Providing Leadership in Advanced Core Technologies

Technology is evolving rapidly in networking, in computation and storage, and in the four principal college and university application areas: administrative systems, teaching and learning, research, and community services. The EDUCAUSE Advanced Core Technologies Initiative (ACTI) provides a venue where IT professionals from diverse institutions, with varying capabilities and resources, can come together and address these converging challenges.

Through forward-looking inquiry and action-oriented collaboration, ACTI members help higher education institutions transfer wisdom regarding these technologies across institutions and to the higher education IT community as a whole.

Core technologies are demonstrably linked to the research and teaching missions of our institutions and provide a clear added value to help forward those missions. Advanced core technologies are those whose emergence or evolution is already apparent, and which may already be in production in the more advanced corners of higher education.

ACTI is about identifying how we want to reposition ourselves on our campuses so that we can better plan for the immediate future of advanced core technologies for our campuses. One of ACTI’s central roles is to transfer knowledge from early or experimental adopters to the broader community, and to help members engage technologies that clearly will be of interest to the larger community. We do this through case studies, white papers, best practices, outreach, and other means.

Opportunities for Thought Leadership and Active Participation

ACTI members are thought leaders in and early adopters of advanced core technologies. ACTI membership is open to all EDUCAUSE member organizations, including those that function as units under an EDUCAUSE member (such as state education networks that are technically part of a university system).

Although membership is institutional, participants generally fall into either or both of two categories: professionals working directly on core technologies, and IT managers and leaders responsible for allocating resources and making other relevant institutional choices. ACTI members are active participants, engaged in both initiative-wide discussions and in ACTI working groups. See reverse for information on our current working groups and member meetings.
2012 WORKING GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CCI)
CCI's mission is to help educational institutions develop institutional strategies, plan resource deployment, and assist their users in harnessing and optimizing the power and capabilities of these new integrated IT tools and systems for educational and research applications in higher education.

Communication, Collaboration, and Mobility (CCM)
CCM focuses on the challenges that higher education institutions face with respect to enterprise communication, collaboration, and mobility. Group participants pool their collective resources, time, and energy to investigate specific challenges and opportunities in this space, share individual solutions, and develop effective practices for the higher education community.

Data Management
This group focuses on emerging challenges to how institutions manage large online data collections—be they the product of research or of administrative processes—and to address technological challenges stemming from the interactions among cloud options, broadening access requirements, and the sheer size of data sets.

Mobile Web Frameworks
The Mobile Web Frameworks Working Group collaborates around finding appropriate frameworks and/or commonalities to provide mobile-consumable web services to meet the device-agnostic requirements of higher education.

Optimizing Computing Infrastructure (OCI)
OCI looks at the consolidation of IT infrastructure on campuses for both research and administrative computing. New technology has created new opportunities for centralized efficiency, while retaining departmental control/autonomy. By looking at specific issues inherent in consolidation, the group will identify best practices for campuses looking to consolidate their IT infrastructure.

ACTI Member Meetings
Members convene at two face-to-face events each year, the ACTI Annual Meeting and the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference. These meetings give participants the chance to hear from other technology leaders and, at the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, to share insights and information about advanced core technologies with the wider community.

To become a member of ACTI, please visit educause.edu/acti/membership.