Welcome to the 36th Annual CEDPA Conference

Ken Jones, CEDPA President

Welcome to the Palm Springs Marquis Crowne Plaza Resort & Suites and the California Educational Data Processing Association's annual conference. During your visit to downtown Palm Springs, you will find some wonderful restaurants, clubs, conference facilities and lots of sites to see. The Marquis is one of the nicest and prettiest hotels we have used for a conference. The staff will bend over backwards to help you.

This year's conference, our 36th, will emphasize the commitment that we all have to newest in networking technologies and how they will improve the education of our students. Distance learning, student records exchange and Internet are major topics on the plate for each of us.

Dr. Rudy M. Castruita will start the conference out as our keynote speaker. Dr. Castruita is the Superintendent of the San Diego County Office of Education and will present his perspective of the importance of district super-intendents becoming involved with technology. Alex Kaplan is returning to speak for the second year, this time as the Principal of North American K-12 Consulting for IBM. He will be sharing his prospective on school districts' alternative methods for providing technology service and support to their customers. Finally, some broad brush strokes on the big picture will come from Jody Warne-Ellison. She will share experiences in the computer industry and her unique perspectives will be sure to start you thinking about the future and how you'll relate to the technology of tomorrow.

The Internet Room (see related story) gives you an opportunity to see and experience how to make physical connections to Internet and to understand how each piece of equipment works and how the system works together. This is our third year for including the Internet Room as part of our conference–and this year it is bigger and more sophisticated than prior years. We owe a great debt to Farley Stewart and Internet Products, Inc. for providing much of the equipment and the expertise to put it all together. All of this has been orchestrated for all three years by Warren Williams of Grossmont Union High School District. Our hats are off to Warren for a job well done.

Judy Acosta of Ventura County Office of Education is the speaker chair and will fill your time with interesting and challenging breakout sessions. Warren Williams also arranged the Thursday vendor show. Both Warren and Judy worked innumerable hours to make this conference a success for you. Thanks to the both of you!

This year also marks the first year that CEDPA is hosting a CEDPA Golf Tournament. For those of you that signed up, enjoy yourselves after the conference con-cludes at the Tahquitz Creek Resort Course. CEDPA board members will be on hand to pass out crying towels!

Have a terrific conference, enjoy Palm Springs and plan now for a visit next October to the Sacramento Radisson Hotel and two years from now here again at the Palm Springs Marquis Crowne Plaza & Resort Suites.

Five, Ten and Fifteen Year Attendance Awards

Judy Acosta, Awards Coordinator

The CEDPA Board of Directors is pleased to acknowledge the following people for consecutive years of attendance at the 1996 CEDPA Conference:

Five Years

Kathleen Barfield, WestEd

Mike Caskey, Stanislaus County Office of Education

Charles Gunn, Santa Clara County Office Of Education

Ken Jones, Lodi Unified School District

Greg Lindner, Yolo County Office Of Education

Perry Polk, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Skip Sharp, San Diego County Office Of Education

Warren Williams, Grossmont Union High School District

Ten Years

Judy Acosta, Ventura County Supt. Of Schools

Eric Boutwell, San Francisco Unified School District

Fifteen Years

Special recognition will be given to Jane Kauble, Los Angeles County Office Of Education, for her many years of support and dedication to CEDPA

Attendance awards will be presented at Wednesday's luncheon.

If you noticed that there are several Board members receiving attendance awards, you are correct. Due to a change in the accounting method used to determine award eligibility, many of the present Board members are receiving awards this year. In some cases, these board members' conference participation far exceeds the actual number of years they are being recognized for. In Judy Acosta's case, her ten-year milestone was actually reached in 1993; in other cases, awards were not actually presented to board members when their individual milestones might have been reached since board members were ineligible.

Congratulations to all of the above listed conference attendees. We do appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you in Sacramento next year!

As the California Lottery asks, "Who's next?"

Win Prizes at the Vendor Show!

