

# Core Data Report Released

The fourth annual EDUCAUSE report on campus IT environments, the *EDUCAUSE Core Data Service Fiscal Year 2005 Summary Report*, has recently been released. This report summarizes data collected from colleges and universities early in 2005 for fiscal year 2004–2005 in the areas of IT financing and management; faculty and student computing; network and security; information systems; and IT organization, staffing, and planning. The Core Data Service features

an online database that includes data from more than 950 institutions. Institutions that have completed the core data survey have access to survey data through this database.

This year's survey for the first time integrated elements of the COSTS (Cost of Supporting Technology Services) Project, started in 1997 by David Smallen and Karen Leach (now chief information officer and chief financial officer, respectively, at Hamilton College) in

association with the Consortium of Liberal Arts Colleges as an effort to measure the unit costs of providing IT services based on institutional characteristics. This integration resulted in new Core Data Service questions on total campus budget and personnel, yielding new ratios and benchmarks.

The report, as well as general information about the Core Data Service, is available online at <http://www.educause.edu/coredata>.

## Also in the News

### EDUCAUSE President Brian Hawkins to Retire

Brian L. Hawkins, founding president and CEO of EDUCAUSE, has announced plans to retire at the end of the 2007–2008 academic year, coinciding with the association's 10th anniversary. A formal search for his successor will begin this spring. Of the association he has led for nearly a decade, Hawkins said, "It's not about technology, and it's certainly not about me. It's about what we do with IT and how we align services, policies, and legislative priorities with the institutional mission." Read more at <http://www.educause.edu/PressReleases/1175&ID=1395>.

### 2006 ECAR Student Study

The EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) has released its third annual comprehensive survey of freshman- and senior-year undergraduates, focusing on the role of information technology in student life. *The ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology, 2006* was written by Judith B. Caruso, Richard N. Katz, and Gail Salaway, with Robert B. Kvavik and Mark R. Nelson.

A longitudinal extension of the 2004 and 2005 ECAR studies of students and information technology, this 2006 study is based on quantitative data from 96

higher education institutions. The complete research study, along with related key findings and roadmap, is available to ECAR subscribers and nonsubscribers alike at <http://www.educause.edu/ers0607>.

### EDUCAUSE Announces New Board Members

EDUCAUSE is pleased to announce that Tracy Mitrano, Scott E. Siddall, and Kathleen Curry Santora joined the association's board of directors for four-year terms beginning January 1, 2007. Tracy Mitrano and Scott E. Siddall were elected by primary representatives of EDUCAUSE member institutions during the board election that ended on September 11, 2006. In addition, one board member is appointed each year to add balance from a variety of sectors critical for advancing higher education. Kathleen Curry Santora was this year's appointee. EDUCAUSE welcomes the perspectives and expertise these new board members will bring to the association's governance. Learn more about the new board members at <http://www.educause.edu/PressReleases/1175&ID=1389>.

### EDUCAUSE 2007 Program Plan

EDUCAUSE has released its annual program plan for 2007. The plan details priorities and activities for the year ahead and outlines four grand challenges for the future: improving student success, lowering the cost of

doing business through IT, achieving sustainability, and improving innovation and the competitive edge. Read the full plan or skim the highlights at <http://www.educause.edu/operationsandbackground/579>.

### Second Annual Student Video Contest

The EDUCAUSE/Internet2 Computer and Network Security Task Force, in cooperation with the ResearchChannel, is conducting its second annual video contest in search of short computer security awareness videos developed by college students for college students. Winners will receive cash prizes. The videos will be featured on the Security Task Force Web site and may be used in campus security awareness campaigns. The contest is sponsored by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA). View more information at <http://www.educause.edu/SecurityVideoContest2007>.

### Leadership Changes for Data Administration Group

EDUCAUSE welcomes Michael Fary, associate director of data administration at the University of Chicago, as the new leader for the Data Administration constituent group. EDUCAUSE thanks outgoing leader Stephan P. Rafferty, director of data administration at Loyola College in Maryland, for his service. Learn more about this and other EDUCAUSE constituent groups at <http://www.educause.edu/groups>.