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PUBLICATIONS

Dear DCP Today Subscriber,

During the past year, articles in DCP Today have discussed the efforts to retain state funding for the K-12 portion of California's K-20 high speed network and the proposal to transition the governance of the K-12 network funding from the University of California to a lead county office of education. I am pleased to report that the legislature and the Governor fully funded the K-12 portion of the high speed network for 2004-05, and the Imperial County Office of Education and their partners, the Butte County Office of Education and the Mendocino County Office of Education, have been selected to govern the network funding. I am also pleased that the county offices are contracting with CENIC to continue to provide network services to the K-12 community in the year ahead.

In accordance with the transition, the Imperial County Office maintain the list serve for this newsletter and provide all future correspondence about the K-12 portion of CENIC's K-20 network (i.e. CalREN). The first edition of the California K-12 High Speed Network's "Network News" is below.

If you would like to be removed from the list serve, please send an email to Rebecca Blair at rblair@icoe.org.

Thank you for your interest in the Digital California Project. We hope that the California K-12 High Speed Network can count on your continued support.

Sincerely,
Jim Dolgonas
President & COO

California K-12 High Speed Network's Network News

Volume 1, Issue 1
October 2004

Welcome to the new California K-12 High Speed Network's Network News, a monthly electronic newsletter detailing the latest news about the California K-12 High Speed Network.

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About CENIC

Project News

California K-12 High Speed Network

On September 20th, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced the selection of the Imperial County Office of Education as the new lead agency to administer the California K-12 High Speed Network. The \$21 million state program, awarded via a competitive process to a consortium that includes the Imperial, Butte and Mendocino County Offices of Education and School Services of California, will enable K-12 schools, districts and county offices of education to continue to be served by the high speed, high bandwidth California Research and Education Network (CalREN).

The Imperial County Office will work with its higher education counterparts through the nonprofit Corporation for Education Networking Initiatives in California (CENIC) to maintain the network that provides connectivity for schools and districts in all 58 counties and all public higher education campuses in California. The Imperial County Office and its partners also will be working with K-12 technology, curriculum, and business leaders in the state to ensure that all county offices, districts and schools are able to take advantage of the many benefits the network can provide.

Additional information is available at www.k12hsn.org.

California Teleconnect Fund Bill Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger

Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 1276 by Senator Debra Bowen (D-Marina del Rey) which authorizes \$18 million from the California Public Utilities Commission's California Teleconnect Fund to be spent on telecommunications services discounts for schools, libraries, community based organizations and hospitals. By continuing the state's support of telecommunications costs from the CTF, previously feared cuts in schools' access to education technology tools for students, teachers and administrators have been avoided.

Numerous groups within the education community, public library groups and community based organizations worked with Senator Bowen in support of the measure which the Governor signed on September 28th.

In the next year, the Legislature and education community will embark upon a review of the formula for the distribution of the CTF and analyze the impact of federal E-rate participation/non-participation by school districts on the CTF state program. Budget language was adopted to require a study of the Teleconnect Fund and the impact of linking receipt of the CTF dollars to participation/application in the federal E-rate program.

A big "thanks" to our newsletter readers who took time to write to Legislators and the Governor in support of the CTF. Your letters helped keep the program alive and funded.

Legislative Update

In addition to SB 1276 (Bowen), which is described above, Governor Schwarzenegger has signed at least three other bills of interest to K-12 education technology proponents including the following:

SB 1254 Chapter 482 (SOTO) extends the sunset date for the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) through 2009. The measure expands the responsibilities of the CTAP and calls upon CTAP representatives to work more closely with underserved/low income school districts.

SB 1384 Chapter 397 (SCOTT) will help local school districts select online resources by requiring the California Learning Resource Network to review electronic assessment resources and provide an analysis of the software's features for potential buyers. A major goal of the legislation is to give principals and teachers more information on individual student achievement so they can "design more individualized learning and instructional programs for each pupil".

SB 1384 includes a directive to explore the feasibility of an online customer feedback feature so teachers and administrators can register their opinions on the quality and usability of the various online assessment tools.

AB 2706 Chapter 681 (BERG) makes several changes in the rules governing the allocation of the federal Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant funds, including establishing a minimum level of competitive grant funding to be allocated to each region of the state. The bill was sponsored by the Small School Districts' Association.

