

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Each day across the California State University is a day of extraordinary activity: hundreds of thousands of students attend classes, thousands of faculty prepare to teach those classes, conduct research, and participate in governance activities, while administrators and staff work to make each campus a better place to teach and to learn. At any one time there are countless meetings and problem-solving sessions at the campus or systemwide levels to help advance the educational mission of the CSU. True to the nature of the university, its community comes together with widely divergent opinions and expectations, but often reaches a point of accord to resolve issues and meet challenges.

The Integrated Technology Strategy-Technology Infrastructure Initiative (ITS-TII) is an example of campus and system representatives coming together to advance the CSU's educational mission. While the scale of the initiative is enormous, it has much in common with the way in which the CSU meets other challenges. First, a problem is identified, in this case how to meet the challenge of providing the CSU with the technology and services in ways that enhance the educational experience for students and the professional environment for faculty and staff. Second, the campuses are engaged through their representatives in a process of sharing ideas and perspectives, building upon individual and institutional experiences and aspirations. Third, solutions are sought to significant challenges, which means in a system comprised of diverse campuses finding ways to respect individual differences while establishing needed common ground.

The CSU communities have invested many years of committee and commission work to prepare the system to engage in the Telecommunications Infrastructure Initiative. Since the current phase of the initiative began in October 1996, thousands upon thousands of hours of effort have been generously rendered on the part of campus volunteers and CSU staff to make the progress reported in the ITS-TII Plan. This massive effort has gained the CSU a rich technology blueprint: infrastructure build-out plans for each campus; computer workstation standards; technology service and training strategies; and, a recognition of financial requirements to provide high quality technology resources and services to students, faculty and staff.

As is the case with all other accomplishments within the CSU, there are so many to whom a debt of gratitude is owed. Many of those who have contributed, almost 200 hundred, are listed in the participant directory. First, the Systemwide Internal Partnership, representatives from each of the campuses, has dedicated itself to a high level of inter-campus collaboration. Next, the members of the Technology Steering Committee (seven Presidents, Executive Vice Chancellor, Senior Vice Chancellor and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Resources & Technology) provide excellent guidance to this effort and an abiding sense of stewardship for the CSU system and each of the campuses. Finally, persistent questioning and wise counsel from Statewide Academic Senate leaders, as well as members of the California State Student Association, have served to keep central in the initiative the purposes of the university as advances are made in providing valuable technology resources and services to the CSU.

As the next phase of the initiative unfolds, campus involvement and the key leadership cited above will be essential to the CSU's collective success.

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