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GPN Executive Council Adopts CI Committee Recommendations

by Greg Monaco, GPN

On Wednesday, September 1, the Great Plains Network Executive Council approved the report of the GPN Cyberinfrastructure Advisory Committee (CIAC) and adopted all recommendations. The final report can be found at <http://collaboration.greatplains.net/wiki/images/5/51/FinalCIAC.pdf>

The CIAC arrived at the recommendations in the report based on two surveys of over 600 faculty, graduate students and staff from GPN member institutions. The principal recommendations from the report are as follows

- Communicate the results of the CI Advisory Committee’s work to the GPN community and seek feedback on the rest of the recommendations.
- Implement services that meet the top needs as identified through the second CI survey.
- Form a *GPN CI Program Committee* to develop service descriptions and service level agreements for each service to be implemented.
- Implement an annual service assessment process to measure quality and usage of services.

The highest priority services identified in the second survey and which the CIAC recommends that GPN implement are

Service Group	Service
Computation (question 15, 6 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide high performance computing facilities for research, education and training at a regional level (2) ▪ Assist me to access and use high performance computing at other institutions in the region (22)
Data storage services (question 16,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide data storage facilities for research, education and training at a regional level. (6) ▪ Provide a way for me to store and catalogue my datasets (13)

6 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a way for me to access and use storage resources at institutions in the region. (20)
Networking services ² (question 17, 4 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing high bandwidth connectivity and related services (e.g. IPv6, VLANs, Internet2 ION service support, etc.) to other universities and other research institutions in the US. (1) Providing high bandwidth connectivity and related services to other universities and other research institutions outside the US. (19)
Education and training (question 18, 5 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing workshops to learn about advanced tools for research. (3) Providing online demonstrations of emerging cyberinfrastructure-related technologies. (15) Organizing workshops to learn how to develop and improve campus tools. (16) Organizing an annual meeting focusing on using advanced tools across the region. (21)
Collaboration (question 19, 8 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a searchable database of opportunities for collaboration in my area of research. (11) Providing assistance in identifying potential research collaborators. (14) Facilitating grant requests across multiple campuses. (17) Helping to make contacts with individuals with specific cyberinfrastructure expertise (24)
Communication (question 20, 3 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly newsletter on technical advances/uses across GPN and nationally (5) Providing regular email, blog, twitter, etc. communication on the latest developments in cyberinfrastructure. (7)
Help (question 21, 5 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining online searchable help for cyberinfrastructure tools. (4) Providing a centralized help desk model of support for locating and using regional and national cyberinfrastructure technology in your research. (12)
Expertise and resource referral (question 22, 4 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a searchable database of cyberinfrastructure resources available across my campus or organization. (8) Maintaining a searchable database of CI expertise (people, tools, applications, resources) in my field at the regional, national and international levels. (23)
Other (question 23, 8 choices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing help in identifying possible revenue streams for my/my campus/my organization's CI efforts. (9) Organizing and maintaining a software licensing/purchasing collaborative for GPN member institutions. (10) Providing collaborative tools that I can pick up and use (e.g., Adobe Connect, wikis, blogs) (18)

1. Numbers in parentheses after each item refer to overall priority order. The smaller the number the higher the priority respondents placed on this item.

2. *Networking needs are currently being addressed by the GPN Network Program Committee.*

The CIAC members are **Mike Abbiatti**, ARE-ON, **Gary Allen**, University of Missouri System, MU, & GPN Executive Council, **Guy Almes**, Director, Academy for Advanced Telecommunications and

Learning Technologies, Texas A & M (external member), **James Deaton**, ONENET & GPN Executive Council, **Claude Garelik**, SD Board of Regents & GPN Executive Council Chair, **Del Johnson**, SDSU & GPN Representative Council, **Myron Lowe**, UMN & GPN Representative Council, **Henry Neeman**, OU, **James Rice**, SDSU, SD EPSCoR Director, **Ron Roeber**, UNL, **Gordon Springer**, MU, and **David Swanson**, UNL & Holland Computing Center. The CIAC is chaired by **Rick McMullen**, KU. After accepting the report and adopting the recommendations, the GPN Executive Council thanked the members of CIAC for their work and Rick McMullen for his leadership.

