

TO: The Strategic Planning Execution Committee

From: The K20 Advisory Committee Chairs

Date: October 3, 2008

On behalf of the K20 Initiative, we applaud your work to date on developing a comprehensive and clearly articulated Strategic Plan. Thank you for soliciting input throughout this process and most recently for contacting the WG, SIG and AG chairs for advice in prioritizing the tasks for the period Jan – Dec 2009. We are eager to participate fully in this community-led process of implementing Internet2's plan for this coming year and years moving forward.

The K20 Initiative is Internet2's organization for Sponsored Education Group Participation (SEGP) which currently extends the benefits of the network to over 50,000 member agencies and institutions across K12, Higher Education, Libraries and Public and Cultural Non-Profits. In the years since the inception of the K20 Initiative, these organizations have made outstanding contributions to the Internet2 community and will continue to do so as their roles and participation are validated by the framework articulated along with the SPEC Implementation Plan.

Together the K20 represents a vibrant community of practice that has the credibility of experience and proof of performance. The social networking platform Muse (<http://K20.internet2.edu>), developed and launched through the K20 initiative with Internet2's support, has already leveraged connections among members and institutions that use these resources, tools, and services to collaborate and create value throughout the Internet2 enterprise. K20 organizations in the Internet2 membership work in concert to promote dialogue and coordinate action with respect to salient questions that raise awareness about the value of new and emerging technologies and how to incorporate training, professional development, and ongoing supports. Members participating in the K20 initiative seek to form viable partnerships to accomplish mutually beneficial results, share resources, and add value to our respective purposes in research, scholarship, teaching and learning.

As the members and leadership of the K20 Initiative work internally to prioritize goals and action items we will also work, where possible, to align these priorities with the Internet2 Strategic Plan. The K20 Initiative anticipates continued commitment to working together with Internet2 members from SEGP's to advance the institutional goals common among the growing membership of the K20 community. By facilitating collaborative work on e-science, e-scholarship, and e-learning, the K20 Initiative helps field new technologies, scale innovations, and effectively broaden the meaningful impact of Internet2.

At another, more primary level, SEGP organizations are often responsible for fielding the personnel to help assess technology needs, inform local and regional decision making for procurement, installation, and deployment of new network resources and connectivity upgrades. K20 organizations benefit from the pools of expertise made available to them by virtue of our participation in the Internet2 organization. Moreover, mutual advantages are derived from these active organizational relationships among members who work together in the K20 Initiative to learn more about the impact of relevant regulatory changes and to influence local options for supporting new and emerging technologies. Questions about intellectual property, copyrights, and digital rights management are also common concerns and the K20 Initiative at Internet2 provides a forum to share best practices and lessons learned in terms of policy development and program implementation.

As a result of active engagement and dialogue through our participation in the Internet2 community, the K20 Initiative has identified the following set of priority tasks from the Strategic Plan as items of focus for ongoing collaboration linked to the implementation framework articulated by the SPEC. We endorse

these priorities and ask for organizational support as we assume what we believe to be an instrumental role in the advancement of these aims for Internet2. Where possible, we have articulated specific interests and/or motivation for pursuing these tasks and resources required.

Priority Tasks

Strategy 2, Item F. *Articulate the technical, operational, fiscal, and other barriers to coordination, adoption and deployment of advanced applications and document plans to overcome those barriers, together with connectors, other regionals, and member institutions. Identify successes and best practices in the use of cyberinfrastructure to support academic applications within and across disciplines.*

The Internet2 Member Communities active in the K20 Initiative have unique barriers to adoption of advanced networks and applications. For example, broader promotion and adoption of multicast in the K20 local networks is critical to furthering the range of successful applications among these communities. Together K20 will need to work with RONs and other member institutions to make access to multicast and other advanced services more readily and reliably available.

Strategy 6, Item R. *Work with EDUCAUSE, AAU, ACE, NASULGC, ACUTA, CNI, and other higher education organizations to establish a comprehensive national advocacy program that works with our partners to develop educational programs and communications to ensure that Congress, federal agencies, state and local leaders understand the importance of advanced networking to the health and welfare of our citizens, our economic competitiveness, and our changing role in a global knowledge economy.*

In addition to higher education organizations, Internet2 would benefit from more systematic outreach to K20 associations that are relevant to the community and important to furthering awareness and sharing best practices. Examples include: International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE); American Library Association (ALA), Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC), The Consortium of School Networking (CoSN); StateNETs (an EDUCAUSE Working Group); State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA); Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS); State Higher Education Executives Organization (SHEEO); Education Commission of the States (ECS); National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE); Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO); National Council of Community and Educational Partnerships (NCCEP); Association of American Museums (AAM); and others.

The K20 Initiative has made it a priority to pursue engagement in these communities and have shared among our members the aim of submitting proposals to their conferences for the purpose of stimulating increased awareness of Internet2 and activities among the membership. Developing partnerships with these associations is critical to awareness of the value of advanced networking and toward next steps of creating joint projects and supporting broader advocacy and policy direction. It is critical that Internet2 consider these K12 and public cultural and non-profit organizations as stakeholders in the important role of assuring that advanced networking is recognized and promoted and that appropriate outreach and policies are jointly pursued. It is short-sighted to articulate any strategy that does not include a goal of outreach to these institutions for the purpose of developing collaborations among all levels of education.

