

**PLANNING, POLICY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGENDA
JANUARY 20-21, 2002**

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SUBJECT

Higher Education Infrastructure Report

BACKGROUND

The State Board of Education envisions an accessible, seamless K-20 educational system. In order to accomplish this vision, the Higher Education Information Technologies Committee of the Idaho Council for Technology in Learning (ICTL), adopted as its mission to establish statewide collaboration among institutions and agencies in order to enhance quality educational opportunities and learning resources. The first goal of this committee is to expand access with the main objective being to build a sustainable high performance network infrastructure for statewide connectivity. To that end we have expanded partnerships and identified opportunities for collaboration. Recent partnerships include some old friends and some new: IBM, CeriStar, Sun Microsystems, Cisco, and GiantLoop.

DISCUSSION

A feasibility study has been undertaken by IBM and its partners to determine the profitability and practicality of investing capital in a high-speed network with accompanying services in Idaho. This investment would allow the State of Idaho an excellent opportunity to foster multiple technology alliances with globally-recognized private sector information technology businesses to develop World Class networks and systems to serve the public and private sector needs. Underlying this development is the opportunity for the State of Idaho to pioneer new technologies and services statewide in support of government, education and training, and to utilize this network to attract, maintain and strengthen the 21st Century business environment throughout Idaho. Specifically, this technology environment will include:

- Development of a World Class Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Network to be shared by the public and private sector, allowing public and private data to be managed within the same networks
- Implementation of end-to-end network management that provides high-quality services, reduced costs and guaranteed service delivery levels
- Collaboration between public and higher education to improve the efficiency of networks and effectiveness of education through the applied use of information technology
- Information Technology Infrastructure to deliver training and educational services to support job training and economic development throughout Idaho—a key factor in supporting economic transition of workers and the workplace
- Developing opportunities for revenue generation and cost-recovery

By fostering these alliances with globally-recognized businesses, the State of Idaho has an opportunity to become a national and international model for integrating 21st Century information technologies, providing a competitive advantage to the state and its citizens.

BOARD ACTION

No action could be anticipated

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