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## EDUCAUSE and Internet2 Strategic Landscapes and Articulation

EDUCAUSE and Internet2 are closely related organizations, which sometimes leads to confusion over what might appear to be overlapping roles and duplication of effort. EDUCAUSE, Internet2, and the community believe the two organizations should collaborate and align the overall focus of the organizations and their major activities in policy, cyberinfrastructure, and middleware.

### **Focus**

EDUCAUSE and Internet2 can be thought of as looking at higher education through opposite ends of the same telescope. Internet2 looks at the world from the international, national, and regional network perspective toward the campus. Internet2 is concerned primarily with the inter-institutional communications and collaboration required to support higher education's research, education, and public service missions. EDUCAUSE looks at the world from the campus out, focusing primarily on issues of management, leadership, and policy associated with IT use. Internet2 is more concerned with the development, deployment, and provision of technology; EDUCAUSE more the broader issues of successful adoption, application, and outreach. While some overlap is beneficial, Internet2 and EDUCAUSE should closely coordinate their activities.

Confusion may be due to the historical name and role of EDUCAUSE's Net@EDU program, which evokes many of the same network-centric images and issues as Internet2. In spite of the name, Net@EDU has moved beyond networking; its true value is as an umbrella under which working groups on emerging issues find a home. EDUCAUSE will investigate renaming Net@EDU and move to make clear its role as an overarching organization for emerging issues.

### **Policy and Federal Relations**

Over the years EDUCAUSE has developed a substantial policy and federal relations program with strong connections with DC policy makers including Congress, the FCC, NSF, DHS, FTC, as well as with the major national associations for higher education and the public interest. With its partners it addresses the full range of policy issues related to IT in higher education. Internet2 works closely with the EDUCAUSE policy program but focuses its efforts primarily on federal funding, NSF directions, the FCC Healthcare Initiative, public access to higher-performance network infrastructure, and other issues that more directly impact advanced networking for research and education. Internet2's inclusion of members from the government, nonprofit, and corporate research community provides additional policy reach and perspective. The two organizations coordinate their efforts closely in this space.

EDUCAUSE enjoys the support of its Network Policy Council for recommendations as well as outreach to both policy makers and members. Internet2 has always participated in the NPC; all members of the NPC belong to both organizations. It was recently recommended that Internet2 not form a separate policy committee in response to its new strategic plan, but instead bring its policy concerns and entertain policy recommendations from the members of the EDUCAUSE NPC as well. This would eliminate the need for another organization in the “same” space.

### **Cyberinfrastructure**

Strong programs in cyberinfrastructure (CI) are called for in both the EDUCAUSE and the Internet2 strategy documents. Although these programs will overlap, they will differ in their core focus as previously described. Internet2 will focus on community-wide aspects of research, development, deployment, and operations for CI (especially networking) and on federal funding for such activities. EDUCAUSE will focus on the broader issues that CI presents to campus leaders, including technology, funding, governance, applications, and support. EDUCAUSE will reexamine its use of the term *cyberinfrastructure* to avoid confusion with the same term as used in the technical sense by NSF and Internet2. EDUCAUSE will signal its broader approach to such activities with terminology such as *e-science*, *e-scholarship*, and *e-learning*.

### **Middleware**

Although both EDUCAUSE and Internet2 have active programs in middleware, they are closely coordinated and complementary, with Internet2 taking the lead in development and operations, and EDUCAUSE taking the lead on education and outreach. This division served the community well in the recent NSF Middleware Initiative and will be retained. Internet2 is discussing how best to support production-level operations of its middleware services.

### **Logistics**

EDUCAUSE and Internet2 plan to coordinate meeting schedules in the future to reduce schedule conflicts for all concerned.