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Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce that Ana Preston, Internet2's current Director for Regional and State Network Relations, and interim Director for International Relations, has been named Internet2's new Executive Director for Member Relations and Communications (MRC).

Over the past several months, many Internet2 staff members and I have worked closely with an Executive Search Committee comprised of leaders from the Internet2 community to identify and interview qualified candidates for the MRC position. Ana brings a wealth of experience to this position. Her track record of successful leadership in our membership and among our staff, her tireless relationship building, and project management skills, coupled with her deep understanding of the Internet2 community and commitment to our mission, made her the ideal choice for the role.

In this new position, Ana will assume responsibility for both our member engagement and communications activities, which for the first time will be united under common leadership. In this role, Ana will manage Internet2's member relations and member development activities as well as lead our strategic communications agenda. Ana will be working closely with members, partners, and community representatives to evaluate and promote improved and expanded services and opportunities. She will also work with the Internet2 executive team and governance to coordinate member outreach and appropriate communications to our community's key stakeholders and the public.

Ana joined Internet2 in 2001 as Program Manager for International Relations. In her five years in that role, she helped to bring more than 15 international partners to Internet2, while leading efforts to connect and collaborate with emerging national research and education networks. She then took on the role of Senior Program Manager for FiberCo, where she was responsible for brokering dark fiber acquisitions and managing consulting and professional services to regional optical networking initiatives in the United States and Canada.

Ana currently serves as Director, State and Regional Network Relations. In this position, she leads the efforts to engage, collaborate and partner with the network member organizations that both provide connectivity to Internet2's network infrastructure and play an important role in Internet2 activities and governance. In this capacity, she has successfully implemented a proactive communication and engagement plan with these members, and increasingly with many university CIOs and researchers. Ana's dedication to working with network members and connectors to ensure they are continually engaged and informed has resulted in many new and exciting collaborations in our community.

Prior to joining Internet2, Ana worked for the CIO's office at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville where she was responsible for collaborating with UT faculty and researchers on test deployments of next-generation technologies with a focus on assessing the utility and application development issues associated with installing new campus network technology. Ana also supported the development and provided initial planning for the Tennessee optical networking infrastructure.

Ana's new role will begin on December 1, 2009. I am committed to working with Ana, Rob Vietzke, and the rest of my executive staff for a smooth transition of her current roles and responsibilities. As we move forward, we will continue our support of state and regional networks as well as our international partner organizations. Over the next month, we will work together on a transition plan.

I would like to thank the members of the Internet2 staff and the Executive Search Committee that participated in this recruitment effort for their help in bringing this search to a very successful conclusion.

We are delighted to have Ana join the Internet2 executive team and look forward to her valuable contributions. Ana will be participating in the SC09 conference next week in Portland, Oregon. If you have the opportunity, we invite you to come by the Internet2 booth (#1355) to meet with Ana and our other staff.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas E. V. Stewart".

Doug

