NLII Organizational Update

EDUCAUSE 2000
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NLII Staff
- Carole Barone, Vice-President
- Vicki Suter, Director of NLII Projects
- Tor Cross, NLII Coordinator
- Anne Archambault, Fellow
- Paul Hagner, Fellow

Session Outline
- Quick Overview of NLII
- NLII Programs & Projects
  - Online Communities of Practice
  - Faculty Engagement & Support
  - READI Project

National Learning Infrastructure Initiative (NLII)
- Membership coalition sponsored by EDUCAUSE
- Launched in 1994
- Effort is actually international in scope
- Focus is on the learner
- Need for an infrastructure to facilitate flexible, technology-mediated learning

NLII’s Mission
To create new collegiate learning environments that harness the power of information technology to:
- Improve the quality of teaching & learning
- Contain or reduce rising costs
- Provide greater access to higher education

Core Values
- Enterprise-wide transformation enabled by technology
- Systemic change, not random acts
- Distributed learning (of which distance learning is subset)
- Collaborative & integrated support models
- Interoperability, scalability & sustainability
NLII Membership
- > 140 institution members
- Must be EDUCAUSE member
- Two membership levels:
  - Sustaining Member ($5000/year)
  - Supporting Member ($100/year)

NLII Projects & Programs
- Regional Focus Sessions
- National Meeting
  - Teaching & Learning Bridges Task Force
  - Institutional Readiness Task Force
  - EDUCAUSE Teaching & Learning Award
  - IMS
  - MERLOT

NLII Projects & Programs
- ACE Policy Papers on Distributed Learning
- Fellowship Program
- Online Communities of Practice
- White Paper on Faculty Engagement & Support
- Book on Faculty Support & Engagement
- READI Project

Regional Focus Sessions
- One-day working sessions
- Organized around strengths and concerns of the host institutions
- Designed to:
  - produce work products to support practical implementation
  - identify future services and programs related to teaching and learning
- 30-50 participants mostly from NLII membership

Regional Focus Sessions 2000
- "Transforming Teaching with Technology: Faculty Engagement and Support" University of Washington
- "Transformative Assessment" University of Michigan
- "Faculty Engagement and Support: Sustaining and Scaling Transformation" University of Central Florida

National Meeting (2001)
- January 28–30, 2001
- New Orleans, LA
- "Conditions for Transformation"
- Proposals due October 20, 2000
Teaching & Learning Bridges TF

- Task Force working to articulate needs of instructional technology staff, faculty members, and other staff who support faculty as they transform teaching and learning
- Develop a strategy to bridge the visionary aspects of the NLII into the mainstream

Award for Systemic Progress in Teaching & Learning

- NLII collaborated with Recognition Committee to establish award program
- Recipient: University of Washington
- Honorable mentions: Seton Hall University University of Technology, Sydney

Purpose of Award

- Recognize those institutions that have introduced exemplary practices that are replicable, scalable, sustainable & have demonstrated enterprise-wide effects
- Contribute to creation of established base of accepted practice and principles for support of learner-centered teaching and

IMS

- Global consortium with members from educational, commercial, and government organizations
- Initiated as NLII project in 1997
- Independent non-profit corporation since December 1, 1999
- http://www.imsproject.org

IMS’s Goals

- Define the technical specifications for interoperability of applications and services in distributed learning
- Support the incorporation of the IMS specifications into products and services worldwide

MERLOT

- Multimedia Educational Repository for Learning and Online Teaching
- Collection of high quality interactive online learning materials, assignments, reviews, and people
- Lead by CSU Center for Distributed Learning
- http://www.merlot.org
NLII Fellowship Program
- Pilot program for year 2000
- 2 half-time, one-year fellowships
- Targets faculty and learning support staff in higher education
- Fellows study, analyze, assess and implement specific aspects of institutional transformation

Fellows for 2000
- Anne Archambault
  Manager, Educational Multimedia Production
  Technical University of British Columbia
  archambault@techbc.ca
- Paul Hagner
  Special Advisor for Technology Planning & Assessment
  University of Hartford
  prhagner@mail.hartford.edu

NLII Fellowship Program
- Currently interviewing applicants for 2001 Fellowship Program
- Announcement: October 16, 2000
- Meet new fellows at Annual Meeting

Communities of Practice Project

Anne Archambault

Background
- Initiated at the request of the NLII membership
- Original target was teaching & learning support staff
- This group felt isolated and unsupported
- Constituency groups had not been very active
- Tested a number of off the shelf groupware and communityware options

What is a CoP?
- “Communities of practice are groups of people who share information, insight, experience, and tools about an area of common interest.” (Etienne Wenger)
- Informal, voluntary & self-managed
- Catalyst for innovation & learning
Working Definition  A Place Where Members...

- Discuss problems or challenges
- Share documents, solutions or best practices
- Collaborate on projects
- Plan for face-to-face meetings; continue relationships beyond face-to-face events
- Pursue professional development

Why eGroups?

- Online *integrated* environment
- Discussion forums, polling, links, calendar, databases, shared file space
- Simple and intuitive interface
- “Push” technology
- Free but exposes members to advertisement
- Read the “Terms of Use”!

Ongoing Pilot Projects

- Three pilot projects:
  - Teaching & Learning Bridges Task Force
  - READI Project
  - Focus Sessions Participants (Orlando Focus Session)
- Each with <50 community members
- Pilot projects wrap up at the end of fall

Observations

- Not all pilot communities equally active
- Community building enhanced by:
  - Nurturing and active leadership
  - Critical mass of participants
  - Goal/project focus
  - Face to face contact
  - Time commitment

Best Practices in Faculty Engagement and Support Project

Paul Hagner
Four Waves of Faculty Engagement
- Entrepreneurs
- Risk-Aversives
- Reward Seekers
- Refusers

Five Areas of Faculty Support
- Training
- Grants/Resources
- JIT Support
- Assessment
- Communication

3rd Edition of the White Paper
http://www.educause.edu/nlli/meetings/nlli03/bestpract.pdf

Jossey-Bass Book
- Technology-Enhanced Learning: A Guide to Engaging and Supporting Faculty
  - Paul Hagner and Carole Barone, Editors
  - EDUCAUSE Leadership Strategies Vol. 5
  - Publication date: Spring 2001

Best Systems in Faculty Engagement and Support
- Development and nurturing of an integrated technological attitude on campus.

READI Project:
Readiness Evaluation, Assessment, and Definition Inventory

Tor Cross
Project Overview

- History: A number of initiatives
  - Extension of the institutional readiness criteria (Carol Twigg’s work with the Pew Learning and Technology Grant Program)
  - The Institutional Readiness Task Force and white paper (Gonick & Daigle)
  - The Conceptual Framework

- Two distinct parts to the READI project
  - The Engine
  - The Content

The Engine (PROTOTYPE!!)

- Web based
- Decision Tree
- An interactive way of accessing information from
  - White papers
  - Case studies
  - Surveys, etc.

The Content (PROTOTYPE!!)

- Initially working with three content areas
  - Distance Learning
  - Student Services
  - Faculty Engagement
  - Developing key topics in each area
    - the branches on the decision tree

The Prototype

- Will be linked with tools to help address the questions
- Will be linked with case studies that can be accessed by ‘profiles’

http://www.NorthCarolina.edu/educause/index

Expected Uses

- Apply scarce resources strategically
- Address weaknesses
- Take advantage of strengths
- Respond to the environment
- Move the institution further along the transformation topography
Future Directions

Goal: Have a working beta engine to present at NLII national meeting (January 28–30, 2001, New Orleans)

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