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:

During the EDUCAUSE 2002 conference in Atlanta (October 1-4), AN-MSI held a reception on October 1 and a business meeting on October 4. Over 65 people attended the AN-MSI reception; 45 attendees participated in the AN-MSI meeting. At the reception, Dave Staudt welcomed many new MSI attendees to the AN-MSI project. He described the range of service products AN-MSI offers to MSIs. Stephenie McLean, along with Roscoe Giles, highlighted EOT-PACI’s training initiatives and invited MSIs to participate in the wide variety of training opportunities sponsored by EOT-PACI.

During the October 4 meeting, discussions focused on seeking funding for an expanded collaborative network security initiative, which would build on the successful implementation of the CSU-San Bernardino collaborative security project seeded by AN-MSI. Discussions also centered on how to obtain funding and what format to use in order to continue the work of AN-MSI after the NSF grant expires on August 31, 2003. Several options were discussed, but a consensus reached was to talk with EDUCAUSE to explore their thoughts about continuing sponsorship or collaboration with the AN-MSI project. Julie Foertsch, our project evaluator, presented data and feedback to attendees about project issues and the need to address both current systemic communications issues and organizational concerns about furthering the mission of AN-MSI. Dave presented a proposed budget for remaining monies in the AN-MSI grant (available online). Dave also addressed a question about the fourth year mission of AN-MSI, which is to further promote and deliver the services developed by AN-MSI to all MSIs. There is also a strong push to develop more collaborations and to assist federal agencies, such as the Department of Education, to focus resources on MSI needs.

On December 5, Laura-Lee Davidson announced her resignation from AN-MSI as the HBCU coordinator. She will be focusing on new professional horizons. There was an outpouring of appreciation for Laura-Lee’s leadership and dedication. She will be missed by AN-MSI. Ramon Harris will be a temporary HBCU contact until a community coordinator is found to replace Laura-Lee.

Campus Site Visits:

AN-MSI has responded to requests from 30 MSIs to help them assess and plan their networking needs. Six follow-up visits have been made to UTEP at the request of their president, who commented that the AN-MSI visits are some of the best things that have happened at UTEP. In addition, AN-MSI recently visited El Paso Community College, New Mexico State University, Crown Point Institute of Technology, Turtle Mountain Community College, Little Big Horn College, and Chief Dull Knife College. Currently, there are twelve new campus visits being planned for early 2003.

On October 12, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) held a meeting in DC to set the schedule for campus visits to additional tribal colleges. AIHEC has begun performing campus visits for tribal colleges using the AN-MSI 'template.'
For interest in a campus visit, please contact your community leader or Ron Langley, rlangley@bak.rr.com.

**Department of Education Collaborations:**

AN-MSI collaborated with the Department of Education on a series of six Title III and Title V regional workshops. AN-MSI personnel assisted the Department by leading the discussion of the IT portion of the Department's five year strategic plan. The regional meetings occurred at:

- Austin, TX—Huston-Tillotson College: October 7 & 8
- Los Angeles, CA—California State University-Los Angeles: October 10 & 11
- Atlanta, GA—Morehouse School of Medicine: October 21 & 22
- Miami, FL—Miami-Dade Community College: October 24 & 25
- Chicago, IL—Northeastern Illinois University: November 4 & 5
- Washington, DC—University of the District of Columbia: November 7 & 8

Joyce Williams-Green, Alex Ramirez, Javier Torner, Margaret Massey, and Dave Staudt led these regional discussions. They also made the Title III and Title V Directors aware of what AN-MSI can do to address the IT problems. The Department of Education representatives reported widespread appreciation regarding the sessions' exchange of information and of AN-MSI's support.

**Jack Barden Award:**

Ramon Harris, winner of the first Jack Barden award, is seeking nominations for the second annual Jack Barden award honoree. The award was created in memory of Jack, who passed away in 2001, to recognize excellence in efforts to bring technology support to the educational mission of minority-serving institutions and minority communities. Ramon will coordinate the review process through a committee to determine the next award winner, to be announced at the All-Hands Meeting in California in April. Ramon can be contacted at rharris@elcinfo.com.