Don't forget to deposit your door prize ticket at the registration counter to be eligible for one of the prizes graciously donated by our supporting vendors. One lucky attendee will even win one night's stay at the Palm Springs Marquis Crowne Plaza Resort & Suites, courtesy of the hotel.

Drawings will be held on Thursday in the vendor exhibit area. As usual, you must be present to win, so don't miss out!

CCSESA and CTAP Support Technical Staff Through The Internet Technical Academy

Training: Professional information resources available for county and district offices.

Kathleen Barfield, WestEd

With the expansive development of the Internet and with an increasing demand for it's integration into the classroom, county and district offices of education are turning their attention towards their telecommunications infrastructure. A challenge they face is supporting their technical staff who are responsible for planning, installing, and maintaining the equipment and software required for Internet infrastructure. The Internet Technical Academy (ITA) was established to help support county and district offices with this professional development effort.

ITA is a resource for county and district personnel to identify and develop training programs for key technical and management staff who already manage and support other technologies and networks. CEDPA members are a key audience of the ITA, both to provide information to and to learn from. For this reason, we at WestEd (contracted by CCSESA and CTAP to facilitate ITA) would like to invite you to attend the ITA session at the CEDPA conference on Wednesday the 16th of October at 4.00 PM in the Sunset South Room. This session will be presented by WestEd staff, Kathleen Barfield, Project Director, and Technical Consultant, Andrea McCurdy.

At this session we will discuss a range of ITA professional information resources that are being developed that CEDPA members can take advantage of. These resources include:

(1) the ITA web site to support the promotion and coordination of technical training in the 11 superintendent's regions;

(2) case studies of implementations of networking in K-12 education, with links to resources and training events in the different regions;

(3) the development of training resources to support technical needs that will be part of ITA Summer Institute next year; and

(4) an ITA monthly newsletter focused on "hot topics" in networking in schools, that will also provide information about education network activities in California.

The ITA newsletter made its debut this month and we invite you to review it. The feature article this month is: "Network Firewalls: Hidden Hope? Or Another Hassle?" If you have web access you can get the newsletter at:

http://www.wested.org/ita/newsletter/1-1.html

The newsletter may also be obtained by e-mail by sending an message to **majordomo@WestEd.org** containing the single line:

SUBSCRIBE ITA-Newsletter your full name

Or, you can request it by fax-on-demand at 1-800-360-9856.

We will also discuss your suggestions for including links to other valuable Web sites, training opportunities that you may be aware of that can be included in the ITA (such as training that might be available in your region), and any other additions or changes to ITA that will benefit people like you that support all the networking activities for your clients.

If you have any questions about the ITA, would like to submit an article for the newsletter, have suggestions or comments, please contact any of the following individuals:

Kathleen Barfield, Project Director
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Mark Stokes, Newsletter editor
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Andrea McCurdy, Technical Consultant
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If you would like to be added to our project mailing list, please contact Christine.

Students Told to Abide by Rules of the Superhighway

Guidelines: Administrators say acceptable-use policies for Internet lay out what's expected of kids, prepare them for situations later in life.

Michelle V. Rafter

When new students show up for the first day of school at Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School in September, they'll get more than class schedules and locker combinations.

Incoming freshmen and students transferring to the central Los Angeles campus will receive a handbook spelling out what they can and can't do on 400 school computers connected to the Internet.

Using the worldwide network to research class projects, send e-mail or explore other computer systems is OK. Sharing passwords, pirating copyrighted software, sending profanity-laced e-mail or using the system to sell something is not.

Before their first Internet excursion, students must study the guidelines, take a quiz and have their parents sign a permission slip. Break the rules and they could temporarily lose their accounts or, in the gravest cases, be kicked out of school.

Francisco Bravo is typical of schools throughout California and the nation that are requiring students to abide by rules when traveling digital expressways to libraries, databases and educational materials on the Internet.

School administrators are devising Internet acceptable-use policies, or AUPs, so students know what to expect when they go online and what type of behavior is expected of them.

"They better have one before they let students onto the Internet," said Andy Rogers, the Los Angeles Unified School District's Internet project coordinator.

