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PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

An NPS group traveled to the University of California – Santa Barbara (UCSB) for a site visit on November 15 and 16 to learn about UCSB business practices and to explore ways in which ITACS might facilitate collaborative education and research between NPS and UCSB. The NPS group included **Dr. Christine Cermak, Dr. Gil Howard, Ms. Danielle Kuska, Mr. Joe LoPiccolo** and **Ms. Megan Reilly**. Because a grid is being developed between UCSB and UCLA and NPS was invited to join in the pilot, Dr. Cermak and Mr. LoPiccolo met with a number of UCSB faculty and technical staff. ITACS will be following up on those meetings with members of both the UCSB and NPS Computer Science departments.

CISCO VP **Mr. Brad Boston** and VP of Federal Sales at CISCO **Mr. Bruce Klein** visited NPS to meet with ITACS leadership and the NPS Foundation. Mr. Boston pledged a follow-up visit with the NPS Foundation in December.

Information Sciences Professor **Mark Bergman** has a group of students working with ITACS on defining next generation network requirements for NPS. In early December, the group will be completing its work, which will then inform the requirements document necessary for the NPS network upgrade.

Mr. Hank Hankins participated in a regional infrastructure planning group which included the CIO of CSUMB, the County CIO, and the Assistant City Manager of Monterey. Discussion revolved around identification of priority projects that can be worked collaboratively. Of special interest to NPS is connectivity to the Marina airport, where NPS has faculty and staff.

An ITACS team consisting of **Ms. Terri Brutzman, Mr. Hank Hankins, Mr. Tracy Hammond, Mr. Joe Bornino,** and **Mr. Jon Russell** traveled to CSU-Sacramento on November 17th to tour the IT facilities at the university, and to evaluate Sacramento State's Distance Learning and Video-Teleconferencing solutions for possible use at NPS.

Mr. Joe LoPiccolo and **Mr. Jon Russell** provided an overview of the EDUCAUSE Conference, which was attended by a number of ITACS staff this year. The overview focused on potentially disruptive technologies for university environments. Among the topics covered: media convergence, RFID, and the increasing use of multiple technologies for cell phones. Two additional presentations will be held during the month of December: one for the Deans and Chairs of departments at NPS, and the other at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS). To find links to the combined notes of over 60 sessions attended by ITACS staff at the EDUCAUSE Conference, as well an overview of the presentation, please go to:
http://itacssp/ntic/NTIC_Public/Educause_2006/Educause_Combined_Notes_2006.doc
http://itacssp/ntic/NTIC_Public/Educause_2006/Educause%202006%20Recap-draft.ppt

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER (TAC)

From November 1 through November 24, 2006, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received a total of 1,853 requests for assistance, 1,480 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. 373 of the remaining calls were answered by other ITACS departments/groups.

MONTEREY PENINSULA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NET (MP DOD-NET)

The equipment to complete provisioning eight wavelengths to each DoD-Net site is expected to ship no later than December 15, 2006. Having the additional wavelengths located at every site will significantly increase the utility of the private DoD network.

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The Administrative Affairs Implementation Task Force briefed NPS leadership on its plan, and completed its report, which will be posted on the Provost's website in early December.

CENIC UPDATE
The link from NPS to the new Monterey County IT CENIC hub in Salinas, across Coarse Wave Division Multiplexing county I-Net fiber, has been tested. A link to the CENIC high-performance network may now be established on private fiber vice the link that is leased from AT&T.

EDUCATION CLUSTERS INITIATIVE
Monterey County has three Clusters representing the three main facets of the local economy – tourism, agriculture and education. **Dr. Christine Cermak** and **Dr. Fran Horvath** attended the regular meeting of the Education Clusters group, which is comprised of leaders from nearly all of the twenty institutions of education and research in Monterey County. The purpose of the Education Cluster is to foster increased awareness of the economic impact of higher education, support of the business community, and interaction and partnerships among local institutions representing research and education. Dr. Horvath has developed a prototype website for the Education Cluster, which is slated to be launched by March 2007. A draft brochure, which will highlight all the institutions of the area as well as their programs, is currently under development.

COPIER CONTRACT UPDATE
Mr. Mike McDonald, Senior VP and President of Global Accounts at Xerox, called **Dr. Christine Cermak** to inquire about the progress of the multi-functional copier devices, which began arriving in November. The new contract includes a full-time technical support person on-site at NPS. Mr. McDonald committed to visiting the campus in April or May of 2007 to learn more about NPS, and to meet with the NPS Foundation.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC)
Dr. Jeff Haferman, HPC Technical Manager, submitted a proposal to the DoD "High Performance Computing and Modernization Program" (HPCMP) for HPC hardware through their equipment reutilization program. As a result, NPS has been awarded an IBM p690 Power4+ SuperComputer, which has 128 processors, 128 GB memory, a 6 TB disk system, and an estimated market value of two million dollars. The system will run at a theoretical maximum speed of 870 GFlops (870 billion floating point operations per second) making the machine the fastest and most powerful high-performance system available at NPS. The equipment is currently housed in Aberdeen, Maryland, and Dr. Haferman is currently coordinating the move of the system and its subsequent installation in the HPC Center on the third floor of Spanagel Hall.

Dr. Jeff Haferman attended the *Supercomputing '06* Conference, held November 11-17 in Tampa, Florida. Attended by over 9,000 international participants from academia, industry, and government, Dr. Haferman not only met with other leaders in the supercomputing field, but also learned about the latest developments in high-performance computing. For a quick overview of the conference, visit the website: http://sc06.supercomputing.org/. For additional information, please contact Dr. Jeff Haferman at ext. 3076.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM HPC

- A new .uc domain (Unix computing) which will be shared by all old Unix and new Linux systems, has now been configured.

- The HPC Center, located in Spanagel 301 and 303, is undergoing both air conditioning and electrical improvements. The HPC currently supports 7 clusters on the .hpr domain which can be accessed either from

desktop or lab PCs via Exceed, an X-Windows emulator. Processing times are available on a scheduled basis for those students, staff, and faculty who are seeking numerical number-crunching resources. The latest cluster to be added to the HPC, an IBM System 4 named ITACS, will be operational in 2007, and available for users to apply for accounts.

- The two Linux LRCs in Sp-341 and Ro-123 are now running RHE Linux OS with Virtual Machine Ware, which allows the user to run Windows XP with a full compliment of locally-installed Windows applications, thereby allowing access to all software resources at NPS from just one workstation.