AN-MSI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003

(This is the seventh edition of the Advanced Networking With Minority-Serving Institutions Newsletter. For information about AN-MSI events or services, contact your community leader: HBCUs: Debra White, debra.white@hamptonu.edu; HSIs: Alex Ramirez, aramirez@hacu.net; TCUs: Carrie Billy, cbilly@aihec.org. Any newsletter comments or contributions please email Eric Jensen at: ejensen@comcast.net. Please send information about any collaborative efforts initiated by MSI campuses with local educational institutions, private sector or other MSIs.)

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).

AN-MSI All-Hands Meeting:

On April 22, AN-MSI held an all-hands meeting at Cal State University - San Bernardino, with Dr. William Aguilar as host. During the one-day working session, the three communities met separately and reported back to the larger group on their community’s developments and plans for deployment. They expressed strong support for the extension of the collaborative efforts fostered by the Project. Ramon Harris led the presentation of the 2003 Jack Barden award, see separate story below. Individual MSIs made presentations about their AN-MSI supported campus networking projects and the impact the projects have made upon their campus. Individual presentations were made by: Bethune-Cookman College; Winston-Salem State University; Oakwood College; Norfolk State University; Hampton University; North Carolina A&T University; West Virginia State College; Lehman Community College; and the University of Puerto Rico. Several institutions are following the Student Technology Services model and gave credit to assistance provided by Joe Douglas and his staff—see announcements for STS conference June 19-20th.

EOT-PACI reported on recent activities and reminded attendees of the supercomputing conference November 18-21st see announcements. Julie Foertsch, the project evaluator from the University of Wisconsin LEAD Center, reported on the broader implications of the survey responses she has been receiving—she is still collecting surveys from those who have not responded, see announcements section. Julie said respondents felt that the AN-MSI project is an historic first-time collaboration between the three communities to bring technology services to MSI communities. According to the consensus in the responses, there is a sound policy ground to extend the project because of the benefits derived from the AN-MSI project. Draft findings will be shared with the community when they are finished.

A representative from KnowledgeNet discussed certification and skills training opportunities through the discount partnership program with AN-MSI—see announcement section below for more details. Final discussion on the future of AN-MSI closed out the meeting. The consensus among the communities is to seek the continuation of the collaborative project with modification to AN-MSI’s administration and support mission. Discussion focused on how a modified AN-MSI project can be funded. The meeting closed with identification of people interested in developing a strategy to renew AN-MSI.

Jack Barden Award:

At the all-hands meeting, the Jack Barden Award for Professional Excellence was awarded to Dr. Henry Ingle, the Vice President of Technology Services and Distance Learning at the University of Texas at El Paso.

The AN-MSI Jack Barden Award for Professional Excellence is designed to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions and enhanced the achievement of the AN-MSI project goals across the three
participating communities. As the award name reflects, it is in honor of Dr. Jack Barden, a representative from the Tribal Colleges and Universities who passed away during the spring of 2001.

Henry Ingle has worked tirelessly to help the University of Texas at El Paso, regional colleges, Hispanic colleges and universities, as well as all of the minority serving institution communities of AN-MSI to apply technology solutions for teaching and learning. Not only has he strived to bring excellence in the classroom, but also Dr. Ingle has championed the collaborative approach to supporting teaching and learning in the MSI communities. He has piloted the use of new technologies and new strategies to deliver distance learning to remote campuses. He chaired the committee on network-based learning at AN-MSI.

The 2003 selection committee comprised representatives of the three MSI communities: William Aguilar (HSIs), Steve Dupuis (TCUs), and Debra White (HBCUs). We were highly honored that Jack's widow, Jean Katus, attended the meeting to present the 2003 Jack Barden award to Dr. Ingle. Tributes to Jack follow:

**Jack Barden February 8, 1940 – May 25, 2001**

Jack Barden
by Tom Davis

He'd put tobacco in his silver case,
Then feed tobacco on thin paper
As he rolled a cigarette.
He wouldn't listen to the criticism
That follows smokers like smoke these days.

My old Dad lived to ninety-nine,
And he smoked like a dragon
Most of his life," he'd say.
"I've got my father's genes."

But now he's dead too young,
Pot bellied, silver bearded, gravel voiced,
A man who spilled words on paper
As if all he had to do
Was shake them from his sleeve
And let them fall into their perfect sentences.

