EDUCAUSE Launches Openness Initiative

EDUCAUSE values sharing, collaboration, and open access to knowledge and resources, and thus supports the development and adoption of technologies, applications, and approaches that foster openness. With this in mind, EDUCAUSE recently launched the Openness Constituent Group (http://www.educause.edu/Openness ConstituentGroup/130996), which allows members to join the discussion on free exchange of ideas. Led by Patrick Masson, CIO, SUNY College of Technology at Delhi, and Ken Udas, Executive Director, The Pennsylvania State University, the group will cover topics such as free and open source software, open content, open educational resources, open courseware, open standards, and management practices such as open business and enterprise 2.0.

In addition, EDUCAUSE President Diana G. Oblinger recently teamed up with Duke University's RENCI Center Director Marilyn Lombardi to write the chapter "Common Knowledge: Openness in Higher Education," which was published in *Opening Up Education: The Collective Advancement of Education through Open Technology, Open Content, and Open Knowledge*, published by The MIT Press. Read the free, publicly accessible e-book at http://connect.educause .edu/Library/Abstract/OpeningUp EducationTheColl/47307. Also, listen to Oblinger's audio recording in which she discusses the value of openness at http:// net.educause.edu/elements/staff_web_ pages/doblinger/diana_openness.mp3.

EDUCAUSE also launched an Openness Connect resource page that specifies the EDUCAUSE value statement on openness. The page includes resources such as articles, conference presentation handouts, and other Connect resource pages surrounding the topic of openness. Peruse all the offerings at http://connect .educause.edu/term_view/Openness.

Cooper and Dodds Elected to the EDUCAUSE Board

Joel P. Cooper

EDUCAUSE institutional primary representatives have elected Joel P. Cooper, director of information technology services at Carleton College, and Ted Dodds, CIO and associate vice president–IT at the University of British Columbia (Canada) to the EDUCAUSE Board of Directors.

Cooper previously worked at Saint Mary's College, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of Texas at Austin. He has a longstanding interest and involvement in networked information, directory services, and identity management.

Ted Dodds

Prior to his position at the University of British Columbia, Dodds held IT management positions at two Ontario universities and in the private sector, spanning a period of over twenty years. His current responsibilities include institutional IT strategy and services within a highly decentralized campus environment.

Cooper and Dodds will begin their four-year terms in January 2009. See the current list of the EDUCAUSE Board of Directors at http://www.educause.edu/ BoardofDirectors/771.

Also in the News

The EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Unveils New Challenges Project

The EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI) introduces a new community collaboration project, the EDUCAUSE Top Teaching and Learning Challenges 2009. This project is a community effort to surface and synthesize trends in higher education through the charting of top teaching and learning challenges in IT today. Participants can debate the list of challenges and join colleagues in building solutions and just-in-time resources for common problems. To learn more about various ways to get involved, visit the project homepage at http://www .educause.edu/eli/Challenges/ 127397.

ECAR Publishes Two Research Studies

The EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) has released its fifth annual comprehensive survey of freshman and senior undergraduates, focusing on the role of IT in student life. *The ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology, 2008* was authored by Judith B. Caruso and Gail Salaway, with Mark R. Nelson.

A longitudinal extension of the 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 ECAR studies of students and information technology, the 2008 study is based on quantitative data from nearly 28,000 freshmen and seniors at 90 four-year and 8 two-year higher education institutions. In addition to studying student ownership, experience, behaviors, preferences, and skills with respect to information technologies, the 2008 study also includes a special focus on student participation in social networking sites.

Because of the topic's critical importance, ECAR makes this report freely available online. The complete research study, along with related key findings and a roadmap, is available at http:// www.educause.edu/ers0808.

The 2008 ECAR research study *Leading the IT Workforce in Higher Education*, by Philip J. Goldstein, builds upon the work done in 2004 by ECAR in its original study of information technology leadership. The study addresses questions such as: How significant a transition in leadership positions are we likely to see in the next few years? How confident are IT leaders in their skills, and how effective are their leadership styles? How is the position of IT leader viewed by those who might aspire to it?

Key findings and a roadmap from the study are publicly accessible. The complete study is available through subscription or purchase. See http://connect.educause.edu/Library/ECAR/LeadingITWorkforce/47282.

Newly Posted EDUCAUSE Connect Resource Pages

EDUCAUSE has posted five new Connect resource pages: E-Research (http://connect.educause.edu/term_view/E-Research), ID Theft Red Flags (http://connect.educause.edu/term_view/ID+Theft+Red+Flags), Open Content (http://connect.educause.edu/term_view/Open+Content), Open Educational Resources (http://connect.educause.edu/term_view/Open+Educational+Resources), and Open Standards (http://connect.educause.edu/term_view/Open+Standards).

Core Data Report Released

The annual EDUCAUSE report on campus IT environments, the *Core Data Service Fiscal Year 2007 Summary Report*, was recently released. This report summarizes data collected from colleges and universities early in 2008 for fiscal year 2006–2007 in the areas of IT organization, staffing, and planning; IT financing and management; faculty and student computing; networking and security; and information systems. In its sixth year, the Core Data Service features an online database with powerful sort and selection tools and includes data from more than 994 institutions. The report, as well as general information about the Core Data Service, is available online at http://www.educause.edu/apps/coredata/reports/2007/.

Forum for the Future of Higher Education Launches New Website

The Forum for the Future of Higher Education and EDUCAUSE are pleased to announce the launch of the Forum's new website. The Forum is a community of academic leaders and scholars from across the country who explore new thinking and ideas in higher education. EDUCAUSE and the Forum have a long-term strategic partnership designed to make available to campus leaders and scholars new thinking on key and emerging issues likely to affect their institutions. Visit the new site at http://net.educause.edu/forum/.