NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
JOINT MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PANEL and the
COMMUNITY, EDUCATION & STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCILS
Tuesday, August 9, 2005, 9:00 a.m.
Varner Hall - Board Room, 3835 Holdrege
Lincoln, Nebraska
MINUTES

NITC COMMISSIONERS & TECHNICAL PANEL MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT: Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy; Mike Beach, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications; Walter Weir, Christy Horn, and Rick Golden, University of Nebraska; Steve Henderson, DAS Information Technology Services; Kirk Langer, Lincoln Public Schools; and Brenda Decker, State of Nebraska, Chief Information Officer

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT: Gene Hand, Public Service Commission; John Jordison ; Max Thacker, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Dr. Jerry Easterday, Nebraska Health and Human Services System; Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library; Steve Williams, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Roger Keetle, Nebraska Hospital Association; Michael Nolan, City of Norfolk; Ted Smith, Norfolk Public Library; Norene Fitzgerald, York County Development Corporation; Lance Hedquist, City of South Sioux City; and Bob Sweeney, AIM Institute

EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT: Arnold Bateman, University of Nebraska; Clark Chandler, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Lois Dietsch, Seward Middle School; Terry Dugas, Nebraska Educational Television; Wayne Fisher, Department of Education; Dr. Terry Haack, Bennington Public Schools; Yvette Holly, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Jeff Johnson, Centennial Public Schools; Becky Kohrs, Nebraska State College System; Mike Kozak, Department of Education; Chuck Lenosky, Creighton University; Dennis Linster, Wayne State College; Rich Molettiere, Omaha North High School; Tip O'Neill, Independent Colleges and Universities; Dr. Ed Rastovski, Wahoo Public Schools; Al Schneider, ESU 5; Dave Wagaman, DAS Budget Division; and Alan Wibbels, ESU 10

STATE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT: Beverlee Bornemeier, DAS Information Technology Services; Dennis Burling, Department of Environmental Quality; Randy Cecrle, Workers Compensation Court; Tom Conroy, DAS-Information Technology Services; Josh Daws, Secretary of State; Keith Dey, Dept. of Motor Vehicles; John Erickson, Policy Research Office; Pat Flanagan, Mutual of Omaha; Rex Gittins, Dept. of Natural Resources; Dorest Harvey, Peter Kiewit Institute; Lori McClurg, Dept. of Administrative Services; Jim McGee, Health & Human Services Systems; Glenn Morton, Workers Compensation Court; Jon Ogden, Dept. of Roads; Jim Ohmberger, Health & Human Services Systems; Gerry Oligmueller, DAS-Budget; Mike Overton, Crime Commission; Jayne Scofield, Division of Communications; Robert Shanahan, Dept. of Labor; Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; and George Wells, Dept. of Corrections

OTHERS PRESENT: Ralph Armendariz, Pinpoint Communications; Rod Armstrong, Nebraska.gov; Tammy Barry, Senator Raikes' Office; Mike Carr, University of Nebraska; Rick DeSchepper, IBM; Jim Emal, University of Nebraska; Dale Fangmeier, DAS Information Technology Services; Linda Fettig, Rural Development Commission; Dave Glover, Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network; Roger Hahn, Nebraska Information Network; Dan Hoesing, Laurel-Concord/Coleridge Public Schools; Brad, McPeak, AIM Institute; Linda Salac, Health & Human Services Systems; Bill Schiedler, DAS-Budget Office; Mike Spinharney, MSI; Deb Swanson, QWEST; Kathy Tenopir, Legislative Fiscal Office; Jim Weston, Great

Plains; and Jim Zemke, University of Nebraska

STAFF: Rick Becker, Government Information Technology Manager, Anne Byers, Community Information Technology Manager; Tom Rolfes, Education Information Technology Manager; and Lori Lopez Urdiales, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Weir called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed members and guests. Introductions were conducted for purposes of the roll call.

OVERVIEW AND MEETING EXPECTATIONS—LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHEEHY

Lieutenant Governor Sheehy thanked the Technical Panel for bringing the advisory councils together to begin a collaborative effort that establish the action items that will accomplish the NITC strategic initiatives. Nebraska is moving forward toward network connectivity. This is a vision shared among the councils. The Lieutenant Governor advised attendees to take the time today to meet members of the other councils. He expressed a need for the councils to be working in unison rather than in silos.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UPDATES
(Click on link for more detailed information.)

