cap the total amount that the CPUC could raise for the CTF via a surcharge on phone bills.

The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection, Public Safety and Energy is scheduled to consider this item on May 13th. 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)

Mailing Address:

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

Be sure mention the budget item number for the California Teleconnect Fund in the text of your letter and send a copy to your own legislators. The CTF is Budget Item 8660-001-0493.

#### **CPUC Considers New California Teleconnect Fund Requirements**

The last issue of DCP Today noted that the CPUC had delayed a vote on the implementation of new regulations (contained in Resolution T-16763) that would make it very difficult for school districts and county offices of education to obtain discounts on their telecommunications bills from the California Teleconnect Fund. A subcommittee consisting of representatives from the education community and the commercial carriers was asked to provide CPUC staff with recommendations by April 16th that accomplished the Commission's goal of making the process more efficient without negatively impacting education. As of this writing, the recommendations developed by this group had not yet been accepted by the CPUC. If an agreement is not reached and the PUC members are asked to act on Resolution T-16763 at their upcoming meeting on May 6th, members of the education community may be asked to fax letters and make calls to CPUC members. So.....stay tuned!

#### **Program Steering Committee April Teleconference**

The April PSC meeting was held by teleconference on April 14th with 35 participants. Reports included an update on high speed internet funding for 2004-05 and the continuing effort to provide information to the Legislative Analyst's Office about the benefits of the high speed, high bandwidth network for schools, and, the cost savings to school districts with the network vs. having to contract for services with private providers. The CPUC's California Teleconnect Fund proposed regulations which would require districts to submit additional forms in order to qualify for CTF discounts and the continued concern about the disbursement of funds for last mile connections under SB 720 were outlined.

The March 31st Jack O'Connell web cast had more than 35 local sites participate. John Fleischman, Director of Technology for the Sacramento County Office of Education which produced the web cast, commented on the enhanced quality of the web cast with the recently improved network capacity and also noted that web cast quality has improved over time and experience.

The Legislative update noted committee hearing dates for SB 1254 (Soto) which reauthorizes CTAP and extends the sunset date to 2009 and AB 2706 which reauthorizes CTAP and extends the sunset date to 2009 and also revises the award distribution of Education Through Technology funds by districts of like size and sets aside \$2.5 million for consortium to use the monies to develop teacher training materials or course content that meets the A through G requirements for four year colleges. SB 1383 (Soto) would authorize the use of the Instructional Material Fund to be used to purchase instructional technology, including hardware. (See Legislative Update below for hearing dates)

#### **PSC Meeting June 28<sup>th</sup>**

The next meeting of the PSC will be June 28th in Sacramento at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office from 9:00 to 2:30. Please mark your calendars; we will send additional information closer to the date.

#### **CENIC Conference, Lighting the Path for Your Imagination**

This year's CENIC conference, held on March 15-17, attracted over 200 participants. The keynotes of the conference were interesting and the topics had a broad range. The first day, two of the keynotes touched on the history and current achievements of CENIC, as well providing a roadmap for where CENIC will go in the future. John Silvester, Chairman of the CENIC Board, provided the future look, while M. Stuart Lynn offered the backward look to when he and a group of others first had the idea for CENIC. Steve Peace, of Cornerstone Strategies, Former Director, California Department of Finance & Former State Legislator, made a thought provoking presentation about research and technology from the Sacramento political perspective and gave hints at how Washington views the state of California. The second day's keynote featured an animated talk about the 'undernet' and the denizens that inhabit it. Rob Thomas, of Team Cymru, took the wraps off life underground and provided significant insight into the rationale and motivations of Internet miscreants. The last day's keynote discussed the implications for a research network to support Biomedical Informatics Research. Professor Mark Ellisman, Director of UC San Diego's Center for Research in Biological Structure, captured the audience with his descriptions of real life uses of high speed data network transfers, Grid computing and high capacity storage systems. For a detailed look at the agenda and to view presentation slides visit: <http://www.cenic.org/CENIC2004/agenda.htm>.

#### **2004 On the Road to a Gigabit Awards Honor K-12 Programs**

Five of the nine applications honored in the 2004 On the Road to a Gigabit Awards, sponsored by CENIC and Cal-IT(2), were submitted by K-12 programs. The awards were presented at a luncheon on March 15, 2004 as a part of CENIC's annual conference. The awards showcase the pioneering ideas of today's visionaries and the promise of tomorrow's Internet, as well as highlight the technologies paving the road to a gigabit world.

##### **EDUCATION AWARD:**

The Education Award honors innovative uses of high-performance networking in K-12 and higher education.

