

EDUCAUSE-Sakai Statement on Blackboard Patent Pledge

Since early November 2006, EDUCAUSE has been engaged in ongoing discussions with Blackboard regarding their assertion of patent rights and the concerns raised in a letter to the Blackboard leadership (<http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/EPO0711.pdf>) EDUCAUSE President Brian Hawkins sent in October on behalf of the EDUCAUSE Board of Directors. Other groups, including The Sakai Foundation, have also been engaged in discussions on this matter. On February 1, 2007, Blackboard announced

a non-assertion pledge (<http://www.blackboard.com/patent>) that directly emanated from these discussions.

The boards of directors of EDUCAUSE and The Sakai Foundation have agreed to and have issued a joint statement about this pledge:

Although Blackboard has included in the pledge many named open source initiatives, regardless of whether they incorporate proprietary elements in their applications, Blackboard has also reserved rights to assert its patents against other

providers of such systems that are “bundled” with proprietary code. We remain concerned that this bundling language introduces legal and technical complexity and uncertainty which will be inhibitive in this arena of development. As a result, the Sakai Foundation and EDUCAUSE find it difficult to give the wholehearted endorsement we had hoped might be possible.

Read the full joint statement at <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/EPO0705.pdf>.

2007 Horizon Report Identifies Learning Technologies to Watch

The 2007 Horizon Report spotlights six emerging technologies that are likely to have a significant impact on higher education in the next one to five years. The report presents an overview accompanied by examples and suggested readings for each technology.

The emerging technologies noted in this report include user-created content, social networking, mobile phones, virtual worlds, multiplayer education gaming, and new scholarship and emerging forms of publication. In defining these six selected areas, the project draws on an ongoing discussion among knowledgeable individuals in business, industry, and education, as well as published resources, current research and practice, and the expertise of the New Media Consortium (NMC) community itself.

The Horizon Project’s Advisory Board probes current trends and challenges in higher education, explores possible topics for the report, and ultimately directs the selection of the final technologies. The report is based on research by the NMC (<http://www.nmc.org/>) and is a collaborative effort of the NMC and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (<http://www.educause.edu/eli>).

More than 10,000 copies of the 2006

Horizon Report were distributed in print and electronically, and the report was downloaded nearly 30,000 times.

“One of the reasons the Horizon Report is so valuable is that it doesn’t just talk about technology—it talks about how it is used to enhance teaching, learning, and the creative arts,” according to Diana Oblinger, EDUCAUSE vice presi-

dent and director of the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative. “Putting the technology in an educational context and providing a number of examples really helps people understand why these particular technologies are so exciting.”

Read the EDUCAUSE press release at <http://www.educause.edu/1175&ID=1413> for more information.

Also from ELI

New ELI Scholar-in-Residence. The EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI) has appointed John P. Campbell as Scholar-in-Residence for 2007. Campbell will lead an ELI project exploring the use of analytics in higher education. He will also maintain his current position as associate vice president of teaching and learning technologies at Purdue University. Learn more at <http://www.educause.edu/1175&ID=1419>.

Two New “7 Things.” The EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI) has released “7 Things You Should Know About...” briefs on Creative Commons and open journaling. Both are publicly accessible at <http://www.educause.edu/7Things/7495>.

The “7 Things You Should Know About...” series from the ELI provides concise information on emerging learning practices and technologies. Each brief focuses on a single practice or technology and describes what it is, where it is going, and why it matters to teaching and learning. Readers can use the briefs to

- Enhance faculty development activities
- Open a dialogue with senior administrators about emerging technologies and their implications for the institution
- Stay up-to-date on emerging technologies

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Also in the News

ECAR Releases Business Continuity Study

The latest EDUCAUSE Center for Academic Research (ECAR) study, *Shelter from the Storm: IT and Business Continuity in Higher Education*, looks at IT unit readiness to foster and support the functioning of colleges and universities that are challenged by disruption. Responding to a well-documented increase of interest in business continuity and disaster recovery issues among higher education chief information officers, ECAR designed the study to inform executives how institutions approach continuity issues and to identify practices associated with good business continuity outcomes. Key findings and a roadmap from the study are publicly accessible, and the complete study is available through subscription or purchase. All are found at <http://www.educause.edu/ers0702>.

Lancope Joins IMSP Vendor Partnership Network

Since its launch in 2005, the EDUCAUSE Identity Management Services Program (IMSP) has formed discount partnerships with a variety of providers of ID management products and services, structured exclusively for EDUCAUSE member institutions. With the recent addition of Lancope, six firms now offer significant discounts to member institutions.

An expanding number of vendors provide products and services that cover various parts of the identity management solution; however, many campuses have found the price of commercial offerings can be a significant impediment. The EDUCAUSE IMSP service was designed to address this challenge. View a summary of current IMSP vendors and offerings at <http://www.educause.edu/imsp>.

2007 Ryland Fellows Named

The 2007 Jane N. Ryland Fellowships have been awarded to 14 IT professionals in recognition of their past achievement, personal and institutional commitment,

potential benefit, and financial need. Recipients receive grants supporting attendance at a 2007 EDUCAUSE event. The program bears the name of Jane N. Ryland, president of CAUSE from 1986 to 1998, who recognized the importance of educational programs to support and develop IT professionals throughout higher education. Names of this year's recipients and application information for the 2008 fellowships can be found at <http://www.educause.edu/fellow/>.

Four New EDUCAUSE Constituent Groups Form

Four new EDUCAUSE constituent groups have formed: Business Continuity Management, led by Bill Heiser, Stanford University, and Mickey Merriam, Creighton University; IT Architects, led by James Phelps, University of Wisconsin-Madison; IT Strategic Planning, led by Debra H. Allison, Miami University, and Andrew J. Clark, Syracuse University; and Professional Development/Staff Management, led by Eric Bird, Massachusetts College of Art, and Tracey Leger-Hornby, Brandeis University. Subscription is available online for the Business Continuity group at <http://www.educause.edu/groups/bc>; the IT Architects group at <http://www.educause.edu/groups/itana>; the IT Strategic Planning group at <http://www.educause.edu/groups/stratplan>; and the Professional Development group at <http://www.educause.edu/groups/profdev>.

For more information about the 30-plus constituent groups, whose members discuss issues of common interest online throughout the year, visit <http://www.educause.edu/groups>.

EDUCAUSE President/CEO Search Now Open

The search for President/CEO of EDUCAUSE is now officially open. The presidential search committee will accept nominations and applications through May 31, 2007. View the position description and instructions at <http://www.educause.edu/PresidentSearch>.

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