

1. Latest News .....	1
2. GPN Representative Profile .....	2
3. Campus Notes .....	2
4. Funding Opportunities from NSF ...	3
6. Upcoming Meetings .....	4
7. Subscription Information .....	4

By Dena Bunnell, Member Coordinator

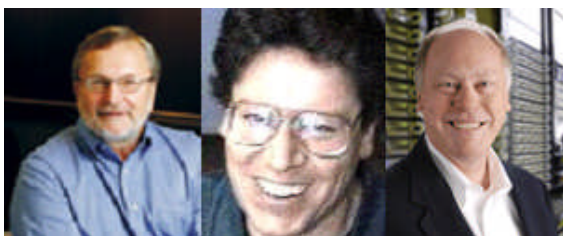
### 1. Latest News

#### [GPN2008: The Great Plains Network Annual Meeting](#)

- A lot has happened this year. There has been a convergence of technologies, a convergence on the Level3 PoP, and a convergence of ideas as we pulled together several projects and proposals and planned for the future.

Join us for the 2008 Annual Meeting, which will be held May 29-30, at the Embassy Suites in Kansas City, Mo.!

**Keynote speakers** will include **Rick Summerhill** (Internet2), **Taieb Znati** (Division Director of the National Science Foundation's Division of Computer and



**(GPN2008 Keynote Speakers L-R: Rick Summerhill (Internet2), Taieb Znati (NSF), Chip Elliott (BBN/GENI)**

Network Systems (CISE/CNS), and **Chip Elliott** (BBN) who is the GENI Project Manager.

In addition to **updates on the network, latest technologies** (e.g., Dynamic Circuits), and **roundtable discussions** on

topics of interest (e.g., campus emergency systems , and see article below), this will be a chance to visit with colleagues from across GPN.

Registration for the Annual Meeting is now open. To register go [here!](#)

GPN is looking for presenters too. Register to give a presentation [here](#).

#### [GPN K20 Group Facilitates "Lessons from Greensburg" across Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and North Dakota](#)

On March 11, the GPN SEGP in coordination with the Kansas Association for Interactive Distance Education (KAIDE) organization hosted a series of Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) sessions, streamed from Greensburg, Kan., the site of a tornado disaster that destroyed most of the town in May 2007.

The event was a success, with 86 connections from the states of Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, D.C., and Wisconsin.

To watch the streamed session, go [here](#).

#### [The Oklahoma Supercomputing Symposium 2008](#)

The 2008 symposium will be held Oct. 7, 2008, at the University of Oklahoma - Norman campus. A parallel computing workshop will be held the day before, Oct. 6, and a reception and poster session will be the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup>.



The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jose Munoz, Deputy Director and Senior Science Advisor



April 7, 2008

of the National Science Foundation's Office of Cyberinfrastructure.

Submissions are invited for posters, talks, briefs and BoFs in any of a variety of areas of advanced computing, including Computational Science & Engineering (including computational research in every field of engineering, physical science, biological science, mathematics, social science, business and the arts), High Performance Computing, High Performance Networking, Grid Computing, Data Mining, Scientific Visualization, Large Scale Data Collections, HPC education and so on.

This is also a great opportunity for students to get involved with conferences and presentations, as there is no charge to the conference.

There is no fee to attend the conference, and registration is now open!

For more information or to get registered, [go here!](#)

## 2. GPN Representative Profile

### The University of South Dakota

#### Roberta Ambur

#### VP for Information Technology



Roberta Ambur is the Vice President of Information Technology at The University of South Dakota. She is responsible for Technology Services and Information Services. She also chairs the Information Technology Advisory Council and is a member of the Executive Team.

Ms. Ambur has been instrumental in implementing innovative technology at The University of South Dakota to enhance the

education of its students. In 2001, she helped lead the initiative to introduce Palm(TM) Handheld computers on campus, making The University of South Dakota the first in the U.S. to require Palm Handhelds for first-year students. In January 2003, the University was one of 14 companies nationwide recognized for exceptional use of network technology to further business objectives.

Also in January 2003, Roberta Ambur was recognized by **Computerworld** as one of the 10 **Best in Class** of the business world's **Premier 100 IT Leaders**. Ambur was selected from hundreds of nominees and individuals who have creatively applied technology to execute their organization's business strategy. The Premier 100 IT Leaders award recognizes exceptional technology leadership, innovative approaches to business challenges, and effective execution of comprehensive IT strategies.