I've known the substance of him:
Always around the edges at AIHEC meetings,
But still a part of the heart
Of debates, projects, plans, ideas, dreams,
And the great song a movement sings
When it's after remaking the world.
A man with a constant spirit
Communing with his computer,
The tribal colleges, the young, the old,
a pheasant strutting in a yellow field. . .

A follower of the sun dance,
When prayers were said
He'd clasp his hands behind his back and concentrate.
He sought the red road's balance
With shining eyes and laughter
Buried in a bark belying the gentleness
That made him a true man.

In the great woods of Minnesota he once sighed,
"I like trees, but I feel like I'm in prison here.
I need an endless sky to feel alive."

Let the cranes dance in fields by the river.
Let the moon rise ghostly in the river's mist.
Let the sun blaze in an August sky.
Let the miles go on and on to the horizon.

For Jack Barden is gone; my friend is gone.
Tribute to Jack Barden
by Ramon Harris

Jack, you have chosen to confront us
with a test of our spiritual belief.

We grieve our loss of physical contact,
even though we celebrate your spirit.
You have given and will continue to give us
a sense of purpose, commitment, and humility.
We will strive to remember that our purpose
is greater than our own needs
and honors those that have preceded us.
In that effort, we honor you
and all that you have achieved and envisioned.
We will speak of you and to you in the present.
For your spirit will continue to live
through those whom you have touched
and will touch.

For this wireless connection is far superior
to anything that we may develop
and use in this physical existence.
So, be gentle (if you can)
as you continue to influence
our intentions and practices.
We will see your humor and get your message.

Thank you for sharing and being a part of our lives

Security Conference

Following the All-Hands Meeting, April 23-25, Cal State San Bernardino hosted the First Annual Secure IT
conference in Temecula, CA. AN-MSI joined an impressive group of sponsors in supporting the conference.
It covered a wide range of security issues and solutions for campus networks. Speakers included Debra
White, Javier Torner, Alex Ramirez and William Aguilar. Summaries of the conference were submitted
through the listserv by project attendees and can be found on AN-MSI's website.

Senate Hearing on the Status of Telecommunications in Indian Country

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing on May 22, focusing on the status of
telecommunications in Indian country. Senator Inouye chaired the hearing called to assess the issues and
possible solutions for providing broadband and service access in Indian country. NTIA, in their testimony,
referred to innovative wireless broadband projects implemented by AN-MSI on three tribal reservations,
Turtle Mountain, Fort Berthold and Fort Peck. Carty Monette, President of Turtle Mountain Tribal
Community College and Board member of American Indian Higher Education Consortium, testified about the
importance of using tribal colleges and universities to help coordinate and assist tribal communities with
technology services and broadband connectivity. He cited the impact the AN-MSI funded wireless project
had on his reservation and offered it as a model for going forward for other tribal communities (his testimony
was written by Carrie Billy and is on the AN-MSI website under News).

University of Puerto Rico Workshops

Alex Ramirez was instrumental in assisting Sacred Heart University in obtaining an NSF grant to hold two
workshops for Puerto Rican campuses in February and March, 2003. The workshops were designed to help
the campuses develop a collaborative strategy for better Internet connections for the over sixty higher
education campuses on the island, and higher bandwidth at lower cost to reach the mainland. The
campuses discussed their network infrastructure needs, began planning a regional network, and explored
funding possibilities for a proposal.
**Campus Site Visits:**

AN-MSI has responded to requests from 48 MSIs to help them assess and plan their networking needs. Most recent visits were to four University of Puerto Rico (UPR) campuses and the central administration facility for the eleven campus system. Three more site visits are being planned: Wilberforce University, Prairie View A&M, and Southern University at New Orleans, with several other visits in the planning stage. It is anticipated that the remaining seven UPR campuses will also request visits.

For interest in a campus visit, please contact your community leader or Ron Langley, rlangley@bak.rr.com.

**Coming Up**

**Student Technology Services (STS) Conference, June 19-20:**

STS will be hosting a conference at the University of Wisconsin Campus at Milwaukee June 19 & 20th, entitled: Plug in to the Future.

