

20 in attendance (not counting James, Ann, Jennifer, Laurie)

Meeting started at 12:15 p.m. with introductions and agenda.

Dr. Janet K. Poley -American Distance Education Consortium

One thing in the Teaching & Learning community is trying to figure out where “they” all fit in together.

- Internet2 is a partner with ADEC
- eScience, eLearning and eAccess anywhere in the world at any time
- NSF – biological, environmental, climate
 - Western hemisphere, China distance education and African higher education
- We’re trying to work with the environmental side, climate change, with kids in K20 going forward in space
- An important audience are the decision-makers
- Hope to do a little cyber infrastructure work and bring it into the education space
- Western hemisphere: Caribbean, Latin American, and Mexico – develop and build upon applications we have here. But we have to deal with adaptations, language, culture differences
- Costa Rica is a leading partner; there are research labs in the Caribbean
- Chinese distance education – our first NSF project had a Chinese component with distance libraries
 - Using everything from loud speakers in villages and high performance networking
- South Africa --- National Association of Universities and Colleges to find out how to link up with African education

INNOVATION

- Technology – try to advance it, working close with Intenet2, focus on the technology kinds of opportunities and what we’re learning about the effectiveness
- True about methodologies – what was and wasn’t important Is high def important in Teaching & Learning . The Sloan Foundation – officially partners --- virtual world, second life – we work very closely with them

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Access, access, access --- people are doing many more things outside the campus area
- Advocate for rural broadband – lots of folks in under-served and remote area
- We work with tribal colleges, historically black colleges and many constituents that are in backward areas

DISASTER ISSUES:

Heavily involved during the hurricanes – we sent teams out and we’re doing a lot of research with networking, private sector partners, wireless, generators, water and spent a period of time in the Gulf – first putting universities up and then little Internet cafes. Heavily involved with the Sloan Foundation and working with disaster prevention and recovery.

We have 65 members. It s a 501(C)3 made up of public universities at the core. Land Grant Colleges – a very heavy base as they have the extension and the outreach to be able to bring it to other communities. We now are growing particularly with international affiliates....lots of universities joining us from around the world.

Question – Marla – re: pandemic planning –

Answer: The Sloan Foundation put up considerable money to rapidly connect students that were displaced in the hurricane. We learned a lot of what did work and didn't work. Totally convinced that we need all of the Faculty to be very fast and going forward with the on-line tools. People need to be prepared for a host of things that need to be done and prepared for. The pandemic (we worked with Johns Hopkins) won't affect everyone at once. May have people stuck on campuses. -- biggest issue is the climate disasters. One big problem is power --- weather pieces create the most. They took generators down and that helped.

Question: You have so much experience working with environment-- How do you deal with time changes?

Answer: Asynchronous is where it is.....I'm a professor in Journalism and Communications – they can come to class any way they want to. Class was 7:00 at night – we had people in military, in India, etc. and they were those that wanted to do it, really wanted to do it. You can run very good courses and they don't have to be synchronized. If you have mature learners – less needs to be done to keep them on track. Synchronous is the way to keep them on track and to monitor them.

If I had preference, I would prefer to have high quality audio and graphics. Those kinds of details are more important. Thousands of people are doing well in distance learning without being synchronized. There is a lot of research on it – but the one thing that comes out is that distance learning is better than face to face learning. Early adopters have tended to get into the research and planning better –they have had to work harder when you have fewer rich tools available. A good teacher will help someone try to learn. Her email is on the web site.

James Welre, Jennifer Oxenford – Finding Collaborators Worldwide

We have 87 high performance networks worldwide but few people can find the collaborators or connected institutions. Who to contact to – what is the connectivity status?
How do you find collaborating partners?

James: Who's familiar with the my K20 environment? [About 7 people raised hands.]

The limitations were that most folks didn't update their i.d. and there was no real-time connection and limited collaboration functionality. There was a need to allow for future communications with folks registered. My K20 was built to serve as a connection for the K20 program.

Jennifer: MAGPI – a regional organization serving three states --- so we need a regional database. Needed something smaller in scale with robust interoperability between regional and national tools. We did not want to compete with our community – so we teamed up 1.5 years ago – Jennifer is doing regional, James is doing national – so they decided to develop it together.

Internet2 is hosting the system on their server and we couldn't have done it without the support of Internet2. There is a Demo – MUSE website -- check out the net cast on this and the regional bubble.

On-going regional networking outreach. "Getting Started" guide preview. Targeted for specific communities in K-20 community. Personalized view – tailored for that specific community that's highlighted on the web site.

