

CENIC



THE CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION NETWORK INITIATIVES IN CALIFORNIA

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, University of Southern California, California Community Colleges, and the statewide K-12 school system.

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment, and operation of a set of robust multi-tiered advanced network services for this research and education community.

BACKGROUND:

Information technology has become an integral part of the nation's higher education and research programs and is of growing importance in the K-20 curricula. Broadband communications networks that enable high quality communications among colleagues and technologies form the core of modern information technologies.

The resultant ever-increasing demand for advanced data communications services and interconnectivity represents significant potential new costs for California higher education research institutions. In response to satisfying this need at affordable costs, technology leaders from California's higher education community joined together in the late 90's to form the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), whose goal is to achieve cost-effective, cohesive, advanced communication services for higher education and research in California.

CENIC's Charter Associates, Stanford University, the University of California, the California State University, the California Institute of Technology, the California Community Colleges and the University of Southern California, articulated a common vision for the innovative use of communications technology to deliver the next generation of data communications services. Fundamental to this vision is the existence of an integrated, advanced wide area communications infrastructure serving all institutions of higher education in California and linked seamlessly with the new advanced national network infrastructure.

The first step towards realizing this common vision was building the California Research and Education Network (CalREN-2), which became operational in 1998. The second step involved the expansion of this

groundbreaking new network. In 2000, CENIC began to develop the Digital California Project, an initiative designed to bring high-performance advanced-services network capacity to California's K-12 schools.

The third step involved the replacement of the CalREN-2 network with a new multi-tiered network, CalREN, providing a broader range of services than previously available. This new network, based on the latest fiber optic technologies, became operational in 2002 and offers CENIC Associates and Affiliates more bandwidth per dollar and greater ability to support researchers' needs than the previous network.

Future plans involve tapping the benefits of an owned fiber network to deliver increasing bandwidth for education and research and connecting to various international research and education networks in order to bring the resources of the participating countries and institutions to CENIC Associates and Affiliates.

MISSION:

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment and operation of a set of seamless and robust intercampus communications services capable of supporting advanced research and education applications in order to further California's leadership in higher education and research. CENIC is committed to the following goals:

1. Overseeing the deployment of a robust, cost effective, state-of-the-art intercampus communications infrastructure and supporting resources accessible to all institutions of higher education in California.
2. Facilitating high quality operational support for the new infrastructure.
3. Coordinating the development and promulgation of common protocol standards and practices among participating institutions to ensure end-to-end quality of service and interoperability.
4. Ensuring that the advanced communications infrastructure can be utilized fully and effectively by the institutions it serves.
5. Catalyzing partnerships with governmental agencies and the private sector to facilitate availability of pre-competitive communications services and equipment in support of advanced information technology applications.
6. Representing the common interests of the institutions it serves in leveraging relationships with vendors and in working with statewide and national governmental bodies.
7. Advancing the national network communications infrastructure through active participation in Internet2, National LambdaRail and other initiatives.

More information about CENIC can be found at <http://www.cenic.org>.