AN-MSI NEWSLETTER

(This is the first edition of the Advanced Networking With Minority-Serving Institutions Newsletter. For information about AN-MSI events or services, contact your community leader: HBCUs: Laura-Lee Davidson, elcdavidson@aol.com; HSI: Alex Ramirez, aramirez@hacu.net; TCUs: Carrie Billy, cbilly@aihec.org. Any newsletter comments or contributions please email Eric Jensen at: eljensen@comcast.net.)

Advanced Networking With Minority-Serving Institutions (AN-MSI) is funded by the National Science Foundation through EDUCAUSE to assist minority-serving institutions (MSIs) to plan and deploy network systems to fulfill their educational missions. Approximately 100 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) in 31 states, as well as in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, are part of AN-MSI. Information on the project and items referred to below may be found at AN-MSI’s website at: www.anmsi.org.

Recent News:

At the February 25-26th AN-MSI meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, hosted by Sacred Heart University of Puerto Rico, AN-MSI presented the first annual Jack Barden leadership award. The award for exemplary effort supporting the MSI community was presented to Ramon Harris, advisor to AN-MSI and Executive Director of the Executive Leadership Council’s Technology Transfer Project. (For information on Ramon’s project, go to www.elcinfo.org and look under programs.)

On March 6, AN-MSI submitted testimony supporting the Cleland bill, S.414, to the Senate Committee on Energy & Commerce. The bill’s purpose is to promote digital technology education and network development at MSIs. Our community groups also testified on the legislation, with HACU and AIHEC referencing their partnership with AN-MSI to provide collaborative technical support to MSIs.

On March 26, University of Texas El-Paso conducted the fifth in a six-part series of multi-campus videoconference seminars on online teaching and learning across MSIs. This pilot applications project was seeded by AN-MSI. The sessions will be put onto CDs when the series is completed, and availability will be announced. Charlene Douglas, a distance learning expert whom most folks at AN-MSI know because of her consulting assistance, wrote Henry Ingle and Charles Elerick, producers of the series: “just wanted to let you know that I thoroughly enjoyed yesterday’s videoconference. The last couple of these have been outstanding and full of very useful information for the AN-MSIs. Super job!”

Campus Site Visits:

AN-MSI has responded to requests from 13 MSIs to help them assess and plan their networking needs. The campuses visited by AN-MSI teams include: University of Texas El Paso; Tougalou College; St. Augustine’s College; Arizona Western College; Oakwood College; Langston University; LeMoyne-Owen College; Haskell Indian Nations University; Blackfeet Community College; Nebraska Indian Community College; Ogala Lakota College; Fond du Lac College; and Leech Lake College.

Additional requested visits are planned for: Ft. Belknap College; Stone Child College; Ft. Berthold College; Ft. Peck Community College; Little Big Horn College; Chief Dull Knife College; Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute; University of Alaska, Fairbanks-Aleutians College; Sitting Bull College; College of Menominee Nation, and a follow-up visit to UTEP.

After AN-MSI assistance by telephone last year to Arizona Western College, Tim Shove, IT Director, thanked the University of Oregon IT staff for their help: “Things just couldn't be better. The upgrade was a huge success. We have replaced all of our servers. We have network virus protection, packeteer bandwidth management, firewall, increased bandwidth, webmail, and the list goes on. We are currently writing a grant for a SAN/NAS system for network storage. In the space of 1 year, CIS went from bad guy to saint. Amazing.” The Oregon IT team was brought in by the Network Startup Resource Center at the University of Oregon, a collaborative service partner with AN-MSI. For interest in a campus visit, please contact your community leader or Ron Langley, rlangley@bak.rr.com.
Coming Up:

AN-MSI:
Meetings: AN-MSI will hold its next all-hands meeting at Langston University’s Oklahoma City campus, on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 21st and 22nd. For additional information, see AN-MSI's website or contact Valerie Rice at: vrice@educause.net. Tentative: Prior to this meeting, on May 19 & 20, community technology staffs may meet at Oklahoma City for a series of workshops. Contact your community leaders and monitor the listserv for more information.

Videoconference: University of Texas El Paso’s sixth and final videoconference seminar, “Good, Better, Best: Evaluation and Effectiveness Indicators for Online Instruction”, will take place on April 30, 4-6 p.m. EST. To find out how to connect to or for more information on the project, contact Charles Elerick at: celerick@utep.edu.

KnowledgeNet Training: During the campus visits, one of the most identified needs has been training for network staff. In response, AN-MSI looked for high quality network training opportunities that did not require staff to be away from the campus. KnowledgeNet, an Arizona company was identified as having this kind of training. To test the applicability of KnowledgeNet's offering, AN-MSI is sponsoring a pilot program using one of their on-line courses. The course being offered is a comprehensive review of the management of networks, the basic course needed for network certification. The pilot project provides training opportunities for 6 people in each of the 3 communities. The courses will begin in April. If you wish to participate, contact your community leader for further information.

AN-MSI Financial Status: A summary, as well as criteria for obtaining funding for pilot projects, will be issued in April.

Caucus Call: The next AN-MSI conference call is Tuesday, April 23, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Participants are community and committee leaders and the Project Director and Project Assistant. Valerie Rice will post the minutes of the call on the AN-MSI listserv.

EOT-PACI: EOT-PACI will sponsor a beginners' hands-on workshop on computational science across the curriculum as well as cluster computing on May 6-7 in Campaign, IL. This workshop will teach how to set up and use clusters using Open Source Cluster Application Resources software running under RedHat Linux programs. Travel grants may be available. Register at: http://accessinclusion.ncsa.uiuc.edu/MSI.

The National Computational Science Institute (NCSI) will host a series of 6 regional introductory workshops this summer on the use of computational science, numerical models, and data visualization tools across the curriculum. The scheduled workshops are: June 2-8 at Appalachian State University, NC; June 16-22 at Ohio State University, OH; June 23-29 at Oregon State University, OR; July 14-20 at San Diego State University, CA; July 21-27 at Rochester Institute of Technology, New York; July 28-August 3 at Corpus Christi, TX; and November 16-22 at SC2002 in Baltimore. See www.computationalscience.net for more information.

The Supercomputing 2002 (SC2002) Education Program will be held November 16-22 in Baltimore, MD. SC2002 is the premier high performance computing and networking industry conference. The Education Program encourages program participation by undergraduate faculty and faculty teams partnering with teams of K-12 teachers and will have the latest in teaching technologies, as well as information on student career opportunities. Registration and information on the Education Program, as well as on travel and housing expense support, are available at: www.sc-conference.org/sc2002. Roscoe Giles of EOT-PACI is the Conference Chair, another reason to attend and support the event.