SB 1380 (ESCUTIA) was vetoed. SB 1380 would have allowed local school districts to review and select instructional materials they deemed appropriate and aligned to standards, and then recommend them to the State Board of Education. The bill was amended to include consultation with the "exclusive representative" of teachers before sending the recommendations to the State Board of Education. In the event the State Board had not adopted the instructional materials within 90 days, the materials would have been automatically approved and the local board would have the authority to purchase the materials.

AB 2416 (GOLDBERG) was vetoed. The bill would have authorized local governing boards to review and recommend supplemental materials to the State Board of Education for approval. Local boards would have been allowed to use their Reading First funds to purchase supplemental materials so long as they previously purchased the SBE approved materials. If the State Board failed to adopt the materials within 90 days, they would have automatically been approved.

If you would like to review any of the chaptered provisions, you can access them on the Legislative Information web site by searching the original bill number: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

FCC Hearing October 6th Demonstrates the Power of Broadband Technology

On October 6th, the Federal Communications Commission, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (ILMS), and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) held a symposium in Washington D.C. entitled, "Unleashing the Educational Power of Broadband". Darryl LaGace, Director of Information Services for the Lemon Grove School District in California, served on a panel that discussed how technology can be integrated into the learning environment. LaGace also provided a demonstration of how technology is actually used in the Lemon Grove School District. To view the archived version of the forum, go to <http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/workshops.html>.

The national forum provided an opportunity for school and library recipients of E-rate discounts to talk about the programs made possible by the E-rate program. Each year, more than \$2 billion in discounts have been made available through the FCC program aimed at universal telecommunications/technology services. The school and library E-rate program has come under intense criticism due to cases of fraud, abuse and misuse of funds, primarily as a result of unscrupulous vendors, and school administrators not experienced in complex telecommunications/technology contracts or in purchasing technology hardware and software far beyond the needs/capability of a school based program.

Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant Program Threatened

In September, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and the Consortium for School Networking (COSN) organized education technology leaders from across the country to meet with Members of Congress regarding the recent House Committee on Appropriation's actions to cut \$91 million from the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant program. Subsequent to this effort, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected the House's \$91.8 million cut (leaving the program with level funding at \$ 692 million). Capitol insiders predict that it could be as late as next February before Congress adopts a final funding amount for the program. The potential EETT budget cut would seriously erode the program which is the major federal technology program reaching schools across the country. Within states, EETT funding is distributed through two formulas, one based upon poverty levels of students' families, and the other on a competitive basis.

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

October Keystone Conference on K-12 Videoconferencing

Indianapolis
October 25-26, 2004

Videoconferencing will be the subject of a two day conference to be held in Indianapolis on October 25 and 26. The conference will be able to be viewed simultaneously nation-wide via two way interactive videoconferencing. Among others, the Orange County Office of Education, the California State Parks and the Imperial County Office of Education will be demonstrating the use of videoconferencing to support virtual field trips. Conference sponsors are currently soliciting additional presentation proposals from K-12 programs demonstrating the use of videoconferencing technology. K-12 practitioners interested in submitting proposals can go to www.keystoneconference.org for more information.

National School Boards Association T+L2 Conference

Denver
October 27-29, 2004

The National School Boards Association's Technology + Leadership + Learning, (T+L2) Conference is scheduled for October 27-29th in Denver, Colorado. The conference, "Turn Up the Power" will feature nationally recognized education technology speakers in presentations and panel discussions on issues of interest to school leaders. Several thousand school board members, administrators, teachers and librarians are expected to attend the three day conference. For more information, you can go to <http://www.nsba.org/T+L/> or email sfolks@nsba.org

California Education Technology Professionals' Association

Sacramento
November 17-19, 2004

The California Education Technology Professionals' Association will hold its 44th annual conference in downtown Sacramento November 17-19 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel. Keynote speakers are Attorney General Bill Lockyer and Howard S. Charney of Cisco. For more information, go to <http://www.cetpa-k12.org/events>.

CCBE/PTA/CCSESA Annual Conference: Partnerships for Success

Monterey
March 11-13, 2005

For more information, go to <http://www.ccsesa.org/> or call Kate Osborn at the CCSESA office at (916) 448-7801.

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.

Website questions: webmaster@cenic.org

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