AN-MSI NEWSLETTER

August 2002

(This is the fifth 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; HSIs: Alex Ramirez, aramirez@hacu.net; TCUs: Carrie Billy, cibilly@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 (see News Section).

Recent News:

Sally Halvorson:
The AN-MSI and TCU community is mourning the loss of another key member. Sally Halvorson was the director of Haskell Indian Nations University’s computer services. She died Monday, August 26th in a car accident on U.S. Highway 40 near Big Springs. She was 62. “She was a very important member of the Haskell community. The fact that she will not be with us comes with great sadness,” Haskell President Karen Swisher said during convocation services the following day. She had worked at Haskell for 13 years. "Sally was as stubborn as the day is long -and I mean that in a good way. She was a fierce defender of Indian education, Indian people, and she loved Haskell," said Marvin Buzzard, Sally's boss and vice president in charge of university services. Part of her job, Buzzard said, involved getting Microsoft to donate much-needed software. "The value of that (donated) software is now over a million dollars," Buzzard said. "She's responsible for that.” He added, "She really meant a lot to us.” A memorial service was held Friday at Haskell Auditorium. A measure of the AN-MSI community’s grief, remembrances and condolences from all three MSI communities has been expressed in the listserv messages that have circulated. Those wishing to send condolences to the family may contact Carrie Billy.

TCU Security Training:
The Tribal Colleges and Universities and AN-MSI held a security and network management workshop for technical staff at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College on August 15-17. The goals of the training session were five-fold: 1. Develop awareness of security issues and need for network security; 2. Provide participants with security analysis tools; 3. Train participants to install the analysis tools; 4. Provide introductory training in tool usage; and, 5. Gather information on topics for future workshops. The workshop was conducted by Javier Torner from CSU, San Bernardino. Javier is the Information Security Officer and the Activity Director of the Title V project: "Improving Access to Information Systems at Hispanic-Serving Institutions”. He was assisted by a member of the project staff, Mr. James Macdonell. Ron Langley worked closely with Carrie Billy and Steve Dupuis in organizing the training session. According to the evaluations from the participants, the training session was deemed an outstanding success. It is hoped that this training program will be repeated again and made available to other MSIs.

The Wireless Project:
The installation phase of the wireless project is now complete. Wireless backbone infrastructure was completed at Fort Peck, Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain community colleges in August. Dewayne Hendricks, the Technical Director of the project, is working on the documentation, including information other campuses need to determine if wireless is an option for their situation, and the steps involved in implementing it. We are aiming for putting the documentation on the AN-MSI website in September.

AN-MSI Website:
The AN-MSI website has been updated. There is a new services page and the articles, documents and publications page has a link on the home page and has lots of new additions including the 3rd annual report to NSF, all the caucus conference call minutes, and the newsletters. The FAQs have been updated also.
Campus visit information will be added online the first week of September. Any questions or comments on the website, please contact Valerie Rice.

**KnowledgeNet:**

All of the people that were enrolled in the online portion of the course have completed the course, and all online participants gave the course a top rating of 5 on a 1-5 scale. Several participants are looking at purchasing more courses from KnowledgeNet.

Most everyone in the Express and Interactive sections have completed 50 to 80 percent of the courses. A few participants started late because of summer schedules. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

**Campus Site Visits:**

Since June, 2001, AN-MSI has responded to requests from 24 MSIs to help them assess and plan their networking needs. The previous 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; Oglala Lakota College; Fond du Lac College; Leech Lake College; Fort Belknap College; Stone Child College; Little Big Horn College; Chief Dull Knife College; Fort Berthold College; Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute; University of Alaska, Fairbanks-Alutians College; Ilisaqvik College; Sitting Bull College; Fort Peck and the College of Menominee. AN-MSI also made additional site visits to UTEP at the request of the college president in late July and August.

AN-MSI has been invited to visit 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:**

The annual EDUCAUSE conference: (E’02) in Atlanta, GA will begin October 2 and end October 4. AN-MSI invitees have been notified about a Wednesday, October 2 dinner meeting, 7:30-9:30 p.m.—preceded by an open reception 6:30-7:30 p.m.—at the Hyatt Regency and a meeting on Friday, October 4th from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Please visit http://www.educause.edu using the code sent to AN-MSI invitees to register and to reserve a hotel room. More information is available on the AN-MSI web site.