The STS program—headed by Joe Douglas and based in Milwaukee on the University of Wisconsin campus —has pioneered student driven technology services to meet campus network needs. STS uses its expertise providing infrastructure development, management and technical support to assist other institutions to develop their own student technology service programs. Joe has invited all AN-MSI members to attend. See [www.stsconference.uwm.edu](http://www.stsconference.uwm.edu) for details. If the AN-MSI project is re-funded, we can consider having Joe put on this conference for all interested AN-MSI institutions.

The conference will train attendees in deploying a range of 25 services that can be provided by students to manage campus networks. Included is a session called Help Desk Bootcamp. The course will teach the mastery of the tools, techniques, and skills necessary to deliver support levels that impacts customer retention, revenue generation, and operational efficiencies. This conference will share an organizational model that can be replicated. At the April all-hands meeting, several MSIs reporting on their campus networking projects crediting and adapting STS programs for their campus tailored services.

More about STS: STS has become an active AN-MSI partner in helping MSIs to develop their own services. STS has assisted Bethune Cookman, Haskell Indian Nations University, El Paso Community College, Oakwood College, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and a consortium of six University of North Carolina state system campuses to assess and implement student technical support services for campus networks. Alex Ramirez also created a regional STS workshop series for HSIs funded by AN-MSI and hosted by Cal State San Bernardino, El Paso Community College and Lehman College. In addition, Joe accompanied Dave Staudt and Ron Langley to the New Mexico statewide conference of higher education IT directors that included 34 participating schools to talk about developing student technical assistance programs. Joe has also joined AN-MSI members on several campus visits.

**EDUCUSE:**

**Attend the Premier IT Event in Higher Education**

If you can attend only one conference in 2003, make it the premier IT event in higher education—EDUCUSE 2003, November 4–7 in Anaheim, California. You'll benefit from an outstanding, peer-developed program designed to help you tackle the issues you face each day and prepare you for future challenges. Opportunities are limited, so don't delay! Sign up at [http://www.educause.edu/conference/serc/2003/corppart.asp](http://www.educause.edu/conference/serc/2003/corppart.asp)

**EOT-PACI**

The 2003 EOT-PACI and industry sponsored Super Computing Conference is being held this year from November 18-21, in Phoenix, Arizona. There are still scholarships available to MSIs for up to $1200 per person, including lodging, travel and per diem. Go to [http://www.sc-conference.org/sc2003/education/edu_program.html](http://www.sc-conference.org/sc2003/education/edu_program.html) for information and to [http://www.sc-conference.org/sc2003/tech_msisform.php](http://www.sc-conference.org/sc2003/tech_msisform.php) for participant grant information. For the latest EOT-PACI and supercomputing events, see [www.computationalscience.net](http://www.computationalscience.net) for more information.
Announcements

LEAD Survey

Julie Foertsch of the LEAD Center has asked that any MSI or survey recipient that has not responded to the 2002-2003 Survey of AN-MSI Participants do so immediately to help wrap up the AN-MSI report. We really need your response!

This survey was sent to all people who have participated in AN-MSI meetings over the last year. Please take a few minutes to help AN-MSI get the data it needs to assess its impact for NSF and other stakeholders like you. [For a copy of the survey, go to the AN-MSI website.] These surveys are confidential, and results will be reported only as statistical generalizations that do not identify individual respondents.

If you have any questions or additional comments, please call Julie Foertsch of the LEAD Center at 608-265-6368.

KnowledgeNet Training:

KnowledgeNet is an Arizona company providing online network training that does not require staff to be away from the campus. A number of MSI people participated in testing the three methods of taking the courses and were very positive about their learning experiences. Because of the strong results of our test, AN-MSI has negotiated a large discount with KnowledgeNet for AN-MSI members. Currently almost 100 networkers are signed up or are taking the courses. Training is available for a range of Cisco, Microsoft and other certifications and continuing technology courses. KnowledgeNet became a corporate partner of EDUCAUSE as a result of its introduction through the project. For more information about the training program, contact your community leader or Ron Langley, or go to www.knowledgenet.com/connect/anmsi for detailed information, demos and pricing.

