

NITC Strategic Initiatives

2005-2006

The NITC identified eight strategic initiatives in 2005-2006. These strategic initiatives are projects that are ready to be implemented, or that require an enterprise approach, involvement by the NITC and cooperation of multiple entities for their success. By emphasizing selected strategic initiatives, the NITC hopes to encourage funding of these initiatives and to encourage state agencies to work together to advance these initiatives. A brief description of each initiative, listed as supporting the NITC goals, follows:

Supporting the Development of a Robust Telecommunications Infrastructure

Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network will improve access to health care, continuing medical education, bioterrorism training, and bioterrorism alerts by connecting all rural and critical access hospitals with regional hospitals, public health departments, state public health laboratories, and the State of Nebraska. By the end of 2005, most of the telecommunications lines will be installed. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is a collaborative effort led by the Nebraska Hospital Association.

Network Nebraska. In order to develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in the state of Nebraska, the Division of Communications and the University of Nebraska engaged in a collaborative partnership that used existing resources to aggregate disparate networks into a multipurpose core backbone extending from Norfolk, Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney and North Platte to the Panhandle. The next phase of this initiative is to formalize business relationships and agreements and to enhance rural bandwidth through aggregation. Potential benefits of Network Nebraska include lower network costs, greater efficiency, interoperability of systems providing video courses and conferencing, increased collaboration among educational entities, new educational opportunities, and better use of public investments.

Statewide Synchronous Video Network. The 400+ interactive video facilities in Nebraska currently utilize a variety of video standards and bandwidth speeds that prevent interconnection between sub-networks. The Statewide Synchronous Video Network, as envisioned, would use compatible audio and video standards to enable any classroom or facility to connect with any other classroom or facility or to connect with multiple sites simultaneously. Benefits include greater sharing of educational courses and resources; more efficient use of available resources; one-to-many videoconferencing capabilities for alerts and emergency situations; and collaborative

development across various service agencies.

Supporting Community and Economic Development

Community IT Planning and Development. In order to foster community and economic development in Nebraska communities through the effective use of information technology, the NITC Community Council has partnered with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and Rural Initiative to form the Technologies Across Nebraska partnership. Technologies Across Nebraska has helped 21 communities develop local plans to utilize technology to enhance development opportunities. Technologies Across Nebraska's quarterly newsletter, *TANgents*, reaches over 1,000 individuals with an interest in technology-related development.

Promoting the Efficient Delivery of Government and Educational Services

Digital Education. The primary objective of the Digital Education Initiative is to promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis.

State Government Efficiency. The State Government Council will address multiple items improving efficiency in state government, including shared services; standards and guidelines; and the project review process. The council has identified and is working to implement seven "shared services" for state government agencies. Also, the council will continue to develop standards and guidelines to better coordinate state agency technology efforts. Finally, the council will review and recommend improvements to the IT project review process. Benefits of these activities include lower costs, easier interoperability among systems, greater data sharing, and improved services.

E-Government. Through the use of technology, state agencies can enhance information sharing, service delivery, and constituency and client participation. Benefits include improved services for citizens and businesses, and increased efficiency and effectiveness for agencies.

Security and Business Resumption. This initiative will define and clarify policies, standards and guidelines, and responsibilities related to the security of the State's information technology resources. Benefits include lower costs by addressing security from an enterprise perspective, cost avoidance, and protecting the public trust.