Supporting the Development of a Robust Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network, Dave Glover. Connections are being put in place (T1 and fiber), as well as addressing connection equipment issues such as routers, etc. On July 19th, a report was given to the Public Service Commission. The Commission has been an important source of funding for the project. The development of a website for the telehealth network is underway. The project will be working with the Education Council in researching scheduling systems. Collaborative efforts are occurring in addressing privacy issues.
- Network Nebraska, Walter Weir and Brenda Decker. Network Nebraska was the first initiative where the NITC involved all of the advisory councils. The Technical Panel took the lead with regard to the technical aspects. Mr. Weir recognized the following individuals for their part in the development of Network Nebraska: Dave Wagaman, Kathy Tenopir, Dr. Dennis L. Smith, Governor Dave Heineman, Alan Wibbels, and Rick Golden.
- Statewide Synchronous Video Network. Mike Beach. A few years ago, the Technical Panel formed a work group to explore the state's educational networks. The workgroup included representatives from distance education, libraries, higher education, K12 and Educational Service Units. A video standard was developed, and institutions are moving toward meeting that standard. The LB689 Distance Education Enhancement Task Force is now looking at these issues. The Work Group has been exploring state and federal funding options.

Supporting Community and Economic Development
- Community IT Planning and Development, Anne Byers. Through the partnership efforts of the NITC and TAN (Technologies across Nebraska), several Nebraska communities have received assistance with IT planning. New businesses and technology centers have been created and e-government efforts have been enhanced through funding assistance from the IT Planning Mini-grant programs. A needs assessment survey was taken and as a result the TANGENTS newsletter was developed. There is currently a new round of competition for mini-

grant projects promoting economic development. The deadline for application for these grants is September 1st.

Promoting the Efficient Delivery of Government and Educational Services

- Digital Education, Tom Rolfes and Alan Wibbels. Mr. Rolfes stated that there are several members who have served on the Education Council prior to 1998. Mr. Wibbels and Dr. Huck have been the co-chairs since its inception. For a couple of new members, today is their first meeting. In Nebraska, education is at a crossroads. Last fall, an E-learning workshop series was conducted across the state. Mr. Zemke, University of Nebraska, assisted with the workshops. This spring, an IT survey was administered to K12 administrators, teachers and technology managers. The results are being compiled. Mr. Wibbels stated that a distance education network is vital. Since 1992 when ESU's were designated by the Legislature to provide technology services to schools, the demands on the networks have increased tremendously and will continue to do so. Farmers' use of IT is increasing in the country. In Nebraska, students are encouraging parents to use IT. Mr. Wibbels invited members to the 20/20 Vision and Technology Leadership Forum, November 1st, at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The focus of the forum is to discuss what we need to do to prepare our students for the year 2020.

- State Government Efficiency. Walter Weir.   The Technical Panel has been working with the State Government Council to develop guidelines and standards to promote government efficiency. After the State Government Council and the Technical Panel have done a thorough review, all standards are posted for a 30-day public comment period. The State Government Council has started a Shared Services project. State agencies are researching services and products that can be shared and exploring where they can collaborate on these enterprise efforts. At a brainstorming session, over 40 shared services were identified. These have been narrowed to the following eight: Directory Services; Blackberry; Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery; Enterprise Licensing for Software and Hardware; E-mail; SANS (Storage Area Networks); and Shared Field Support.

- E-Government, Brenda Decker. The State Government Council has taken the lead on this initiative. With the assistance of Nebraska.gov, the State of Nebraska web site has been redesigned to be more accessible and citizen friendly, as well as to provide more online services.

Ensuring Security and Business Continuity

- Security and Business Resumption, Steve Henderson. Members received the summary of achievements prior to the meeting. Mr. Henderson stated that the State of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska have been working together to assure security and business continuity. This type of effort is believed to be unique around the country.

NITC'S CHARGE TO THE COUNCILS - LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHEEHY

Lt. Governor Sheehy challenged the members of the NITC advisory groups to develop ideas for collaborative action items in which the advisory groups can work together. CAP (Collaborative Aggregation Partnership), Network Nebraska and the Statewide Synchronous Video Network Work Group were given as examples. Lt. Governor Sheehy announced that later in the meeting members will be able to prioritize activities and to sign up for a work groups.

