

Merger of Integrated Communications Strategies and Wireless Working Groups

Over the past two years the Net@EDU Wireless working group and Integrated Communications Strategies (ICS) working group have held joint meetings prior to the annual EDUCAUSE and Net@EDU forums. As the planning for these events took place it became increasingly clear that there was a high degree of commonality in the interests and initiatives of both groups. Members of the steering committee for either group would observe that wireless on campus must be integrated into overall infrastructure and services solutions and any comprehensive discussion about convergence requires the consideration of wireless technologies. As a result, in recent months the steering committees of the two groups decided to merge into a single working group. The title for the merged group will be the Converged Communications Working Group, or CCWG.

CCWG will continue with a focus on discussions with the vendor community before EDUCAUSE each fall and on projects and strategic initiatives from within higher education before Net@EDU each spring. The emphasis will be as in the past – wireless technology, the spectrum, convergent services, financial planning, and best practices combined with a strong element of future technologies and strategic directions on the part of both vendors and universities.

The first meeting of the CCWG will be in Seattle on Tuesday, October 23rd, the day prior to the annual EDUCAUSE meeting. While the agenda for the meeting is not complete at this point, the steering committee is considering vendor presentations in areas such as video and mobile video, emergency notifications systems, municipal networks, 4G/WiMax, and 911 capabilities on campus. Mark your calendars, and forward any meeting topics that you would like to suggest to one of the members of the steering committee, listed below.

On behalf of the ICS and Wireless Steering Committees:

Doug Carlson	Bill Lewis
Mike Enyeart	Derrick Murray
Richard Hach	John Nichols
Kurt Jeschke	Chris Peabody
Bill Johnson	Mike Staman
Jim Jokl	Steve H. Updegrove
Mark Katsouros	Jose J. Valdes Jr.
Holly King	Bob Vonderohe