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The Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education

May 2008

Vol. 37, No.5

Supporting higher education communications technology professionals in contributing to the achievement of the strategic mission of their institutions

From ACUTA Headquarters



Jeri Semer, CAE **ACUTA Executive Director** jsemer@acuta.org

> **FCC Holds** Hearings on Campus

> > Thanks to the sponsor of the May eNews



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This year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has traveled to two college campuses to hold "en banc" hearings on the important issue of broadband network management practices of Internet Service Providers (ISPs). At an en banc hearing, all of the Commissioners are present to hear testimony on the subject at hand, and it is unusual for such events to take place outside of the Washington, DC, headquarters of the FCC. It was exciting to think that the Commission would consider university campuses the appropriate setting to examine such important issues that impact our society so broadly.

The focus of these hearings is the question of whether the FCC should enact more stringent regulations that would prevent ISPs from restricting or downgrading the transmission of certain content on their networks. A simplified description of the two sides of the argument is essentially this: ISPs should not be able to discriminate among content providers and should be required to provide equal treatment of all legal content versus the argument that market forces will take care of this issue and more regulation is not required. There is also disagreement as to what constitutes appropriate network management practices. The argument was brought into focus recently when it was discovered that Comcast had been restricting upload/download of content using BitTorrent P2P technology.

The first such hearing, held at Harvard University on February 25, proved controversial for reasons other than the subject matter of the hearing. Comcast has since admitted that the company paid people to hold seats at the hearing. This resulted in a lack of availability of seats for other attendees, and caused an uproar among "net neutrality" advocates and others in the Internet community. It also generated unfavorable publicity for Comcast.

I had the opportunity to attend the second hearing on April 17 on the Stanford University campus, hosted by the Law School. Fortunately, the circus atmosphere created by the seat-holding controversy was absent from the Stanford hearing, and there were plenty of seats for anyone who wanted to attend. It was great to see Stanford students and faculty well-represented in the audience. In addition to attorneys, industry representatives, and campus community members, there were many spirited advocates for network neutrality who made their opinions known both inside and outside the hearing venue.

continued on page 2

In This Issue

- Two Audio Seminars in May
- **Board Approves Slate of Nominees** 3
- D C Update...... Jeanne Jansenius, Sewanee, The University of the South
- Recycle Old Cell Phones
- Be a Telecom BMOC: Win Big Bucks
- Check It Out: RFIs/RFPs, Job Postings, Press Releases
- Be a Moderator or Monitor at the Annual Conference.... Donna Hall, ACUTA Mgr. of Professional Development 7

A cross-section of panelists was invited to present testimony both in favor of increased regulation and opposed to such regulation. Panelists included several university faculty members from various institutions including Stanford, network engineers, organizations concerned about protecting the intellectual property produced by their members, one small ISP (the major companies declined to participate), and technology industry executives from the surrounding Silicon Valley region.

Space prevents a detailed description of the testimony here, but the panels were well-balanced and I believe that they offered a great deal of insight to the Commissioners. For many good and valid reasons, policy organizations in the higher education community support net neutrality. However, this hearing showed that there are many issues still to be examined: What network management practices are acceptable ways for ISPs to safeguard their networks without discriminating against certain applications? Would increased regulation stifle investment in network infrastructure and innovation, or would the certainty of clear FCC policy and regulation actually stimulate more investment? Can industry collaboration and market forces truly ensure consumer protection from discriminatory practices by ISPs, or is a legal/regulatory approach by the FCC necessary to protect consumers? These and many other issues were examined at the April 17 hearing.

If you are interested in a more detailed report of the hearing, e-mail me at jsemer@acuta.org and I will send you a copy of my report. ACUTA will continue to follow the FCC's deliberations on this important issue.

Two Audio Seminars in May

Sponsored by Blonder Tongue Laboratories

Sponsored by Cisco Systems

• Demystifying the Digital Transition of February 2009

ACUTA / AHECTA Audio Seminar • Thursday, May 8, 2008 • 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Please register no later than Monday, May 5. Go to http://www.acuta.org/?2077

This audio seminar provides an overview of the DTV transition and what is occurring. Included in the presentation will be a discussion of the implications of the transition for the cable environment and industry; issues that higher education environments need to address to comply with the FCC-mandated upgrade; partnering between IT and cable/television groups on campus; and the impact of the transition on student and residential users.

Presenters are Robert Peterson, Director of Educational Sales at Blonder Tongue Laboratories, and Brian John Gorski, Supervisor of Broadcast Operations and head of Campus Cable & Satellite Operations at The William Paterson University of New Jersey.

