

# NEW ORLEANS EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSORTIUM



Volume 1, Issue 5

September 27, 2004

**NOETC NEXUS**

## LONI Conference

In what was termed a “surprise” by one conference participant, Gov. Kathleen Blanco announced that the state of Louisiana will commit \$40 million to link Louisiana universities to a high speed fiber-optic communications network. The investment in the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) will put Louisiana at the front

of the “knowledge economy” Gov. Blanco said.



The commitment, more than double what university officials had hoped for, will help fund the new network, including some staff positions to manage it.

(Loni attendees Dr. William Belisle (SUNO), Dr. David Adebove (SUNO) and Hilton Lasalle, III

As early as April 2005, eight universities will be linked to the network, including Tulane University and the University of New Orleans. LONI will allow universities to tap into the National Lambda Rail, a fiber-optic network which links 167 research institutions across the country.

According to Gabrielle Allen, assistant director for computing applications at the center for Computing & Technology, the LONI system will be more than a thousand times faster than a home computer connected to a cable modem. The 40 gigabits per second it offers will be an upgrade over the currently shared 30 megabits per second.

Most of the lines are already in place for LONI. The fiber optic build out boom of the 1990s resulted in large capacities of unused, or “dark fiber.” LONI will use a portion of this unused capacity, probably through leases from the companies that own the lines.

Resources: *Time Picayune*, 9/3/04; *Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 27, 2004

## DID KNOW YOU.....

NOETC serves as local facilitator for the American Law Network (ALN) CEU videoconference series. Between 20 and 30 programs are delivered locally each year, with participants attending from across the Gulf South. Past topics have included: Drafting Corporate Agreements; Health Plans, HIPAA, and COBRA Updates; and Annual Employee Benefits Update. ALN now offers special discount educational rates to students and law school faculty. For a complete list of upcoming programs, please call the NOETC office (524-0350), or e-mail Dave Feltey at [noetc@noetc.org](mailto:noetc@noetc.org)

## Wanna Blog?



A blog (weB LOG) is a frequent, chronological publication of personal thoughts, issues, and activities happening on the Web. According to [Webopedia.com](http://Webopedia.com), “Thousands of new blogs are being created every day, for all sorts of purposes. Rather than existing to catalog someone’s personal life, many blogs serve as discussion communities about particular issues.”

The New Orleans Educational Telecommunications Consortium Blog is dedicated to faculty & staff issues relevant to teaching while using technology. Pedagogical concerns, instructional design, issues inherent to eLearning (Intellectual property, Copyright, etc.) are also important.

See <http://noetc.blogspot.com/>. To become a NOETC blogger, email [susansim@noetc.org](mailto:susansim@noetc.org).

# New Orleans Educational Telecommunications Consortium

## NOETC NEXUS

The New Orleans Educational Telecommunications Consortium, Inc. is a nonprofit organization geared toward facilitating research, development, funding, and effective implementation of technologies to support technology-enhanced instruction and related activities. Contact us about charitable contributions toward our educational projects.

2 Canal Street, Suite 2038, New Orleans, LA 70130  
Phone: 504.524.0350, Fax: 504.524.0327  
E-Mail: [susansim@noetc.org](mailto:susansim@noetc.org)

### Attention NOETC Members!

**Are you Greek?** NOETC is interested in facilitating Fraternity/Sorority programs. Call us! 524-0350!

Want to get the word out about your College? Or perhaps you need a telecourse on the air, but don't have the time to produce one? Call Dave at NOETC for solutions that will work for your higher education institution.

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*Building bridges to tomorrow through the use of cutting-edge technology today*



**New Orleans Educational  
Telecommunications Consortium,  
Inc.**

2 Canal Street  
Suite 2038  
New Orleans, LA 70130

504.524.0350  
504.524.0327 (f)

[noetc@noetc.org](mailto:noetc@noetc.org)

[www.noetc.org](http://www.noetc.org)

**A Non-Profit Organization Making Educational Opportunities Become Reality!**

## NOETC charts new waters with cutting-edge projects...

...based around the issues of student retention, matriculation from two- to four-year institutions, and utilizing NOETC as a multi-service transport.

The first project, assists students in successful transfer from high school into the college environment. Moreover, the target audience includes incoming freshman, students with less than 30 credit hours, or transfer students within their first two semesters at their new school. To reach a broader audience, this project will include options of DVD, telecourse, Internet, or Blackboard formats.

Additionally, through the use of technology, the students can revisit the important tips throughout their college career. By utilizing the Internet and television, those outside the institutions will have access to information that will help them prepare for college and life. This will be accomplished through the use of various technologies that meet the needs of the student or citizen of

Louisiana at the time they need it. Although it may appear that using multiple technologies seems redundant, in truth, it is a service allowing students and citizens to use the medium of their choice to acquire relevant information.

Currently, students must be enrolled in the course, which meets only on campus. The benefit of such a course via electronic delivery is to meet the needs of the customer—and future customers—by truly being anywhere, anytime, anyhow. Sadly, the “Digital Divide” still exists in many areas of the state; however, a course delivered through television, DVD, an Internet based course management system such as Blackboard, or the Internet/streaming media has a much broader reach into both the current student and future student population.

Other projects include developing video conferencing capabilities to enhance services to schools, K-20, workforce development, and electronic fieldtrips. These topics will be discussed in detail in future issues.