Strategy 6, Item S. *Promote and facilitate the extension of the advanced networking capabilities pioneered by Internet2 and its partners as a national asset to support key constituencies of our members, including business, government, economic development, health care and the citizenry at large.*

Strategy 7, Item T. *Work with corporate members to understand the needs, directions, and potential contributions of the corporate community. Create a strong value proposition for corporate membership and participation in Internet2 that highlights both access to the Internet2 network and collaborative engagement with the membership.*

The K20 Initiative is uniquely positioned for exploring mutual interests with the corporate community that lead to partnership opportunities. Promoting a fair and balanced approach to such interactions with stakeholders from Internet2's corporate membership is a high priority and should be coordinated within the OPC that ERAC oversees for the benefit of both constituencies.

Strategy 8, Item V. *Monitor outcomes of GNC recommendations regarding governance and make course corrections as necessary to ensure effective representation on boards and councils, member consultation, and broad-based participation.*

We are hopeful that increased participation from the K20 community can be achieved on boards and councils moving forward. We are eager to form regular communications channels with these groups for ongoing consultation and enhanced communications.

Strategy 8, Item W. *Consistently engage the membership in all key organizational, financial and technical decisions through the advisory councils as well as more broadly through forums, meetings, surveys, focus groups, and other standard instruments for evaluating member satisfaction and engagement.*

Inclusion of the K20 SEGP members in future surveys is critical to understanding satisfaction levels as well as successes and challenges we face in continuing to engage these communities.

Strategy 8, Item X. *Through collaborative planning and investment mechanisms, maintain open communications with connectors, other regionals, and all member organizations, as well as collaboration with international partners and corporate members.*

Strategy 8, Item Z. *Support the role of Internet2 as a “big tent” for communities of interest through low-cost mechanisms such as special interest groups and working groups that let members work together in areas of interest through use of Internet2’s online community tools, provision of space at Internet2 meetings and provision of facilitation services.*

We ask for your continued support of both the K20 Initiative and the T&L SIG as members under this “big tent”. We ask you to consider, where possible, additional resources that could be brought to bear to support initiatives such as continuing development and maintenance of Muse.

Specifically, we also request that Internet2 add K20/SEGP members to the list of Internet2 members at <http://www.internet2.edu/membership/index.cfm> and on other web and print materials.

K20/SEGP organizations must be listed as Internet2 community members. Not doing so furthers a broad organizational misperception about the role and import of partnerships with these organizations toward the achievement of Internet2's mission and identified goals

Permit K20/SEGP members to register at a K20/SEGP Member discounted member rate for the annual member meeting and permit their ability to submit proposals without a full-member as co-presenter. Currently, international partners are permitted to do this. Our own K20/SEGP members should be permitted to do this as well. In discussions about how to address this challenge, members active in the K20 initiative have suggested that reducing or waiving event registration fees could go a long way toward broadening participation and engaging new communities of interest. In many, if not most cases, the members participating in the K20 initiative bear these costs either at the expense of their home organization or, often, personally. While this fact engenders a sense of ownership for those conducting Internet2 business in the K20 Initiative, there are real costs to the organization resulting from such financial limitations. Often, opportunities to develop additional resources for Internet2 and the K20 Initiative through grants and contracts are not feasible after considering the costs of participation and the relatively small but significant budgetary commitment from Internet2.

Conclusion

It is critical for our national success to educate the students of tomorrow in the fields of e-science, e-scholarship, and e-learning. Clearly, these aims rely upon advanced networking applications and the enabling cyberinfrastructure that Internet2 champions and operates. These benefits begin with Institutional Members of Internet2 and are extended beyond the campus through Internet2's K20 Initiative, to the next generation of scientists, engineers, researchers and instructional leaders as SEGP's broaden and deepen the understanding and adoption of innovative new technologies. Participants in the K20 Initiative hold fast to the mission of establishing effective community and educational partnerships to bridge the gap that persists between K12 and postsecondary education for both students and institutions. This successful initiative continues to grow, adding new SEGPs and generating revenues of nearly \$2M annually. We anticipate that linking K20 organizationally in the operational planning cluster (OPC) overseen by the External Relations Advisory Council (ERAC) is a meaningful step toward expansion of a successful and sustainable programmatic and budgetary goal for Internet2.

It is important to note that the success and sustainability of the K20 initiative is not without significant cost centers. Some increase in the level of budgetary support for organizational activities could enhance the capacities available for outreach and collaboration to Internet2 through this valuable and highly effective collegial network of members. Most importantly, we need to achieve a clear understanding and articulation of the value of the K20/SEGP community among the members of Internet2 organizationally moving forward. The K20/SEGP community's contributions to Internet2 are vital and enhance the value proposition Internet2 offers to its members. Financially this community contributes nearly \$2M annually to the Internet2 budget. Intellectually, the K20/SEGP community has developed outstanding applications and programs that have benefitted teachers and students nationally and internationally, and finally, though certainly not least importantly, the 50,000+ members of the K20/SEGP community have been actively participating in the Internet2 community by contributing energy and commitment to the broader adoption of advanced networking infrastructure and applications. We are convinced that this is what Internet2 is all about. Community driven. Community led.

Respectfully submitted,
On behalf of the K20 Advisory Committee

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Muse: <http://k20.internet2.edu/>

K20 Advisory Committee: <https://wiki.internet2.edu/confluence/display/k20t/K20+Advisory+Committee+Working+Space>