DEVELOPMENT OF COLLABORATIVE ACTION ITEMS SUPPORTING STRATEGIC INITIATIVES STEVE HENDERSON

Mr. Henderson acknowledged the uniqueness of today's meeting in bringing together the NITC Technical Panel and the NITC advisory councils. Members were asked to suspend their own view of the world and to stretch beyond that in order to explore how the state can benefit in the area of technology. One of the challenges we face as a group is a clear understanding of the issues. In addition to brainstorming, members were asked to develop a basic understanding of the issues and priorities. A question was raised regarding the purpose and initiative of the LB 689 Distance Education Enhancement Task Force. Ms. Decker stated that there are three NITC members serving on the LB 689 task force. Tammy Barry, aide to Senator Raikes, was in attendance at today's meeting as well. It was explained that the results of today's brainstorming sessions will be shared with the Distance Education Enhancement Task Force.

Mr. Bateman, Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Dey arrived at 10:25 a.m.

A document was distributed to members that contained descriptions of examples of seven collaborative activities, projects and action items. After discussion, nine more suggestions were added for a total of 16 activities to prioritize. In order to assist with prioritizing, a group activity was conducted where members were given 5 dots to indicate their top five priorities. The sixteen items and the "votes" received were:

1. Exploring a statewide scheduling system for distance learning and videoconferencing. (12 votes)
2. Using high bandwidth flexible use circuits as community aggregation points. (28 votes)
3. Using technology to create health education opportunities for students across Nebraska. (10 votes)
4. Creating a statewide, high bandwidth digital content delivery system using satellite, terrestrial and wireless technology. (27 votes)
5. Improving disaster recovery and business continuity procedures for all public entities. (20 votes)
6. Using web-based Learning Management Systems to stimulate continuing education opportunities for citizens and employees. (2 votes)
7. Implementing homeland security preparedness measures across all sector boundaries. (6 votes)
8. Statewide (rural) economic development and job creation. (31 votes)
9. Policy (state/federal) on shared network assets. (37 votes)
10. Virtualization of computing/storage. (2 votes)
11. Enhance/integrate/personalize individual interaction with state's knowledge & technical resources. (36 votes)
12. Institutional management and "portal" delivery options. (7 votes)
13. Content exchange in a secure manner. (7 votes)
14. Skilled workforce development – technology specialist. (29 votes)
15. Nationwide "survey" of technology best practices. (9 votes)
16. Statewide "test lab" evaluation center. (4 votes)

Discussions followed regarding the activities receiving the highest number of votes, as well as the overlap and interrelatedness among some of the activities. Members were encouraged to sign-up for a work group. Those members who were not present will also have an opportunity to sign up for work groups. It was agreed to form the following five cross council work groups:

Examine policy implications of the use of shared network assets: John Erickson, Dave Glover, Chuck Lenosky, Yvette Holly, Gene Hand, George Wells, Gerry Oligmueller

Stimulate job creation and economic development and the development of a skilled technical

workforce: Linda Salac, Jim Ohmberger, Bob Shanahan, Roger Hahn, Norene Fitzgerald, John Jordison, Anne Byers

Use high bandwidth flexible use circuits as community aggregation points and create a statewide, high bandwidth digital content delivery system using satellite, terrestrial and wireless technology: Dennis Linster, Rich Molettiere, Al Schneider, Michael Beach, Rod Wagner, Randy Cecrle, Roger Hahn, Terry Dugas, Wayne Fisher, William Scheideler, Jon Ogden, Tom Rolfes

Improve disaster recovery and business continuity procedures for all public entities including homeland security preparedness: Linda Salac, Max Thacker, George Wells, Lynn Man, Keith Dey, Josh Daws, Dennis Burling

Make it easier to access information resources in Nebraska though a knowledge management system: Tom Conroy, Jim McGee, Rod Armstrong, Walter Weir, Jeff Johnson, Rex Gittins, John Erickson

Mr. Henderson and Ms. Decker thanked the members and guests for attending and informed them that those persons who signed up for a work group will be contacted by staff.

With no further business, Mr. Weir adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.