

Expanding a Tradition of Member Participation

One of the great strengths of EDUCAUSE is its solid tradition of member involvement. Besides being clients and users of EDUCAUSE's services, members build the association's intellectual capital by contributing to magazines, speaking at conferences, and sharing knowledge through Constituent Group listservs. The work of a relatively small staff is shaped and extended through a board of directors, committees, and ad hoc groups that change with association and member priorities.

The volunteer opportunities have grown over the years. In 1998, when EDUCAUSE was incorporated, 125 individuals served on 11 member committees, with about 50 appointments made each year. By the end of this year the numbers will have almost doubled, with approximately 225 members serving on 14 advisory committees and 7 event program committees, requiring 100 appointments annually.

More than 350 individuals currently bring the latest "views from the trenches" and expand their own professional perspectives through service on EDUCAUSE boards and committees, event faculties, and ad hoc task forces, and as leaders of EDUCAUSE Constituent Groups.

Despite this wealth of member involvement, occasional frustration arises over an apparent lack of opportunity for everyone who wishes to participate. For example, the responses to the annual Member Satisfaction Survey, while largely enthusiastic, contain a minor but recurring theme of unsuccessful efforts to be appointed to particular areas of service. EDUCAUSE has about 6,500 designated representatives from more than 1,600 member institutions. It is a continual challenge to improve our ability to match disparate member expertise with association needs and identify new talent among our members.

If you seek ways to participate more actively,

■ **Let your expertise be seen.**

Many active members of this association first became known through a thoughtful article or a solid conference presentation. Contribute to a Constituent Group listserv or submit evidence of your accomplishments through the new Effective Practices and Solutions service at <http://www.educause.edu/ep/>.

■ **Respond to opportunity.**

EDUCAUSE regularly issues invitations to comment on initiatives, serve as conference conveners, and test experi-

mental programs — good chances to demonstrate your reliability, professional expertise, and creativity.

■ **Speak with staff.**

Every advisory committee, board, program committee, and task force has a staff liaison who can explain the commitment and experience required.

■ **Volunteer.**

EDUCAUSE relies on a Web-based volunteer form <http://www.educause.edu/about.html> for its annual member committee appointments and for occasional needs throughout the year.

Appointments are governed by a range of variables, such as demographic balance among members in each group (size and type of institution, gender, functional areas of expertise) and experience with the association. But whether or not you have a formal role within EDUCAUSE, your comments are welcome. We encourage you to share your opinions and suggestions by e-mail to info@educause.edu or by using the comment button at the bottom of EDUCAUSE Web pages. Our overwhelming priority is to keep this association relevant and valuable to its members and the communities they serve.

Find Out Who's Doing What, Where

In June EDUCAUSE launched a new service, Effective Practices and Solutions (EPS), to facilitate the sharing of IT-related practices and solutions that members have found to be effective on their campuses. The service addresses members' need to learn "who is doing what" to solve common challenges and brings visibility to innovative, potentially replicable IT solutions in use on

many different member campuses.

By visiting the site at <http://www.educause.edu/ep/>, you can browse the practices and solutions already in the database or contribute one from your own institution. Contributing to the service will not only provide visibility to your campus, it will bring your practice or solution to the attention of planners of EDUCAUSE professional develop-

ment activities, who are always looking for new content and contributors for various association activities and publications. EDUCAUSE award committees will also scan the database to identify potential candidates for association award programs. EDUCAUSE appreciates the advice provided by the Recognition and Current Issues committees in the development of this new service.

AN-MSI Coordinator

The Advanced Networking with Minority-Serving Institutions (AN-MSI) project has appointed Al Kuslikis as the Interim Coordinator for the Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). Kuslikis brings a long history of working with Native American issues to the AN-MSI project. He was a faculty member and special projects coordinator for more than eight years at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona. He worked with the Executive Director at the White House Initiative on Tribal Colleges and Universities to develop a strategic plan, called "Circle of Prosperity," for IT initiatives for all TCUs.

Kuslikis fills the position formerly held by Jack Barden, who passed away

in May. Barden was an influential and respected member of the community for more than 25 years, having been a continuous advocate for Native American education. He was instrumental in founding Standing Rock Community College, now known as Sitting Bull College, as well as Flaming Rainbow University. He worked with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium since its inception in 1973, developing higher education programs that have benefited all 33 of the Tribal Colleges and Universities across the U.S. and Canada. According to Dave Staudt, AN-MSI Project Director, "We're not into popularity contests, but there's no question who'd have won if we were."

New ECAR Fellows, Web Site

The EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) welcomes Mary Beth (O'Connor) Baker and Dr. Robert Albrecht, who joined ECAR on July 1, 2001, as senior fellows.

Baker's higher education experience has been devoted to helping a diverse set of colleges, universities, and their academic medical centers respond to external and internal challenges through restructuring, process improvement, and technology integration.

Albrecht served as the founding chancellor of Western Governors University, where he retired as Chancellor Emeritus. He served as Associate Vice President of the University of Colorado system, Vice Provost and Dean at the University of Oregon, and Academic Vice President of the University of Northern Colorado.

Also in July, the ECAR Web site went live at <<http://www.educause.edu/ecar/>>. The ECAR site contains news and recent developments at the

Center, information about the research agenda and ECAR's research products, and full details about becoming a subscriber to or sponsor of ECAR.

Editorial Advances Continue

EDUCAUSE Quarterly continues to seek new ways to serve readers. The spring issue (Volume 24, Number 1) saw a number of design and layout changes, plus the addition of EDUCAUSE News. Another such step sees the retirement of the venerable Campus Profile feature, which ended with the summer issue. In its place, EQ will publish additional peer-reviewed material, and covers will feature colorful illustrations of topics rather than campus shots. We welcome your suggestions. Contact eqeditor@educause.edu.

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