Hampton University Meeting: Hampton University and Mighty View are hosting a briefing on Mighty View’s network security and network monitoring solutions on September 18th at Hampton University. This project to improve network security and to improve network performance—and enhance IT resources—was implemented in less than 30 days and a return on investment was seen within 60 days. Debra White, Assistant Provost for technology has invited AN-MSI officials and Community Leaders to share their experience with the Mighty View solution. (RSVP: hamptonconf@k16solutions.com) Black Issues in Higher Education had an article in its August 15 issue highlighting Hampton’s security initiatives in both the curriculum and operation of campus networks.

Community Leader Meeting: Community Leaders will be meeting in Washington, D.C. at EDUCAUSE on Sept. 19th. They will discuss plans for the fourth and final year of the project and potential follow-on activities. The format of the financial status report also will be determined.

AN-MSI Project Guidelines: The Community Leaders have agreed on the procedure for selecting future projects to receive up to $10,000 funding from AN-MSI. NSF has approved the procedure, and will have a final review and decision on all projects recommended for funding. The Community Leaders will be issuing the guidelines to their communities in the near future.
Collaborative Projects and proposals: A dialogue has begun about expanding the southern California HSI Security project throughout the AN-MSI communities and to use the proposed expansion both as a future operating model and to secure additional funding for AN-MSI member projects. Contact your Community Leaders for additional information on this discussion.

Caucus Call: Minutes from caucus calls can be found at AN-MSI’s website.

EOT-PACI

EOT-PACI Regional Workshops: The National Computational Science Institute (NCSI) hosted 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 were: 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 a future one on November 16-22 at SC2002 in Baltimore. For information on the concluded workshops, contact Stephanie McLean at: smclean@ncsa.uiuc.edu. For more information on the November workshop, see www.computationalscience.net.

Next Supercomputing Regional Cluster Workshop: The Cluster Computing Workshop, for beginners who want to learn how to set up and use clusters, will be held in Atlanta, GA Sunday September 29th & Monday September 30th at the Omni Hotel CNN Center. There is no registration fee for this event. Selected workshop participants will be awarded grants to attend the workshop. Although all are encouraged to apply, preference will be given to those who submit as part of a two-person team made up of faculty and IT from an institution. (For more information, contact: http://accessinclusion.ncsa.uiuc.edu/MSI/)

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.

Announcements

ROTC Scholarships: Allison Clark, Assistant Director of Digital Equity Initiatives, NCSA/The Alliance, has asked us to get the word out that there are HBCU National ROTC scholarships available—opportunity for a 4-year scholarship. All HBCU’s that host NROTC units will provide these scholarships. They are: Southern University; Morehouse College, Spellman University; Morris Brown University; Hampton University; Norfolk State University; Florida A&M University; Savannah State University; and Prairie View A&M. For additional information contact Robert C. Morris III, Major, USMC Special Assistant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Personnel Programs (703) 693-0237 or Dr. Allison Clark, (207) 244-0768.

HBCU and TCUP Undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Support Funding: Allison Clark has announced there is a program to provide support funding for proposals at HBCUs and TCUs offering degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Activities covered are for the implementation of programs to strengthen teaching and learning, and retention of students in the STEM fields. Projects eligible are strategies to enhance STEM faculty professional development, undergraduate research, academic enrichment, infusion of technology for instruction, and collaborations with research institutions and industry. Up to $2 million may be available to fund approximately 4 implementation awards and 6 planning grants for HBCUs and up to $4.3 million for TCUs. Deadline is December 2, 2002. Go to: http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf02162, or contact Bill Struz, Grant Proposal Specialist, National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA), University of Illinois,(217) 244-2055, billstruz@yahoo.com; or Dr. Allison Clark, Assistant Director, Digital Equity Initiatives, NCSA/The Alliance, (217) 244-0768 for more information.