

StateNets Working Group Annual Report February 2008

Throughout this memorable year, the StateNets Steering Committee and CEOs have collaborated with the Quilt organization to continue to address the governance structure for Internet2. This collaborative effort resulted in recognition by the Internet2 GNC and Board of Trustees “BOT” of the importance of including Regional networks in the governance structure of Internet2 and led to a large number of RON/Regional candidates and actual filling of seventeen seats on Internet2 Advisory Councils (including three Chairs), and associated representation on the new Internet2 BOT.

StateNets and Quilt members have been engaged with the FCC in efforts to shape the processes and procedures for the new FCC Rural HealthCare support program. This effort has included participation with both Internet2 and NLR in networking and funding considerations. The FCC also requested StateNets input regarding the applications, services and bandwidth requirements that schools will need in the future and how the current e-rate program could be modified to better advance the goal of getting broadband into the nations schools.

During the annual retreat in Newport, RI on June 10-12, 2007, the CEOs greatly benefited from a professionally facilitated (thank you EDUCAUSE) planning session to map the future of StateNets. This session exposed the important foci of StateNets, and was inclusive of sharing best practices, professional development, collaboration with the Quilt, exploring innovations in networking, advocating for the I2/NLR merger, and communications. As a result of this effort, a consensus was achieved for StateNets future direction, and a mission statement has been established.

The StateNets Financial Focus Group has enjoyed great participation in its first year of operation. This year was marked by the completion of a financial survey and our first meeting in Chicago in September. This group is currently working on a “dashboard” report in which a select few measurements are provided by participants annually towards developing “industry standards” for comparative analysis. The Financial Focus Group invites and welcomes new members.

Recognizing the overlap of membership and common interests, John Killebrew and George Loftus, chairs of StateNets and The Quilt, respectively, released a statement of combined purpose for business information efforts. The purpose of this statement is to help clarify collaboration efforts in response to membership informational requests. A consolidated focus group will also be created to gather members’ business information and identify best practices, among other efforts.

StateNets established an improved schedule for communications including the Steering Committee and the CEOs; both now convene conference calls monthly, with agendas published beforehand and minutes thereafter.

The StateNets Steering Committee has responded to the need to provide a coordinated StateNets perspective when providing input for the Internet2 Strategic plan as well as for the work of the Advisory Councils. This is a key topic for the StateNets CEO meeting at the beginning of the annual conference in Tempe on February 12, 2008.

StateNets will convene the annual CEOs Roundtable in Alaska this year on June 14-16. For more information, please see: <http://www.educause.edu/StateNets/932>