The college and university community looks forward to the adoption of legislation that ensures continued American leadership in the all-important field of information technology. As Congress considers how best to promote the ongoing, long-term development of information technology, we ask that you specifically address three points crucial to the higher education community:

- Continue to strengthen the nation's investment in information technology research and development.
- Encourage partnerships between private industry and academia. This will help address the IT workforce shortage and will strengthen information technology R&D and tech transfer.
- Support a balanced portfolio in federal information technology research and development, including funding for long-term basic research grants, Information Technology Research Centers, terascale computing, IT internships, and the Next Generation Internet.

The higher education community specifically recommends that Congress:

- Provide significant funding for the National Science Foundation to award long-term, basic research grants into networking and information technology, including high-end computing and software and network fragility, security and scalability.
- Fund the development of Information Technology Research Centers comprised of groups of six or more researchers entering into multi-disciplinary collaborations for large-scale, long-term information technology programs. This will ensure that all scientific disciplines benefit from the advances in information technology, and that wider ranges of researchers are equal participants.
- Allocate funds for the National Science Foundation to establish terascale computing capabilities at one or more sites, to promote development of diverse computer architectures, and to expand NSF’s Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (PACI) Program. This will ensure that civilian researchers have access to the most powerful computational resources for solving complex scientific and engineering problems in many key fields, such as meteorology, nanotechnology and computational biology.
- Support colleges and universities in the establishment of information technology internship programs with private companies. By fostering partnerships between the higher education community and industry, Congress would provide opportunities to educate and train a new generation of IT professionals whose skills cross disciplinary boundaries.
- Fund the next two years of the Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative. NGI, an effort with bipartisan support begun in 1998, has been a great success. A diverse array of US universities in all 50 states now have high-speed connectivity thanks to NGI investments. Having so many more scientists, engineers and students from across the nation involved in high-speed networking activities has dramatically increased the available talent pool for industry.

Universities form a rich, fertile ground for new information technology ideas and concepts that can be quickly transferred to the private sector. Federal government support is essential to realize the full potential of information technology R&D at American universities. EDUCAUSE and its member institutions look forward to working with members of Congress and the Administration over the coming months, and we thank you for your continued support of scientific progress and information technology development.