Prior to joining The University of South Dakota in August 2001, she served as Chief Business Officer at Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota since 1996. Previously, she served as Comptroller of Sorenson Broadcasting, a company that operated radio stations in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. She has also held various administrative positions in the utility industry with Midwest Power Systems Inc. and South Dakota Network Telecommunications.

Ms. Ambur is a graduate of The University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Science in Math Education and a Masters in Business Administration in Management Information Systems. She also received her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) certificate in 1986.

## 3. Campus Notes

### [K-State Implements Emergency Text Messaging System](#)

"Kansas State University has introduced a text-messaging system to alert students,



April 7, 2008

faculty and staff of campus emergencies. The voluntary service, which lets qualified users register their cell phone numbers via the university's existing eProfile information system, became available Jan. 18.

'The text-messaging system is an additional way for us to immediately inform the campus community of emergencies and to provide information on how to deal with them,' said Thomas Rawson, vice president for administration and finance at K-State."

In addition to the text messaging system, K-State emergency notification system includes an override of all ksu.edu Web pages, a reverse 911 telephone calling system, e-mail advisories, public police address systems, a campus public address system, tornado warning sirens, local media attention and notification for K-State staff with radios.

Emergencies or crises that will warrant the use of this system include tornados, fires, chemical releases or spills, terroristic threats and active shooters. The text messaging system also informs subscribes students of school closings.

### [BHSU Awards STEM Scholarships to Underrepresented Groups](#)

The Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) program, along with the Center for American Indian Studies at Black Hills State University recently honored the first 11 STEM scholarship recipients.

These scholarships were made possible by a four-year \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to BHSU. According to Dr. John Glover, over 90 percent of the funding is for scholarships to underrepresented groups in science.

"Our NSF proposal specifically identified BHSU's success with American Indians undergraduates. Other underrepresented groups include women, other minorities, and persons with disabilities," Glover says. "The awards are determined by unmet need with this year reaching \$2,500 for many recipients. The undergraduate awards are

renewable while the student attends BHSU."

### [ISU Receives \\$10 million Commitment for New Chemistry Building](#)

AMES, Iowa -- Kathryn Hach Darrow of Mukilteo, Wash. has committed \$10 million toward the construction of the new chemistry building on the campus of Iowa State University. The \$74.5 million project is being planned as a three-story, 135,000-square-foot facility. Groundbreaking is scheduled for September 2008 with an anticipated completion date of August 2010.

"Iowa State takes great pride in our internationally renowned department of chemistry and its many accomplishments," said ISU President Gregory Geoffroy. "Chemistry is vitally important to our role as a leading university of science and technology, and having state-of-the-art facilities is critical to continuing our leadership role in chemistry." In recognition of this tremendous gift, Iowa State will seek approval from the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to name this new facility Hach Hall.

## 4. Funding Opportunities from the National Science Foundation

**Note:** [Bruce McMillin](#) from **Missouri Institute of Science and Technology** (formerly, the University of Missouri at Rolla) has been leading an effort among **GPN researchers** to form **working groups** to reply to the **NSF Cyber-Physical System RFP**. If you are interested in joining in this effort, please let us know.

[Computer Systems Research \(CSR\)](#) - Full Proposal: April 23, 2008

[Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program \(IGERT\)](#) IGERT Resource Center - Full Proposal: April 24, 2008.

IGERT Traineeship preliminary proposals: April 24, 2008.



**Virtual Organizations as Sociotechnical Systems (VOSS)** - Full Proposal: June 2, 2008

## 6. Upcoming Meetings

### ***GPN Meetings***

**GPN2008: Great Plains Network Annual Meeting** – May 29-20, 2008; Kansas City, Mo.

**Bioinformatics/Computational Biology Teleconference** — First Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Next: April 2, 2008. [Join here.](#)

**GPN Representative Council Teleconference** — Fourth Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. Next: April 23, 2008.

**GPN Research Advisory Board Teleconference** – Second Wednesday of every quarter at 1:00 p.m.

**GPNgrid Technical Administration** – Alternate Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Next: April 4, 2008. [Join here.](#)

**Middleware/Grid Teleconference** — Alternate Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Next: April 11, 2008. [Join here.](#)

### ***Regional Meetings/Workshops***

**Oklahoma Supercomputing Symposium**  
Oct. 6-7, 2008, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.

## 7. Subscription Information

[Join the GPN email list here.](#)

[Join GPN Projects here.](#)

Please send any notices to share with the GPN community to [denab@ksu.edu](mailto:denab@ksu.edu).

**Further information can be found at:**  
**<http://collaboration.greatplains.net>.**

**Leave your own comments and feedback too! GPN now has its own blog. [Register for the blog here.](#)**