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**STATEWIDE TRANSCRIPT APPLICATION, CALIFORNIA ICT LEADER RACHELLE CHONG, VIDEO-POWERED STUDENT EXCHANGE, ENERGY-THRIFTY DATACENTERS TAKE CENIC'S 2010 INNOVATIONS IN NETWORKING AWARDS**

La Mirada, CA — March 9, 2010 — Four groundbreaking projects that focus on the innovative use and expansion of high-performance networking have been honored by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) as recipients of the **2010 Innovations in Networking Awards**.

Four awards are presented annually in the categories of Educational, Gigabit/Broadband, High-Performance Research, and Experimental/Developmental Applications. The awards are given annually by CENIC to highlight exemplary innovations that leverage ultra high-bandwidth optical networking, particularly where those innovations have the potential to revolutionize the ways in which instruction and research are conducted, or in the case of the Gigabit award, where they further the deployment of broadband in underserved areas. The award presentation ceremony will take place at the CENIC Annual Conference, "Full Speed Ahead," in Monterey on March 9, 2010 ([cenic2010.cenic.org](http://cenic2010.cenic.org)).

This year's winners include:

**eTranscript California — Educational Applications:**

One of the most significant advantages to a dedicated, owned advanced network designed specifically for research & education is the freedom it affords the community to develop complex applications secure in the knowledge that the infrastructure will support them. One such application is eTranscript California, which provides secure, streamlined electronic transcript exchange for 53 post-secondary institutions in the State (community colleges, California State University campuses, and many private and independent colleges). With a statewide transcript system in place, many other things are made possible, such as facilitating the exchange of a large number of transcripts using national standard data formats and allowing transcripts to be grouped into a single Composite Transcript which could be used for degree audit purposes or advanced student planning from a single input source. In addition, this brings together high schools and postsecondary transcripts to be used for longitudinal studies on student success. Also, the CA Community College Chancellor's Office estimates that the transcript-related costs for eTranscript California member colleges will drop from an average of seven dollars to less than fifty cents per transcript.

**Rachelle Chong — Gigabit/Broadband Applications:**

Closing the “digital divide” is a matter of great concern for California, where our rural population is larger than that of at least twenty entire states. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) allocated \$100 million over two years to the CASF. The CASF provides incentives to companies to bring broadband service to unserved and underserved areas of California, many of which are rural, remote, or socio-economically disadvantaged communities. As a CPUC Commissioner, and the commissioner assigned to the CASF proceeding, Rachelle Chong was instrumental in the creation of the CASF and defining workable processes for implementation.

Thanks to her leadership, current Special Counsel of Advanced Information and Communications Technologies for the Office of the State Chief Information Officer Chong has brought California closer to its ultimate goal of ubiquitous broadband services for unserved and underserved communities. "Without a broadband pipe to provide access to the Internet, these unserved communities will become `digital have-nots'," said Chong. "Policymakers and corporate leaders across the nation have been talking about the importance of deploying broadband infrastructure for years, yet this critical infrastructure is not available throughout the state. It is time to stop talking and finish the job."

#### **Enhancing Student Exchange Experiences with High Definition Videoconference — High-Performance Research Applications:**

Monash University in Australia and the University of California, San Diego have added high-definition videoconferencing to their respective exchange programs, enabling transformative experiences for students and faculty that would not otherwise have been possible. HD video allows mentors at UCSD to attend final student seminars that are presented both to audiences at Monash and their mentors at UCSD concurrently. Thus, they receive feedback from both Monash and UCSD mentors, significantly enhancing the outcomes of their internship. Likewise, Monash students at UCSD present final seminars back to their mentors in Australia while presenting to a local audience at UCSD. The first groups of students to benefit from this use of HD videoconferencing were UCSD students spending last summer at Monash as part of the NSF- and Calit2-funded Pacific Rim Experiences for Undergraduates (PRIME) program, and a similar program that sent four Monash students to UCSD last winter under the Monash Undergraduate Research Projects Abroad (MURPA) program. Monash University’s program goes a step further by adding an advanced seminar scheme, in which students attend seminars given by world leading experts before they depart Australia. The seminar scheme is novel, because it makes it feasible to attract some of the world's best researchers “virtually” to Monash.

Monash’s Chancellor, Dr Alan Finkel, wrote recently of his experience attending one of these seminars, “I’ve participated in numerous video conferences to date but nothing like this. The quality was so high that the experience was almost as if we were all in the same room.”

#### **Scalable Energy-Efficient Datacenters — Experimental/Developmental Applications:**

One of the most interesting and potentially revolutionary outcomes of the development of the Internet is the ability gained by every person on Earth to generate enormous amounts of data, a

large portion of which must be stored in datacenters. With major drivers such as Google and others entering this arena, the proliferation of datacenters promises to challenge researchers developing models for interconnectivity, robustness, and sustainability. In response to this, a UC San Diego-led team of computer scientists and optical interconnection systems technologists in the Center for Integrated Access Networks (CIAN) is developing Scalable Energy Efficient Data Centers, or SEED. SEED consists of novel optical interconnection technologies for a multi-stage network topology. The goal is to build SEED as an integrated solution encompassing physical layer hardware, protocols, and topologies — while offering tomorrow's data centers greater scalability, bisectional bandwidth, fault tolerance, and energy efficiency.

According to CIAN Deputy Director Shaya Fainman, who leads the SEED project at UCSD's California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2), "This integrated solution would accommodate the growing size and performance required of future datacenters, while minimizing the cost and energy per switched bit."

Also being recognized with the **2010 Outstanding Individual Contribution** award is **Tom West**, former president of both CENIC and most recently, CEO of National LambdaRail (NLR). West has over five decades of executive management experience in the research and higher education community. He has served as a small college president, a vice chancellor for administration for regional campuses in a public university system, and 26 years as the Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) for two large public university systems—Indiana University (1973-1981) and the California State University (1981-1999).

From March 1999 through June 2004 he served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for CENIC. He served as CEO for both CENIC and NLR from September 2003 through June 2004, a time of great expansion for CENIC during which both the company and the communities it serves benefited tremendously from his extraordinary vision and ability to turn that vision into reality. He served as CEO of NLR until mid-October 2009 when he stepped down.

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#### **About CENIC • [www.cenic.org](http://www.cenic.org)**

California's education and research communities leverage their networking resources under CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California, in order to obtain cost-effective, high-bandwidth networking to support their missions and answer the needs of their faculty, staff, and students. CENIC designs, implements, and operates CalREN, the California Research and Education Network, a high-bandwidth, high-capacity Internet network specially designed to meet the unique requirements of these communities, and to which the vast majority of the state's K-20 educational institutions are connected. In order to facilitate collaboration in education and research, CENIC also provides connectivity to non-California institutions and industry research organizations with which CENIC's Associate researchers and educators are engaged.