

Research Collaboration and The Great Plains Network

Greg Monaco
Quilt Meeting, September 2008

Why?

- For the past several years a major responsibility has been to increase engagement of the research community.

Outline

- **About GPN**
- **Regional Strengths**
- **Areas of Research Collaboration**
- **Strategies (...a work in progress)**
- **Observations**

Membership

- Arkansas State University
 - Black Hills State University
 - Dakota State University
 - Kansas State University
 - Missouri University of Science & Technology
 - Oklahoma State University
 - South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
 - South Dakota State University
 - University of Arkansas
 - University of Arkansas at Little Rock
 - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
 - University of Kansas
 - University of Missouri - Columbia
 - University of Missouri - KC
 - University of Missouri - SL
 - University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 - University of Oklahoma
 - University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
 - University of South Dakota
 - University of Tulsa
 - Wichita State University
- Affiliates:
- Iowa State University
 - University of Minnesota
 - WiscNet
 - Ciena, Fujitsu, Adva

Regional Strengths

- Excellent faculty and institutions
- History of working together cooperatively
- Large scale issues which stretch our thinking
- From Psychological Science (March, 2008)
 - Agreeable
 - Extraverted
 - Conscientious
 - Less Neurotic
 - (Less Open)

Regional Strengths (cont.)

- History of successful collaborations...
- Technology...
- Leveraging assets...

Organization

- **Executive Council**
 - Governing Body
 - Appointed
- **Representative Council**
 - One per member institution
- **Networking Program Committee**
- **Research Advisory Board**
 - One per member institution
- **Working groups (Initiatives or Projects)**

Areas of Research Collaboration (since 2004)

- Network Infrastructure
- Mediated Learning
- Water Resource Management
- Bioinformatics
- Collaborative Middleware (EDUCAUSE – NSF subaward & MIDnet)
- Grid Computing (Sun Microsystems)
- Human Language Technology (NSF)
- Networking Research - GENI
- Cyber-physical Systems (NSF)
- K20 Interactive Distance Learning

Strategies

- **Research focused meetings**
 - Invite NSF Program Director, if possible
- **Regular Teleconferences, Mailing Lists, alerts**
- **White paper development**
- **WIKI**
- **Proposal development**
- **Annual Meetings**
- **Campus Visits**
- **Support other, converging efforts**
 - Oklahoma Supercomputing Symposium
 - MCBIOS

Observations

- **Identify and engage enabling faculty**
 - Work across boundaries
 - Know campus
 - Key to reaching others
- **Some efforts take several years to seed**
- **Bring in outside expertise when possible**
- **Different campus cultures/dynamics/readiness**

Observations (cont.)

- Finding a “champion” helps to multiply your effectiveness
- Face-to-face often results in the unexpected
- Prototypes aid communication
- Over time, increase visibility
 - Some researchers will contact you
 - Repeat contact over time pays off
- Get governance support/position



ADVANCING RESEARCH CREATING SOLUTIONS

greg@greatplains.net

<http://www.greatplains.net>

<http://collaboration.greatplains.net>

