



LEADING THE WAY TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET


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Welcome to CENIC Today, the monthly newsletter of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California.

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CENIC News

CalREN Optical Network Deployment Update

Since the last report, major progress has been made toward completing the initial build-out of CalREN services over the new fiber backbone. Work has focused on the two areas discussed in the December report – the completion of the roll-out of services on the new backbone and the migration of sites to the new backbone.

On backbone services: The CalREN-HPR network is now ready for all of the former CalREN-2 campuses to establish HPR connections as they are ready to do so. All but one of the OC-12 OCN connections into the backbone nodes around the state have been tested and individual rider circuits on them are in various stages of being tested and turned up. To support the CalVIP project (see below), QoS has been implemented on the entire CalREN-DC backbone.

Migration of K-12, CCC, and CSU sites to CalREN Backbone: About 1/4th of the Community College and K-12 DCP node site circuits have been cutover to the new backbone. CSU SLO is also using the new backbone. As this is being written, work is underway with a number of CSU campuses, as well as ongoing work with CCC campuses and K-12 DCP node sites, to coordinate on migration of the remaining sites to the new network. We are planning to be able to de-commission the old Central Valley north-south backbone around March 1.

The CalVIP, video over IP project is also in full roll out mode for H.323 videoconference services. Most sites have been shipped the new gatekeeper equipment, and new conference scheduling procedures have been implemented. Additional information about CalVIP is now available on the Web at: <http://www.cenic.org/services/cvs/index.html>.

This Web site was developed to share information about the CalVIP project and contains a wide range of topics, including new procedures for scheduling video teleconferences, equipment and configuration changes required in the migration from H.320 to H.323 videoconferencing

technologies, tips on how to make videoconferences successful, etc. After IP-based videoconferencing services across CalREN have been fully deployed, this project will address additional video over IP technologies.

Source: Greg Scott & Edwin Smith, CENIC

Register Today for CENIC 2004

CENIC 2004, our annual conference event, is set for March, 15, 16 and 17 in Marina del Rey, California. The theme this year is "Lighting a Path for Your Imagination". The program features two exciting keynote speakers: Rob Thomas from Cymru, who will address the conference on Network Security and Mark Ellisman, a leading researcher and director of the Center for Research in Biological Structure at UC San Diego. Another conference feature is the "On the Road to a Gigabit" awards, with presentations by the award winners.

Join your colleagues at this vibrant, engaging event. If you register and pay before February 23, you will automatically be entered to win a \$100 American Express Gift Check. The drawing will be held at the conference.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://www.cenic.org/events/cenic2004/agenda.htm>.

One Gigabit or Bust Roundtable Meets in March

The second meeting of the One Gigabit or Bust Roundtable is scheduled on March 17 and 18 immediately following CENIC's annual conference in Marina del Rey (very close to LAX). The Roundtable is organized around topical task forces discussing everything from rural issues to broadband policies needed in California.

Task forces are open to all participants and create an open, engaging discussion environment – one that encourages the variety of perspectives needed to come up with a realistic action plan for deploying gigabit broadband to every California business, educational institution and home by 2010.

In addition to the task forces, Commissioner Susan Kennedy from the California Public Utilities Commission will join us and give us both state and federal perspectives on broadband deployment.

The agenda is now available on the web. Individual agendas for each task force will be available by mid-February. Registration fees are affordable with a no-cost option for those who want to attend one or two task forces or have limited budgets.

For more information, visit <http://www.cenic.org/gb/events/rt0304/agenda.htm>.

High Performance and Research Technical Advisory Committee (HPR-TAC) Update

The CENIC Board has appointed Mike Scott from UC Irvine as the new vice-chair of the HPR-TAC.

The next HPR-TAC meeting will be held at Caltech on February 19th.

Source: Michael Van Norman, Chair, HPR-TAC

National Networking News

PUC Reports to the Legislature on the Status of the Teleconnect fund (CTF)

In the last budget cycle, \$150 million was moved from the CTF to the State's General Fund. The Governor's new budget proposes only \$5 million for the CTF for next fiscal year. If no changes are made to the budget or the program, and the \$150 million is not refunded by the administration to the CTF, there will be only enough money to carry the fund through August 2004. The immediate remedy is for the PUC to increase the CTF surcharge. By doing so, the PUC and telephone companies are once again (as in 2002-2003) put in the position of collecting money for the General Fund by levying special purpose fees on telephone consumers.