Why? Rules teach students that standing codes of classroom conduct extend into cyberspace, Rogers and other administrators said. Guidelines are also necessary at some schools to warn students that software filters aren't used to block potentially questionable material on the World Wide Web and other parts of the Internet.

Filters aren't widespread because "with a community as varied as Los Angeles, what some might find to be objectionable others will not," Rogers said. The one exception is Usenet newsgroups: Most schools receive electronic discussion group feeds from educational services that automatically block access to "alt." Newsgroups, a major source for X-rated material.

Universities helped incubate the Internet before it reached its present status as a quasi-mass medium, and college students and staff people have lived within the confines of AUPs for years.

But guidelines are a newer phenomenon at elementary, middle and high schools, which got a later start hooking up classrooms and computer labs to the Internet. In some cases, school districts have had policies on the books for a year or two but are just now starting to disseminate them as individual schools scrape together money for computers, modems and phone lines.

The Los Angeles Unified School District, for example, has had an AUP for several years but has issued Internet accounts to only 13,000 of its 28,746 teachers and 649,054 students; the total number of students and teachers using the Net is higher because some students use their teachers' accounts.

Among other things, the district's AUP warns against using obscenities, re-posting e-mail without the author's consent, copying software and using the network for illegal activities. It also warns, "Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes may be offensive." The policy, which was drafted by a team of teachers and technology specialists, is used as a model in a booklet

Get More Information About
Acceptable Use Policies
from Warren Williams
Wednesday at 2:45 PM
Oasis North

Use Policy

on school Internet guidelines created by the Clinton administration's National Information Infrastructure industry advisory council.

But not all AUPs are alike. Some, such as the technology usage policy devised by the Grossmont Union High School District in eastern San Diego County, are pages long and go into explicit detail about what is and isn't allowed. Others are a couple of short paragraphs.

Schools also differ in how they teach students about Internet guidelines. Grossmont, with 22,000 students in 10 high schools, includes its guidelines in a mandatory freshman computer course. Other schools leave it up to teachers to issue policies as needed Once a student has learned the ropes, it's common for schools to stamp his or her student ID card "Internet approved" or something similar, granting unlimited access to Internet workstations in classrooms, libraries and computer labs.

Kids don't seem to mind going by the book when they go online at school.

"The AUP is there for the good and protection of students and staff. I've bent the rules only a little, and my friends also stick to the rules," said Marissa Darden, 15, a junior at Canoga Park High School.

"My parents and I signed a paper stating that we will follow all the rules, and I intend to do that," said Lalit Bhambhani, a 17-year-old senior at John F. Kennedy High School in Granada Hills. "After all, I don't want to [lose] my account."

Most kids are careful not to jeopardize their access, teachers and administrators said. Most, but not all. At Francisco Bravo, with a student population of 1,680, three students have been expelled in the last three years for Internet infractions, said Less Higger, the school's computer network administrator.

One student was asked to leave after stealing software. Higger wouldn't comment on the other two. A fourth student was reprimanded after he started selling a software program he'd written.

Since Grossmont Union put its computer technology usage policy in place three years ago, four students have been suspended for breaking the rules. "We also had a couple of students destroy programs on two computers, and they were held responsible for paying for the computer technician's time for repairing those, which amounted

to about $200 each," said Warren Williams, the district's technology and computer services director.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District, with 32,000 students in 35 south Orange County schools, took away one student's Internet access and transferred another after they sent "inappropriate" e-mail messages to teachers, said Norm Neville, the district's technology specialist. He declined to elaborate.

Schools are also adopting AUPs to limit their legal liabilities. Internet usage rules offer some protection should students engage in potentially harmful activities while online, experts said. Without the rules, schools are asking for trouble, said Nancy Willard, a Eugene, Ore.-based consultant and author of "The Cyberethics Reader," which is due out in September.

"The worst-case scenario would be if a student got involved with an online stalker and met them in person" and was molested or worse, said Willard, who worked as a teacher and lawyer before helping schools write AUPs.