• Emergency Notification at Virginia Tech: Information & Communications Infrastructure Issues

ACUTA Audio Seminar • Thursday, May 13, 2008 • 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. EDT

Please register no later than Thursday, May 8. Go to http://www.acuta.org/?2070

At this audio seminar, the presenters will review technology issues and implications arising from the shootings at Virginia Tech and discuss aspects of non-technology issues that impact emergency communications.

Presenters, all from Virginia Tech, are Richard Hach, Associate Director of Network Administration Special Projects and Initiatives with Communications Network Services; William C. Dougherty II, Assistant Director for Systems Support Systems Engineering and Administration; Patricia L. (Pat) Rodgers, Director of Business Technologies for CNS; and Mike Dame, Dir. of Web Communications.

• How the Audio Seminars Work and How to Register

Via convenient conference call technology, you will be able to listen to and ask questions of the presenters. All you need is a phone. An unlimited number of colleagues at your institution may listen in via speakerphone at no extra charge.

Your registration fee (\$69 for ACUTA members; \$109 for nonmembers) includes your registration for your site with unlimited participants, seminar handouts, and toll-free dial-in access.

You may also print the form using Adobe Acrobat Reader and fax it to (859) 278-3268.

Questions regarding registration should be directed to Michele West, ACUTA Manager of Membership Services, at mwest@acuta.org or phone (859) 278-3338.

lech lalk

One of the next big areas in the world of mobile phone usage—at least in residential and small-office situations—is going to be handy little devices known as femtocells. While they probably won't have a huge impact on the college and university scene, there is a chance that femtocells will show up there and become part of the campus network.

> Femtocells are essentially very compact radio base stations, and they are designed to supplement a service provider's cellular coverage, particularly in areas where coverage is spotty. If you are one of those people who find your cellphone signal dropping to unacceptable levels at your home, forcing you to stand by a window or even go outside to use it effectively, you know it can be frustrating. The same goes for people who live near sports

Kevin Tanzillo Dux PR kevin@duxpr.com

Femtocells: Designed to Give Cellular Coverage a

Boost

venues, shopping malls, or places where large numbers of people can load up the cellular network at times and make a connection difficult.

Users in these cases have two choices. Either they can wait for their carrier to build another tower closer to them, or they can purchase a femtocell from the carrier, which in effect puts a "tower" right in their home.

The femtocell, with a range of about 250 feet, handles all the radio traffic for up to six phones-many more with an "enterprise" version of the device-and then connects to the user's broadband network (DSL, cable modem, or Ethernet). Then the voice or data traffic from the cellphone is transported via the wired network into the carrier's core network. It never goes out to a physical tower in what is known as the carrier's "macro" network until the user gets out of range of the femtocell.

A company we have been working with, AirWalk Communications, makes femtocells, and they expect this market to take off in the coming months. Poor coverage is one of the biggest causes of "churn" for cellular providers, so it's in the providers' interest to keep customers from defecting because of less-than-desirable coverage at home. Femtocells will cost a couple of hundred dollars or so from the carrier, with a small monthly usage fee. The units are programmed to accept only traffic from certain phone numbers, so an entire family, a group of roommates, or a couple of dorm rooms could use them.

Where it starts to affect you and your networks is when someone does buy a femtocell and attaches it to the campus data network. This could be students trying to share a single femtocell (and possibly get reduced per-minute rates from their carrier), or it could be someone in a distant campus building (like the cow barns at an ag college) trying to boost coverage.

This shouldn't cause any network problems for you, because the amount of traffic generated from these femtocells isn't likely to stress the network. If you can stand up to all those You-Tube video downloads and file sharing, this won't be anything to worry about at all. Still, it is always good to be familiar with what is being, and might be, connected to your network.

As always, if there are specific topics you would like to see covered in this space, please let me know via e-mail at kevin@duxpr.com.

Board Approves Slate of **Nominees**

Candidates for positions on the ACUTA Board of Directors for 2008-09 include:

President-Elect: Buck Buchanan, Florida State University Directors-at-Large: Matt Fuoco, University of Kansas Med Center

Joe Harrington, Boston College



D C Update
Jeanne Jansenius
Sewanee, The University
of the South
jjanseni@sewanee.edu

■ Future of the Internet

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation recently held a hearing on developing applications, consumer expectations, and network operation. The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman of the FCC, outlined FCC principles for protecting consumer access to the Internet in his presentation to the committee:

To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet,

- · Consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice;
- Consumers are entitled to run applications and use services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement;
- Consumers are entitled to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network:
- Consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers.