First Place: [Educational Telecommunications Network](#)  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Contact: Richard Quinones, [quinones\\_richard@lacoed.edu](mailto:quinones_richard@lacoed.edu)

Honorable Mention: [Teaching and Learning Interchange](#)  
University of San Francisco, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, Kings County Office of Education, San Diego County Office of Education Professional Development, Online Production, San Joaquin County Office of Education & WestEd  
Contact: Pamela Redmond, [redmond@mac.com](mailto:redmond@mac.com)

##### **GIGABIT OR BUST AWARD:**

The Gigabit or Bust Award honors the high-performance networking application/technology that best exemplifies what life would be like in a gigabit-connected world.

First Place: [Desert Sands Gigabit Ethernet](#)  
Desert Sands Unified School District  
Contact: Dr. George Araya, [george@surf.dsusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:george@surf.dsusd.k12.ca.us)

Honorable Mention: [Education Applications For A Gigabit Network](#)  
El Monte Union High School District  
Garett McKay, [gmckay@emuhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:gmckay@emuhsd.k12.ca.us)

##### **PARTNERSHIP AWARD:**

The Partnership Award honors the best use of high-performance networking developed by a private/public partnership.

Honorable Mention: [George Wright Society's Virtual Trip to Fish Creek](#)  
California State Parks, HPWREN & San Diego County Office of Education  
Contact: Alan Friedman, [afrie@parks.ca.gov](mailto:afrie@parks.ca.gov)

For more information on these or any of the 2004 award winners, visit <http://www.cenic.org/gb/awards/2004/winners.htm>.

#### **Legislative Updates and Hearings**

##### ***\$21 million Education Technology Budget Item***

Senate Budget Bill: In the Senate Subcommittee # 1 until the May revise: open item.  
Assembly Budget Bill: In the Assembly Subcommittee # 2, held for further discussion re: Goldberg suggestion \$21 million to be funded by the California Teleconnect Fund.

##### ***California Teleconnect Fund Budget Item***

Senate Budget Bill: Subcommittee # 2. Hearing set for May 13th  
Assembly Budget Bill: Subcommittee # 4 adopted language to tie the CTF and E-rate discounts and to establish a need based criteria for CTF.

##### ***SB 1254 (Soto) CTAP Sunset extension:***

Senate Appropriations Committee: Held in the Suspense file, 4/26

##### ***SB 1380 (Escutia)***

This bill would make substantive changes in the textbook adoption process by allowing local school districts to review new instructional materials and make recommendations to the State Board of Education. The bill allows school districts to use Instructional Fund funds for technology based instructional materials. Passed Senate Education with amendments. Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

**SB 1383 (Soto)**

This bill authorizes a school district to use Instructional Material Fund funds to purchase or lease technology based materials. Held in Senate Education committee without recommendation.

**AB 2416 (Goldberg)**

This bill would allow local school districts to determine which supplemental materials are "scientifically based and standards aligned" and to purchase such materials funds from the Reading First program. Passed the Assembly, now in Senate Rules awaiting assignment to committee.

**AB 2706 (Berg) CTAP Sunset extension, EETT grants**

Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

For the latest Legislative Committee hearing information, go to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

**Tom West Leaving CENIC to Devote Full Time to National Lambda Rail (NLR)**

Tom West, President and CEO of CENIC, announced on April 29, 2004 that he would be leaving CENIC to devote himself full time to his role as President and CEO of National Lambda Rail, Inc. (NLR), a major initiative of U.S. research universities and private sector technology companies to provide a national scale infrastructure for research and experimentation in networking technologies and applications. Tom had been spending the majority of his time working on NLR during the current year, while concurrently holding the presidency of CENIC. The NLR, Inc.'s board request that Tom devote his full time energies is a reflection of his outstanding contributions in launching the NLR and the need for full time commitment during NLR's critical start up period. Tom has been President of CENIC since 1999 and has overseen the initial implementation of the CalREN network, the development of the DCP and the recent upgrade of the CENIC backbone to high speed fiber optic technology. CENIC and DCP congratulate Tom on his appointment. Tom's full time role at NLR begins on July 1.

**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).

**Youth Development Summit**

October 1, 2004

The third annual Statewide Youth Development Summit will be held at locations across the state and will be linked by a web cast at various times during the day. In the March DCP Today, the 11 regional recipients of Youth Development grants were announced. Each of the regions will help coordinate conferences for youth and adults to discuss strategies for youth involvement in policy making efforts including youth councils, city councils, school boards, public commissions and committees, non-profit organizations etc. In the next several months, key county office of education locations will be identified to host the web casts based in part upon the acceptance of guest speakers who will broadcast presentations to the regional sites. The DCP CalREN Network will enable the connection of the multi-site conference.

**October Keystone Conference on K-12 Videoconferencing**

Indianapolis  
October 25-26, 2004

K-12 Videoconferencing will be the subject of a two day conference to be held in Indianapolis on October 25 and 26 and simultaneously via two way interactive video conferencing nation-wide. Conference sponsors are currently soliciting presentation proposals from K-12 programs demonstrating their use of videoconference technology. K-12 practitioners interested in submitting proposals can go to [www.keystoneconference.org](http://www.keystoneconference.org) for more information.

**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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