"If there was evidence the school knew or should have known something was happening and had given no instruction to the students about the potential dangers of meeting someone, there would be potential liability," she said.

Do AUPs really stop kids from nosing around Web sites they shouldn't? Probably not, Willard said. "How many guys you know have snuck a peek at Playboy?" she said.

But policies can teach students discretionary skills they'll need on the job. "Most of them will go into the work force, where they'll have Internet access through their company," Willard said. It's important for them to recognize that won't be their private account and what they say on it reflects on their company or government agency and therefor those [groups] have a requirement to have some level of control.

Michelle V. Rafter writes Internet columns for Reuters and the Chicago Tribune.

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The Latest and Greatest on the Internet

A special breakout session has been scheduled for 1:30 PM on Wednesday in the Internet Room. Farley Stewart of Internet Products, Inc., will present a session on the "Latest and Greatest on the Internet." This session will take place in Oasis South, location of the Internet Room. Farley will show you information and entertainment resources he's found on the Internet that will be sure to pique your interest. Be sure to check this session out!

If this is the first time you're attending a CEDPA conference in recent years, the Internet Room is a special room that has been set up to demonstrate examples of multi-vendor solutions to Internet connectivity. A very popular feature of the past two CEDPA conferences, this "Internet Technology Lab" is connected directly to the Internet using a T-1 line and equipment from several different vendors, all interconnected and working cooperatively to provide Internet connectivity and support. The equipment includes servers, PC, Macintosh and Unix computers, hubs, and routers on an Ethernet network. Operating systems in use include BSD Unix, Windows NT, Windows 95, and Mac/OS.

Conference attendees have the opportunity to review the end-to-end solutions, from the wire in the wall, to some of the software that can be used to access the vast information on the Internet.

The Internet Room will be open throughout the conference so attendees can experience the Internet in the context of the many other Internet-related breakout sessions and the vendor show. **Oasis South.**

Golf Tournament Update

Greg Lindner, Special Events Coordinator

Friday, October 18 will mark the first of what we hope will be many CEDPA Annual Golf Tournaments. So far about 25 people have signed up to golf. The event will be held Friday, at 2:00 pm at the Tahquitz Creek Resort Course in Palm Springs. We have quite a few members and vendors playing in this year's event. Helping to sponsor our event this year will be Novell, Quest Systems, McGraw-Hill School Systems and NCS. For those who did not sign up–you will have to wait to hear about all the fun you missed in a future article in *The Databus*.

Friday Sessions to Address Several Areas of Interest

Several interesting sessions have been scheduled for Friday's morning breakouts. The sessions address the Education First initiative from Pacific Bell, a panel disscussion of operating environments, Windows 95 Policies and Profiles, and managing help desks.

Michael Todd from Pacific Bell will give an update on the Education First initiative which is being used by many school agencies to connect their schools to the Internet using no-cost ISDN lines. If your district or school isn't yet connected to cyberspace, you might want to learn more about this opportunity. **Sunset South**

A roundtable discussion of Novell and Windows NT Operating environments will be moderated by Eric Boutwell and Warren Williams. System engineers from both Novell and Microsoft will be on hand to address technical issues. Plan on attending this information-packed session if you want to learn more about which operating environment is best suited for you. **Sunset North.**

Interested in learning about using the User Profiles and System Policies features of Windows 95 to control the appearance and operation of Windows 95 network clients? Darryl La Gace and Addison Ching will show you how to use the User Profiles and System Policies features to limit what a Windows 95 client can have access to. This is a sure-fire way to prevent those students from shelling to DOS and deleting sensitive files! **Joshua.**

Bonnie Matson will show you how to successfully manage a help desk operation. If you are involved with a help desk or are planning to set one up, Bonnie will give you the secret of how to do it correctly. **Oasis North.**

FUTURE CONFERENCES

- 1997 (North)
  October 29-31, 1997
  Radisson Hotel, Sacramento
- 1998 (South)
  October 14-16, 1998
  Marquis Hotel, Palm Springs
- 1999 (North)
  November 17-19, 1999
  Doubletree Hotel, Monterey