**KnowledgeNet Training:**

After an evaluation conducted by eighteen networking staff from AN-MSI schools, we have negotiated an agreement with KnowledgeNet, an Arizona company that provides high quality online network training that does not require staff to be away from the campus. The course offered is a comprehensive review of the management of networks, the basic course needed for Cisco network certification. The training also includes courses that could lead to Microsoft certification. The agreement with KnowledgeNet calls for a 27% discount for AN-MSI member institutions wanting online training for their staff. For more information about the training program, contact your community leader or Ron Langley.

Currently, KnowledgeNet and AN-MSI are developing a web site where interested individuals may register for courses online. The URL for the site will be shared with the AN-MSI community early in 2003. Incidentally, as a result of its AN-MSI contacts, KnowledgeNet has just joined EDUCAUSE as a member.

**Outreach and Partnership Efforts:**

**Hispanic Serving Institutions:**

AN-MSI assisted Sacred Heart University in Puerto Rico in obtaining an NSF grant to hold a workshop series for the Puerto Rican private and public colleges and universities for improving campus networks, networking among the institutions, and connectivity to the mainland. The dates for the workshops are February 6-7 and March 27-28, 2003, at Sacred Heart University in San Juan. The workshops will help the campuses develop collaborative strategies to implement network and IT assessments and strategic planning, with advice and consultation by AN-MSI cohorts and outside experts. The campuses will discuss their network infrastructure needs, begin planning a regional network, and talk about funding possibilities for a proposal.

Three HSIs in New York have received funding from AN-MSI for a collaborative strategic planning project. Bronx Community College/CUNY, Herbert H. Lehman College/CUNY, and Hostos Community College/CUNY intend to plan for each individual campus and, where appropriate and mutually beneficial,
joint IT activities. This novel collaborative approach can be a potential model for other MSIs, and is also of interest to the CUNY system.

**HBCUs:**

AN-MSI has begun discussions with NAFEO and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Foundation about joint activities.

**Student Technology Services (STS):**

The STS program, headed by Joe Douglas and based at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus, has pioneered student-driven technology services to meet campus network needs. STS uses its expertise in providing infrastructure development, management, and technical support to assist other institutions to develop their own student technology service programs. STS has become an active AN-MSI partner, and has assisted Bethune-Cookman College, Haskell Indian Nations University, El Paso Community College, Oakwood College, and Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College in this area.

In addition, Joe accompanied Dave Staudt and Ron Langley to the New Mexico statewide conference of higher education IT directors involving 34 participating schools to talk about developing student technical assistance programs. He also joined AN-MSI teams on several campus visits. STS is currently working with HSIs to develop regional training sessions next spring, beginning with a kick-off training session at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, to train MSIs to deploy a range of 25 services that can be provided by students to manage campus networks. In addition, STS is helping a consortium of North Carolina MSIs to develop a proposal to fund student technology service programs within their campuses.

**dot.edu:**

dot.edu is a campus-based service created by the University of Wisconsin and led by Charlene Douglas to provide e-learning infrastructure and help desk and consultation support to teaching entities. (For more information on dot.edu’s support of distance learning, please see the Chronicle’s June 12, 2002, article online at: [http://chronicle.com/free/2002/06/2002061201u.htm](http://chronicle.com/free/2002/06/2002061201u.htm).) dot.edu’s success has been to assist educational institutions not only to structure e-learning capabilities, but to evolve self-paced services into revenue sources for many public institutions. Like STS, dot.edu has become an active partner with AN-MSI to help MSIs create their own e-learning capacity and derive new sources of revenue. dot.edu is working with Haskell Indian Nations University, AIHEC, and HACU to create e-learning capacity within TCUs and HSIs.

**Collaborative Projects & Proposals:**

A committee is developing a series of proposals for supportive activities beyond the original AN-MSI grant and to provide a comprehensive security training and resource development program to support MSIs nationwide.

Dr. William Aguilar, Vice President for Information Resources and Technology at California State University-San Bernardino, spoke at Winston-Salem State University on Network Security and Intellectual Property, November 13, 2002. CSU-San Bernardino, under Dr. Aguilar’s leadership, has led collaborative efforts within AN-MSI to face the challenge of protecting campus networks from security intrusions by sharing their experiences building a collaborative security project.