Get involved <http://k20.internet2.edu>

There is a Beta launch at end of October and an opportunity to think about if MUSE is something you might be able to use in your community or your region.

James recommends using Firefox. Will sort out other browsers but use Firefox for now.

Ed Cambron – The Philadelphia Orchestra

- Orchestras now have a role of educating about music and need to do more to engage adults and definitely children in music.
- Our concert series is designed to deliver live concerts thru Internet2 to universities that would like to deliver it to their community or students
- It's amazing the work that you all are doing
- There are a series of concerts that people can pick up on the Internet
- We're looking for partners – we want to develop content at different levels. K20 is our area – we don't have the curriculum that takes advantage of Internet2 that goes into school systems. We do concerts but not those sitting on the other side of Internet2.
- We need your help – we are trying to build relationships so that we can learn how to do better education and better programs across the environment.

Question --- James Werle: Is there any interest in working with public libraries?

- Answer: We're interested in working with anyone who wants to deliver high quality music to anyone – we want to deliver via Internet2 because we want the quality of the delivery. Do the libraries have the equipment to deliver high quality?

Question – Tim Boundy: Are you interested in video conferencing?

- Answer: – Yes, we are doing some Master classes. In the beginning stages and are experimenting with MPEG2 ---interactivity is very important.

Question Tim Boundy: – do you deliver anything to students in the UK?

- Answer – yes

Question: how are you dealing with the artistic issues?

- Answer: We're looking at some software solutions to address that....copyright is an issue although Internet2 is an open source.
- From the Audience: if you can resolve that, there would be a lot more interested in participating. Let us know once you figure that out.

Ann Doyle, Laurie Kirchmeier - Second Life Update and Demo

Trying to bring together what we heard from you -- that there's a strong interest in using virtual worlds in effectively teaching. The New Media Center consortium is very much in this space and may be interested in partnering. We had a long conversation with Larry Johnson, the head of New Media Consortium... we would be interested in leasing a small parcel of land -- we will set up a small parcel of land on a new media center island and on that island, will be land renters and they could have access to their media center, classroom space --- so it will be a safe space for teaching and not gaming. Our next meeting on-line will be on Second Life. The space can be set up in about a week. George Brett and Ben Fineman (both from Internet2) will work with us to set up and create that environment to be a learning –friendly space.

Laurie Kirchmeier

Laurie works both with Internet2 and works with Merit, the MAGPI counterpart in Michigan. He has some interesting perspectives having worked in the K20 role at Merit. Hope he will give us another perspective on what he is seeing on educational environments in Second Life.

Laurie

You need plenty of time – you can really spend an inordinate amount of time in these worlds. Laurie began showing slides on “Virtual Worlds Coming to a Neighborhood Near You. “

- Randy is involved in a demo with Merit -- -Jim Miran as well --- they did a demo in April with Traverse City, MI and video conference as well
- Start with **QwaqForums** – a virtual world presentation by Internet2
- Massive multiplayer/multiuser immersive Virtual Worlds -- MMMIVWs?
- Heritage is in WOW, building in a virtual world – it can be a really “wild west” of on-line worlds. You can carry guns or “no guns allowed in here” –
- They presented SouthPark episode collaborating with WOW
- SnowCrash – a user-defined world of general use in which people can interact, play, do business and otherwise communicate
- 1 million logged in... last night at 10:18 p.m. there were 36,000 people online
- There is a real economy and exchange rate – there is a currency
- It is social networking, collaboration, games, simulations and commerce
- Companies like IBM that have an office complex – use Second Life to come together.
- Some universities are using it for a recruiting tool
- Laurie then did a live demo with George Brett.
- There was a pdf file that Laurie dropped on the window that allowed him to display it on the wall. It is running inside of the Internet2 website. So an Open Office conversation can take place.
- Install QwaqForum and permit folks to join in and be part of the group

Ann

There is a learning curve and children would be completely fluent in this. This group is trying to bridge that knowledge gap and evaluate where it makes sense to use it for learning/teaching purposes.

Laurie: logging into his Second Life – teleporting to Edu-Island

From the Audience – we want the Internet2 logo wear in SL for our next meeting!

Laurie continues the demo on Second Life – George has an excellent wiki with lots of background information posted from the last T&L session at <https://wiki.internet2.edu/confluence/display/TLSIG/August+9%2C+2007>

Ann: – we can certainly form a sub-group to try to understand the navigation and how educational uses can be made of this environment. This is the right group to be thinking about it.

There was a Demo on the Sistine chapel – Vassar has created a good rendition of it.

Jim: for art students – they can inspect the Sistine chapel from a close perspective.

George /Laurie: – will post the demo on the wiki so that others can use it to explore it.