NLII SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR 2004 FELLOWSHIPS

The National Learning Infrastructure Initiative (NLII) is seeking candidates for the Fellowship Program! This program, now in its fourth year, supports two half-time fellows who work to advance the overall mission of the NLII: to create new collegiate learning environments that harness the power of information technology to improve the quality of teaching and learning, contain or reduce rising costs, and provide greater access to higher education. The primary benefit to participants will be a broadening of perspective, leading to enhanced career opportunities.

Applications are due September 3, 2003. NLII 2004 fellowships begin January 1, 2004, and end January 31, 2005. Applications must include a letter of support from your institution's chief academic officer. Learn more about the fellowship program and apply online at http://www.educause.edu/nlii/fellowship/. For information on NLII meetings, go to www.educause.edu/nlii/meetings/.

Richard A. Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing 2003: Conference and Call for Papers

The Richard A. Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing 2003 conference is offering Ph.D. candidates an opportunity to discuss research interests with noted researchers in their field at an all-day workshop on the first day of the October 15-18 conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Tapia conference is a bi-annual event that provides a unique forum at which researchers and students can come together to share technical advances while honoring and celebrating diversity. This year's theme is "Building Diverse Leadership in Computing," which will be a focus in all aspects of the conference.

Doctoral candidates will present, discuss, and explore their research interests and career objectives with a panel of established researchers.

Limited support for participants may be available. All submissions must be made online at the conference Website, http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Conferences/Tapia2003/.
FOURTH WORKSHOP ON THE DOE ADVANCED COMPUTATIONAL SOFTWARE COLLECTION:
Robust and High Performance Tools for Scientific Computing
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: August 5-8, 2003

The DOE Advanced Computational Software Collection (ACTS Collection, http://acts.nersc.gov) comprises a set of tools mainly developed at the Department of Energy's (DOE) laboratories. This workshop is part of an approach to build such an infrastructure. The four-day workshop will present an introduction to the ACTS. The workshop will include a range of tutorials on the tools (currently available in the collection and some deliverables from the DOE ScIDAC ISICs), discussion sessions aimed to solve specific computational needs by the participants, and hands-on practices using the NERSC's state-of-the-art computers.

For more information on the workshop, please contact Tony Drummond at (510) 486-7624 or Osni Marques at (510) 486-5290. LBNL - MS 50F 1650 Phone: (510) 486-7624; FAX: (510) 486-5812.

Department of Education: No Child Left Behind

The U.S. Department of Education announced that it is calling for broad participation and input from a wide array of education stakeholders in crafting a new National Education Technology Plan, as required by the recently enacted No Child Left Behind law.

The department is actively seeking advice from a variety of constituencies in education, especially students, parents, K-12 educators, colleges and university leaders, and business and industry. Individuals and organizations are being asked to identify and communicate to the Department of Education their top issues, priorities, concerns, and barriers that need to be addressed for technology to improve teaching and learning in the 21st century. Interested parties can give their input by visiting the National Education Technology Plan's Web site at www.NationalEdTechPlan.org, and clicking on the "Participate in the Plan" link. For more information on No Child Left Behind, visit www.nclb.gov.

Announcements from the Last Newsletter

EDUCAUSE announced the launch of a core data service to help institutions benchmark, plan for, and make decisions about information technology. The service—when fully developed—will offer an annual web-based survey, and interactive database allowing user-defined comparative data retrieval, and, aggregated reports on specific topics. (Learn more about the service at: www.educause.edu/coredata/information.html.)

Net@EDU has introduced the State 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, go to: www.educause.edu/netatedu/groups/statenets/

Ongoing Outreach and Partnership Efforts:

Thurgood Marshal Scholarship Fund:

AN-MSI has been working with the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (TMSF) to identify their technology needs for the central office as well as for the 47 public HBCUs that TMSF represents. AN-MSI worked closely with TMSF to develop a two-day CIO track for their April Presidents Summit, including providing speakers: Ron Langley on campus network assessments, Dewayne Hendricks on wireless, and Javier Torner on security.

Model Advanced Networking Projects

A collection of AN-MSI assisted projects have been included in the EDUCAUSE website database at Effective Practice and Solutions. For instance, an interview of John Hofmann about the Bethune Cookman wireless project is written up. To see the write-up, please go to: http://www.educause.edu/ep/ep_item_detail.asp?ITEM_ID=139. If you are interested in submitting your own campus practice or solution, please visit: http://www.educause.edu/ep.