Arkansas Receives Grant to Improve Service to State Networks

By Rachel E. Ott (UAMS), Mike Abbiatti (ARE-ON), Rogers Davis (UALR), Kate Adams (GPN)

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) recently received a \$102 million Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant award from the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration. This grant is a partnership with the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network and the Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges to help connect health agencies to the Arkansas Telehealth Oversight & Management (ATOM) network and connect the state's two-year universities to the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON). ARE-ON currently serves the state's four year universities. After the work is completed, there will be a total of 474 'integrated network' sites from areas, including health care, higher education, and public safety. The intent of the award is to bring broadband resources to partnering community institutions that serve the population of Arkansas. The award is not intended for nor will benefit home or businesses broadband use.

The additions to the networks are based on a hub-and-spoke model. There are 48 primary hubs, some of which will connect to ATOM through leased 100 Mbps circuits and others to connect directly to ARE-ON fiber. There are 74 secondary spokes, of which 59 will receive 10 Mbps upgrades and 15 will receive 20 Mbps. Primarily rural, tertiary spokes will participate in network activities at 1.5 Mbps service, with 154 of 352 total tertiary locations receiving new or upgraded broadband service. A range of all hubs and spokes will receive interactive video equipment to promote their involvement in the integrated network.

UAMS will grant a sub-award to ARE-ON to manage fiber construction and connectivity at two year colleges. Local ISPs will be contracted to provide service along other hubs and spokes. This unique public-private partnership model will make the most of available broadband resources in telemedicine and selected educational institutions.

ATOM will upgrade service and equipment at over 100 new network sites, bringing the network's total to 441 community anchor institutions. This project will expand ARE-ON's network so that fiber reaches as many of the 22 two-year state colleges as can be supported by available funding. All 22 campuses will be receiving significant bandwidth upgrades through the BTOP award.

Kansas Research Universities to Upgrade Shared Data Network With National Science Foundation Grant

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MANHATTAN -- The National Science Foundation has awarded \$1.176 million over two years to Kansas' three research universities to upgrade a shared data network.

The collaboration involves Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and Wichita State University, and will better connect the state's educational institutions.

The funded project, called "Prairie Light: Next Generation Optical Networking for Mid Continent Science," will boost the bandwidth of KanREN, the Kansas Research and Education Network, significantly and make the network more stable and reliable to benefit research initiatives in Kansas.

"The result will be a Kansas Science Commons on which researchers at institutions of higher education can build stronger research collaborations through broader sharing of sophisticated instruments and computing resources, and students will learn in an environment rich with tools and expertise," said Donald F. "Rick" McMullen, director and senior scientist for research computing at KU.

"This next-generation research network will enable activities that maximize national and state investments in computing infrastructure at individual campuses by making them easier to share and to build into distributed research collaborations," he said.

Scientific inquiry depends on advanced data communications, and the proposed upgrades will help scientists acquire and analyze large data sets and also collaborate over wider areas.

Many research projects in Kansas will benefit from the improved network, including two Kansas NSF EPSCoR initiatives, "Oklahoma and Kansas: A cyberCommons for Ecological Forecasting and Climate Change," and "Renewable Energy: Basic Science, Impacts and Mitigation." Scientists for these two projects are located in various locations in Kansas and, in the case of cyberCommons, Oklahoma as well.

A key partner in the Prairie Light project is KanREN, a nonprofit consortium of colleges, universities, school districts and other organizations in Kansas, brought together to facilitate inter-institutional communication and collaboration and to provide statewide high speed network backbone for education and research.

The upgrades made possible by this award also will support the 800-plus member institutions of Kan-ed, a statewide networking organization that includes two- and four-year colleges, most of the unified school districts and other schools, libraries and hospitals.

Students at Kansas' leading research universities as well as two- and four-year institutions of higher learning will benefit from new tools and expertise provided in the improved data network. Educational initiatives that will be directly impacted include Climate Change in Indigenous Communities, a program that trains Native American students in the sciences at Haskell Indian Nations University; Bridges to Baccalaureates, a partnership of three southwestern Kansas community colleges, two Kansas City, Kan., community colleges and K-State; Women and Hispanics in Sciences at Emporia State University; and the McNair Scholars Program at KU, K-State and WSU, which mentors undergraduate students from underrepresented groups to pursue graduate degrees and explore research methodology.

The award will be administered through the Kansas NSF EPSCoR office on KU's West Campus.

Kristin Bowman-James, KU, is the principal investigator for the project. The co-principal investigators are Daniel Andresen, associate professor of computing and information sciences at K-State; McMullen from KU, and Ravi Pendse, WSU.

