

LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET



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CENIC Today is the monthly newsletter of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC).

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Quote of the Month

"Whenever you can peer directly with another network and avoid having to move traffic across the commodity Internet, you drive down your costs."

--John Charles, Associate VP for Information Technology at CSU-Hayward.

New Switching Center Could Reduce Internet Costs for California Colleges

An Internet switching center being built this fall on the campus of California State University-Hayward will expand educational and research opportunities at California universities and community colleges, Cal State officials said Monday.

The 180,000-square-foot private facility will include 15,000 square feet of donated space for switching equipment for state education networks, including CENIC's own CalREN-2, the California Research and Education Network, and 4Cnet, a network that links the CSU campuses and community colleges in the state.

Academic and research programs at Hayward in particular will benefit because the campus will get a direct fiber-optic connection to CalREN-2, California's Internet2 network. The university now leases a circuit to connect to Internet2. Having a CalREN-2 node located right on the campus will be "a huge benefit for our faculty, students, and staff involved in scholarly work that involves access to Internet2," Mr. Charles said.

The rest of the facility will serve as a major network-exchange point where competing broadband telecommunications networks -- UUnet, Sprint, Cable and Wireless, PacBell, AT&T, MCI, and others -- can exchange network traffic. Such exchange points, known as a "network peering points," serve to boost the speed and lower the cost of educational and research exchanges.

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education, February 6, 2001

CENIC Names Optical Network Initiative Network Architecture Team

The CENIC Technical Advisory Board has named seven prominent Internet experts to form the CENIC ONI Architecture Team.

The CENIC ONI Architecture Team consists of 7 members representing all of the CENIC Founding Partner Associates: Russ Hobby (Chair), UC-Davis, Celeste Anderson, ISI/JSC and CalTech/Los Nettos, Bryan Court, CSU Network Operations Center, Ken Lindall, UC-Berkeley, Dave Reese, CSU, Ron Roberts, Stanford, and David Wasley, UCOP. Consulting and support services will be provided by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

In January, CENIC completed Phase 1 of the ONI and moved one step closer to its one step closer to its goal of delivering a statewide optical network for California by June 2002.

NSF Announces RFP for ADVANCE

The pursuit of new scientific and engineering knowledge and its use in service to society requires the talent, perspectives and insight that can only be assured by increasing diversity in the science, engineering and technological workforce. Despite advances made in the proportion of women choosing to pursue science and engineering careers, women continue to be

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significantly underrepresented in almost all science and engineering fields, constituting only 22% of the science and engineering workforce at large, and less than 20% of science and engineering faculty in 4-year colleges and universities.

The goal of the ADVANCE program is to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers, thereby contributing to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce. Creative strategies to realize this goal are sought from men and women. Members of underrepresented minority groups and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

In FY 2001 this pilot program will offer three types of awards that will enable promising individuals to further their academic and research goals.

More information can be obtained by contacting Alice Hogan, ADVANCE Program Director (ahogan@nsf.gov) or by visiting the ADVANCE website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/advance/>.

Source: NSF Website (<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf0169>)

CENIC's DCP Represented at First Annual California Student Technology Showcase

On March 5, 2001, the California Department of Education and the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) will hold the first annual Student Technology Showcase: Using Technology to Advance Learning. Students in grades 4-12 from each of CTAP's 11 regions will present as many as eight exemplary curriculum-based technology projects.

Guests will include teachers, students, employees of the California Department of Education, County offices of Education, and California Technology Assistance Project. Representatives from CENIC's Digital California Project will also be attending the showcase, interacting with students and distributing information about CENIC's exciting initiative for California's K-12 schools.

This event is a highly recommended staff development opportunity for teachers and administrators who are interested in promoting the effective use of technology to enhance student learning. There is no charge to attend this event. For additional information, please contact the Education Technology Office at (916) 323-5715.

Virtual Charter School Endorsed by Pennsylvania Board

William J. Bennett's Virginia-based education company, K12, has won approval to manage its first virtual charter school in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

The board of the Norristown Area School District voted unanimously to grant a five-year charter to the Internet-based Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School. K12 will manage the school and provide its curriculum. The cyber school, set to open in September, will be open to any student from kindergarten through second grade in Pennsylvania. Bennett, an author and former U.S. secretary of education, is chairman of K12's board of directors. The Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School is the first Internet-based charter school approved by a school district in Southeastern Pennsylvania, although it is not the first in the state.

Two other groups also are seeking to launch virtual charter schools in nearby districts in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Source: The Philadelphia Inquirer, February 14, 2001

Factoid: Children's Computer Use Grows, but Gaps Persist

According to a report by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, 70 percent of American households with children ages 2-17 have computers and 52 percent are connected to the Internet. Just five years ago, only 15 percent of households with children ages 2-17 had Internet access and slightly less than half had a computer.

But children's access to computers varies with family income. Only about 22 percent of children in families with annual incomes of less than \$20,000 had access to a home computer, compared with 91 percent of those in families with incomes of more than \$75,000. Even when they do have access to a computer, children in low-income families used it less than those in high-income families.

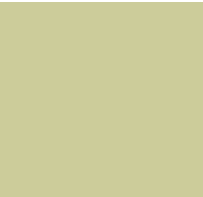
About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation formed by the California Institute of Technology, the California State University, Stanford University, the University of California, and the University of Southern California to advance the use of communications technology in teaching, learning, and research at California's institutions of higher education. CENIC's Founding Partner Associates are Cisco Systems, IBM, Pacific Bell and Sun Microsystems. For more information about CENIC, visit <http://www.cenic.org/>.

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