More Than the Network: Regional Networks Building Community
Panelists

- Carol Farnham, MIDnet, Inc
- Jen Leasure, The Quilt, Inc
- Tim Lance, NYSERnet, Inc
- Gary Bauerschmidt, Albuquerque GigaPoP
- Cort Buffington, KanREN, Inc
Panel Background

- Since 2007, The Quilt and MIDnet have supported a joint effort to collect case studies and data for R&E networking organizations.
- Documented commonalities and differences in organizations’ models.
- Organizations shared a common trait of significant efforts towards member outreach and community building.
What We Heard in 2007

• Common themes
  – Community building is important
  – Value in just meeting and bringing folks together
  – Add value by providing leading-edge services no one else can or does
  – Be an enabler for research and education
  – Do what is in the best interest of your clients
  – Leverage opportunities
What We Heard in 2007

• Future Directions
  – Expand fiber footprint
  – Evaluate existing services
  – Develop new services
  – Investigate peering relationships that provide cost effective solutions
  – Expand beyond the realm of the physical network
  – Research new ‘market’: K-12, libraries, health care, etc.
History

- Networks began in 1964
- Focus on research & education
- Universities were the first community
More Than the Network

Network

Services

Communities

Organizational Intelligence

4/12/11
Communities

- Post-secondary institutions: universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational colleges
- K-12
- Hospitals/Healthcare
- State & local governments
- Libraries
- Museums, public TV & other related non-profits
- Public safety
- Innovation centers & research parks
Building Communities

• Employ successful outreach and community building techniques for new groups today

• Take the form of:
  – Community workshops
  – Member meetings or community days
  – Provide forums to showcase member projects
  – Facilitate collaborative projects
  – Website, wikis, newsletters
Community Building Basics

• Core Philosophy
  – Put the Needs of Community First
  – Provide Service
  – Provide Value – provide something more, something different

• Build and Maintain Relationship

• Trust