The full report can be found at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/REPORT/33549.htm>

Source: California Telephone Association (CTA) Friday Report

Educational Technology Update: Weblogs

A web-based technology that has become a cultural phenomenon, especially in journalism, has begun to take hold in academia as well. Weblogs, also known as "blogs," allow a person to easily and quickly publish online content without having to know how to create a web page. In education, weblogs are being used in a variety of ways, including providing students an avenue for expressing themselves and for reflecting on what they have learned. They are also used to create collaborative communities for students and instructors as they progress through a course or work on shared projects.

For more information, go to <http://www.ucltc.org/news/2004/01/weblogs.html>

Source: UC TLtC News by Email

\$27,000 to Create the 'Perfect' Middle School Science Classroom

The NEC Perfect Classroom Competition is a national competition that will award three middle-school science teachers up to \$9,000 each to improve their classrooms and to enhance the learning experience for their students. Teachers are encouraged to submit video essays describing their vision for the perfect classroom. Winners will be selected and announced in conjunction with National Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

For grant information, go to <http://www.sciserv.org/cgi-bin/nec/PerfClassroom.asp>

Source: eSchoolNews

ICT Leaders Issue Call for Action

The Computer Systems Policy Project (CSPP), an information and communications technology (ICT) advocacy organization comprised of the industry's top chief executive officers, issued a report this week calling for a more activist federal government for encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship and education in the sciences and math.

Choose to Compete: How Innovation, Investment and Productivity Can Grow U.S. Jobs and Ensure American Competitiveness in the 21st Century is available at www.cspp.org. CSPP is an affiliation of the CEOs of Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel, NCR, Unisys, Motorola, and EMC2.

Source: SSTI (State Science & Technology Institute) Weekly

NSF Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program

NSF invites proposals for funding under the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program to increase the number of students pursuing and receiving associates or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging fields within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Approximately \$7 million is expected to be available for 10-12 Type 1 awards and 1-2 Type 2 awards. Optional letters of intent are due Jan. 28, 2004; proposals are due March 10, 2004. More information is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04529>

Source: NSF

Megaconference V Reaches Five Continents

More than 1000 people from over 200 institutions in 27 countries on five continents dialed into the 5th Annual Megaconference on December 10th 2003, to participate in the world's largest simultaneous Internet videoconferencing event to test, discuss, and present applications of IP-based H.323 Videoconferencing.

For more information about the Megaconference see www.megaconference.org.

Source: I2 News

NSF Science and Engineering Information Integration and Informatics

NSF invites proposals for funding under the Science and Engineering Information Integration and Informatics program. This program focuses on advancing the application of advanced information technology to science and engineering problems in specific domains, such as astronomy, biology, the geosciences, public health and health care delivery. Approximately \$14.5 million is expected to be available in FY 2004 to fund 25-30 awards. The categories of proposers identified in the Grant Proposal Guide (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?gpg>) are eligible to submit proposals by two deadlines in 2004, March 4 and Dec. 15.

More information is available at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04528>

Source: NSF

Study: School Web Access Falls Short of Kids' Expectations

A new survey shows that students with home internet access are becoming increasingly disappointed with their online experience at school. As today's youth continue to embrace the internet, their rising expectations for school connectivity have resulted in a near-doubling of dissatisfaction in school internet access among nine- to 17-year olds since 2000, the survey's authors say.

"I think it's pretty clear that while national connectivity initiatives have had an impact, they haven't the ubiquitous connectivity that some national policy makers assume," said Peter Grunwald, president of Grunwald Associates, in an interview with eSchool News. "Students' real experience using the 'net is very different than the image painted by some of the superficial data that are out there."

Source: eSchool News, <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=4781>

\$64 Million to Design, Implement & Evaluate Charter Schools

The Charter Schools Program funds the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation. It also provides financial assistance to evaluate the effects of charter schools on students, student academic

achievement, staff, and parents. Grants are available on a competitive basis to state education agencies (SEAs) in states that have charter school laws, and SEAs in turn make subgrants to authorized public chartering agencies in partnership with developers of charter schools. If an eligible SEA elects not to participate, or if its application for funding is not approved, grants can be made directly to eligible local partnerships. Grants to SEAs average \$3 million and others average \$150,000. Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent to Apply by Feb. 19 and final applications are due March 20.

For more information: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/charter/index.html>

Source: eSchool News

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 <http://www.cenic.org>.

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Website questions: webmaster@cenic.org

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