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 (see News Section).

Recent News:

On April 30, Carrie Billy, representing AIHEC, and Dave Staudt, representing AN-MSI, attended a meeting in Senator Cleland’s office to discuss his bill, Senate Bill 414, which promotes digital technology education and network development at MSIs. Representatives from HACU, NAFEO and UNCF attended, as well as a majority staff person from the Commerce Committee. The purpose was to provide further MSI perspectives to augment the testimony all parties provided earlier in the month.

The Congressional Internet Caucus, formed to study issues associated with the Internet, working with an Internet Caucus Advisory Committee, has created three working groups to focus on broadband, wireless and digital rights management issues. On April 19th, AN-MSI submitted a one-page briefing paper drafted by Dewayne Hendricks, technical director for the AN-MSI wireless project, for consideration for the April 25th Caucus meeting entitled: “The Wireless Internet: Is the U.S. Falling Behind?” The AN-MSI one-pager supported reform of our nation’s spectrum management policies; expansion of the unlicensed spectrum to a more “open spectrum” model to support wider and more innovative use of scarce spectrum; and promotion of spectrum efficient technologies that would “help overcome the broadband bottleneck our nation faces today.”

On March 26, University of Texas-El Paso conducted the sixth and final videoconference “Good, Better, Best: Evaluation and Effectiveness Indicators for Online Instruction.” A CD-Rom of all six sessions of the series will be made. For more information on the project, contact Charles Elerick at: celerick@utep.edu.

Ramon Harris and Alex Ramirez represented AN-MSI as well as the Executive Leadership Council and HACU, respectively, at the Rainbow/Push Digital Connections conference in San Jose. At the request of Cisco, an AN-MSI partner, the two were part of a panel, "Shattering the Myth: It’s an opportunity deficit; not a talent deficit.” Jessie Jackson was the MC for the conference and Bill Gates was a keynote speaker.

The National Communication Association Task Force on the Digital Divide asked Alex Ramírez to participate on a panel for the “Shaping the Network Society” conference hosted by the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility. He will be speaking on the mission and the work of AN-MSI collaborative to bridge the Digital Divide. The panel may be covered by C-SPAN.

Campus Site Visits:

AN-MSI has responded to requests from 17 MSIs to help them assess and plan their networking needs. The campuses assisted by AN-MSI teams include: University of Texas-El Paso; Tougaloo College; Saint 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; Leech Lake College; Fort Belknap College, Stone Child College; Little Big Horn College; and Chief Dull Knife College. AN-MSI also made a second site visit to UTEP at the request of the college president in May.
Additional visits were requested for: Ft. Berthold College; Ft. Peck Community College; Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute; University of Alaska, Fairbanks-Aleutians College; Ilisabik College; Sitting Bull College; College of Menominee Nation, Delaware State University, and North Carolina A&T.

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, including the agenda and event facilities, see AN-MSI’s website. Prior to this meeting, on May 20, the HBCU committee members will be meeting at Oklahoma City. Contact Laura-Lee Davidson or Ramon Harris for more information.

The Tribal Colleges and Universities are planning a meeting for technical staff in June. For more information, contact Carrie Billy.

The next meeting will be held following the annual EDUCAUSE conference (E’02) in Atlanta, GA. E’02 will begin October 2 and end October 4. The AN-MSI meeting will follow immediately, beginning with lunch at 12:30 pm on Friday, October 4, and going until 5 pm on Saturday, October 5. More information will be posted on the AN-MSI web site soon. If you have questions, please contact your community leader or Valerie Rice at: vrice@educause.edu. To register for E’02, please visit: http://www.educause.edu. (AN-MSI will only provide reimbursement for the E’02 registration once you have attended both the annual conference and the AN-MSI meeting.)

Presentation: On Wednesday, May 15, the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) is holding its 8th Annual Exhibit and Reception for Senators, Representatives, and staffs. The AN-MSI project will have a display and will be represented by Carrie Billy, Ramon Harris, and Valerie Rice.

KnowledgeNet Training: During the campus visits, one of the most identified needs has been training for network staff. In response, AN-MSI looked for a high quality network training opportunity 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 online courses. The course offered is a comprehensive review of the management of networks, the basic course needed for Cisco network certification. Six MSI technical staffers from each of the three communities will be participating in the pilot training project, beginning in April. For more information, contact your community leader or Ron Langley.

AN-MSI Financial Status: Alex Ramirez, Carrie Billy, Dave Staudt, Laura-Lee Davidson, Ramon Harris and Tom Davis met April 17 and 18 in Washington to review expenditures to date and to begin developing plans for the remainder of the project. The group decided to present the funding picture and project plans at the Langston meeting, after which they will make this information available to project participants who could not attend.

AN-MSI Project Proposals: If you are interested in contributing to one or more of the proposals for the benefit of your institution, community and the collective good of the AN-MSI community, please contact your community leader or Dave Staudt.

Caucus Call: The monthly AN-MSI conference call was held on April 23. Participants were the community and committee leaders and the Project Director and Project Assistant. Valerie Rice posted the minutes of the call on the AN-MSI listserv. The participants agreed to let the Langston meeting serve as the caucus call for May.

EOT-PACI

EOT-PACI Regional Workshops: 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.

Supercomputing 2002 Conference (SC2002): 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.