Upcoming Meetings

NSF Day at KU

The **National Science Foundation** and the **University of Kansas** will be holding an "NSF Day" workshop on **Tuesday, October 5, 2010, from 7:30am to 4:30pm**. Registration is required. Information can be found here:

http://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=117359&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13

OK Supercomputing Symposium

The Oklahoma Supercomputing Symposium will be held on **Wednesday, October 6, 2010** at the University of Oklahoma Norman campus. More details can be found here:

<http://symposium2010.oscer.ou.edu/>

EPSCoR Cyberinfrastructure Meeting

"Cyberinfrastructure in the EPSCoR's" is a conference that is scheduled for Oct 7-8, 2010 in Arlington, Virginia. About 70 people have registered already from 27 of the 29 EPSCoR jurisdictions. A list of the registrants and the latest agenda can be found on the conference web site at <http://www.kynsfepscor.org/cyber10/cyber10.php>.

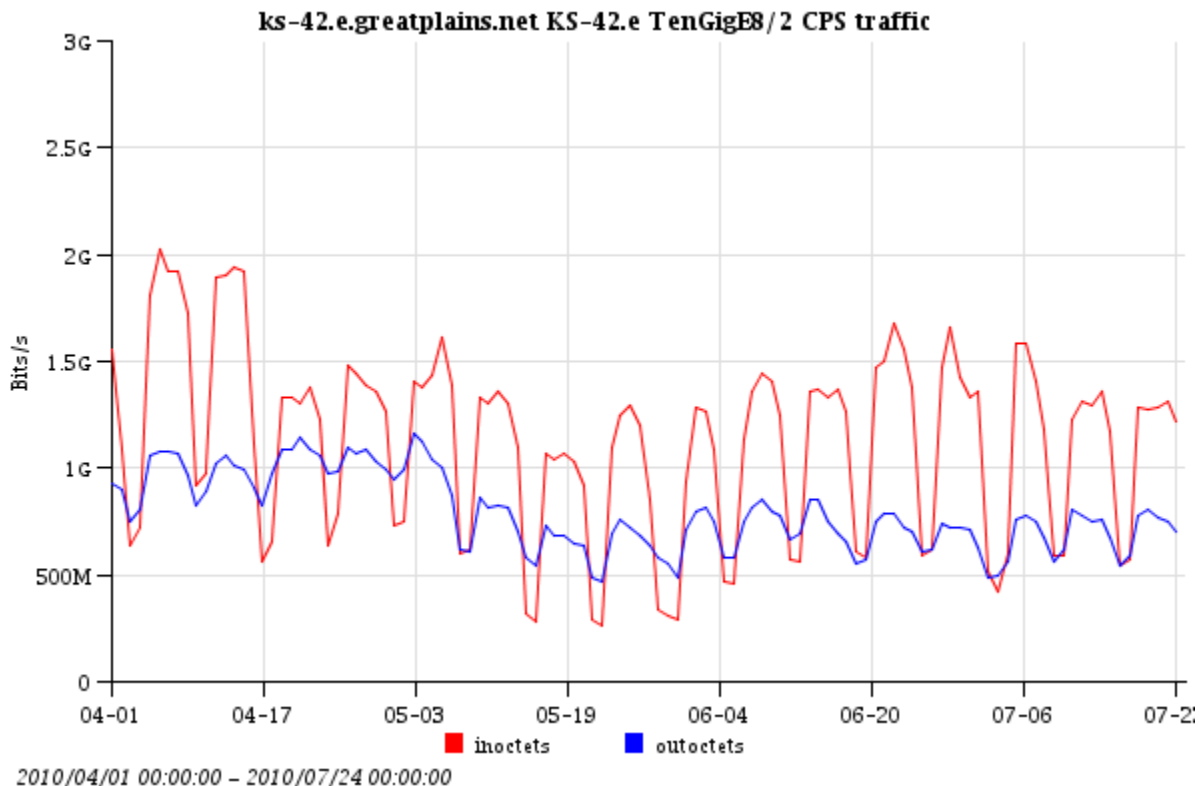
Internet2 Fall Meeting

Internet2 Fall 2010 Member Meeting, November 1-4, 2010. Atlanta, GA. Information here:

<http://events.internet2.edu/2010/fall-mm/>

Great Plains Network Traffic from April – July 2010

Courtesy of Rex Peterson (MOREnet)



To Contribute to the Newsletter

To contribute a story or to announce an upcoming meeting or event, send your contribution to Kate Adams (kate@greatplains.net)

About the Great Plains Network

The Great Plains Network develops and maintains a high-performance network that meets the needs of cyberinfrastructure to the membership; and supports multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary research and education initiatives that require advanced cyberinfrastructure. GPN members includes 24 research institutions in nine states and also connects most other higher education institutions, school districts and public libraries in those states to Internet2.

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