**Wireless Infrastructure:**

AN-MSI recently concluded distribution to the three communities of ten DS3 Western Multiplex Tsunami radio sets (two radios per set) originally purchased for the tribal wireless project. Demand exceeded supply, so a random drawing was held to select the schools to receive the radios. The radio sets were distributed to the communities based on the number of applications received from their schools. As a result, three HBCUs, three HSIs, and four tribal colleges received the sets. They agreed to install the radios by June 30, 2003, and to report on the implementations, including the difficulties and the benefits. The schools selected through the random drawing process were:
A report is now available on the AN-MSI website providing guidance on installing a secure 802.11b wireless campus network. Earlier in 2002, Bethune-Cookman received a $10,000 grant from AN-MSI to conduct a pilot project using a radius server to authenticate the MAC addresses of wireless network cards to provide a simple and inexpensive security system within their 802.11 wireless campus network. It provides a security wall for the wireless system and centralizes and streamlines authentication within the network of public access points, providing a capacity to serve the entire campus wirelessly, including portions yet to be developed. Bethune-Cookman is now providing collaborative support to other MSIs trying to implement 802.11 systems on their campuses. (For further information, please contact John Hofmann at: hofmannj@cookman.edu.)

EOT-PACI

The Supercomputing 2002 conference in Baltimore, MD, in November was a smashing success. HPCwire conducted an interview with Roscoe Giles, the General Chair of SC2002, on November 19 to get Roscoe’s views on the world of academic supercomputing. (For a transcript of the interview, contact Allison Clark at: aclark@ncsa.uiuc.edu.) EOT-PACI also hosted a successful MSI reception on November 19 in Baltimore during SC2002.

For the latest EOT-PACI and supercomputing events, please visit www.computationalscience.net.

Coming Up:

AN-MSI Meetings:

AN-MSI is holding an All-Hands Meeting on April 22, 2003 on the campus of California State University-San Bernardino. Please visit the AN-MSI website (www.anmsi.org/meetings.asp) for more details. The All-Hands Meeting will be held in conjunction with the First Annual Secure IT Conference, hosted by CSU-San Bernardino. The Secure IT Conference will take place at the Pechanga Resort in Temecula, CA, April 23-25, 2003. For more details, please visit: www.secureitconf.com. Both AN-MSI and EDUCAUSE are sponsors of the conference.

Caucus Call:

Minutes from previous caucus calls can be found on the AN-MSI website.

EDUCAUSE meetings:

EDUCAUSE regional conferences are being scheduled in 2003. Please make note of these events as they provide a means for going to important IT conferences at a lower cost than the annual EDUCAUSE conference. Mid-Atlantic Conference: January 15-17, Baltimore, MD; Southwest: February 19-21, Dallas, TX; Northeast: March 16-18, Worcester, MA; Midwest: March 24-26, Chicago, IL; and Southeast: June 18-20, Atlanta, GA. For more details, go to: www.educause.edu/conference.

NLII:

The National Learning Infrastructure Initiative (NLII) is holding its annual meeting in New Orleans, LA, January 26-28, 2003. NLII meetings explore in-depth the emerging issues surrounding the role of technology in transforming teaching and learning. AN-MSI members have attended previous NLII meetings. (For more information, go to www.educause.edu/nlii/meetings/nlii031/, or contact your community representative.)
Announcements:

Ramon Harris has asked that we provide notice of a Pre-Doctoral fellowship with the New York University Stern School of Business for underrepresented minority students. The four-semester, non-degree fellowship will pay a full $22,000 stipend and free tuition for an individually designed program to prepare a talented student with a solid foundation in the quantitative business skills necessary for success in doctoral studies with a heavy research orientation. Deadline is January 15, 2003. For more information, contact Julie Cho, Associate Director of Doctoral program, jcho@stern.nyu.edu or Stephanie Nickerson, snickers@stern.nyu.edu.

Net@EDU has introduced the State Education Networks (StateNets) working group to serve as a forum for exchanging ideas and building collaborations on state education networks. For the latest on state network issues and StateNets activities, there is a Gathering of State Networks meeting on February 5-6, 2003, following the Net@EDU Annual Member Meeting in Tempe, AZ. For more information about StateNets, go to: www.educause.edu/netatedu/groups/statenets/. For more information about joining Net@EDU, go to: http://www.educause.edu/netatedu/about.asp.