This comes on the heels of criticism of how the Commission has handled various issues of peer-to-peer blocking by various service providers. Commissioner Martin summed up by stating, "I believe that the Commission must remain vigilant in protecting consumers' access to content on the Internet. Thus, it is critically important that the Commission take seriously and respond to complaints that are filed about arbitrary limits on broadband access and potential violations of our principles. Indeed, I have publicly stated that the Commission stands ready to enforce this policy statement and protect consumers' access to the internet." (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-281690A1.doc)

■ Runaway Growth of USF May End Soon

FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell threw in his support for putting a cap on the amount of Universal Service Funds paid in by consumers. McDowell's support provided the Commission the three votes needed to make this change happen.

"Today, I announce my support for an interim cap on the Universal Service High Cost Fund. Since becoming a commissioner, I have maintained that controlling the growth of the fund should be the Commission's first priority. Like an unabated fever, expenditures from this fund continue to spike out of control. Ultimately, it is consumers who pay for these unbridled escalations. While the Commission works toward broader and permanent reform, it is our duty to enact a temporary measure to instill fiscal discipline." The measure to be adopted by the FCC would provide a cap at the March 2008 levels.

McDowell said he also supported the provision that would exempt phone carriers that serve tribal lands and Alaskan native lands. (http://uk.reuters.com/article/technology-media-telco-SP/idUKN2850606720080428?feedType=RSS&feedName=technology-media-telco-SP)

ACUTA members should be happy a cap is being considered, but there are many broader issues and potential reform that the Legislative/Regulatory Committee will keep an eye on...primarily how the USF fees will be collected from the end user (institutions).

■ FCC vs. WHNT-TV Huntsville, AL

The FCC has sent a letter of inquiry to WHNT-TV following complaints that they blocked

For More In-Depth Coverage of Legislative & Regulatory Issues: ACUTA members may read about the latest developments in telecommunications- and Internet-related issues in the most recent Legislative and Regulatory Update, an electronic newsletter prepared monthly by Wiley Rein. Access this newsletter at http://www.acuta.org/relation/Download-File.cfm?docNum=309

out most of a 60 Minutes story. The station insisted that it was a technical glitch but numerous complaints suggested this was politically motivated move. Some Alabama viewers could not view the February 24, 2008, story about an alleged campaign by Karl Rove, former aide to President George W. Bush, against Don Sieglman, former Demo-

crat governor of Alabama, who was jailed for corruption. Commissioner Martin would not speculate the outcome on what did or didn't happen but stated, "I think it is important for the broadcaster to come forward and explain what happened." (http://www.broadcasting-cable.com/article/CA6538026.html)

■ FCC Notification Change

Upcoming FCC meetings will be posted on the Commission's website three weeks in advance of the monthly open meeting. Prior to this change, the Commission had only given notice one week beforehand, along with the announcement of the agenda items. Current agenda for the Mary 14, 2008, meeting is available at www.fcc.gov.

■ Summit on the Current State and Future of Nation's Emergency Alert System

The agenda for the Emergency Alert Summit was recently announced. The discussion will focus on the state of the nation's EAS and what is needed to transition to a more robust alert and warning system. The meeting will be open to the public and held on May 19, 2008, 9:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Those interested in attending may pre-register online at: http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/summits/eas.

Board Report

April

Riny Ledgerwood
San Diego State Univ.
CUTA Secretary/Treasurer
ledgerw@mail.sdsu.edu

The Board of Directors met at the St. Louis seminar on April 5 and approved the following:

• The proposed seminar topics as follows:

Winter 2009, Palm Springs, CA: Track 1. Unified IP Communications Applications across the Enterprise; Track 2. Preparing Communications Technologies for Emergencies & Disasters

Summer 2009, Denver, CO: Summit on Unified Communications & Collaboration Fall 2009, Portland, OR: Managing and Financing the Converged Environment and Mobility & Wireless-Where are We Going?

- The slate of candidates for 2008-09 as follows:
 - President-elect: Harvey "Buck" Buchanan Florida State University
 - Director-at-Large: Matthew Fuocco, University of Kansas Medical Center; Joseph Harrington, Boston College
- The proposed Fall 2010 Seminar Location: The Sheraton Premier at Tysons Corner, Washington, DC Metro Area
- The proposed format change for 2009 business meeting to accommodate the shorter timeline at the 2009 Annual Conference.
- The proposed 2009 Conference schedule change with the last session to end on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

AHECTA and ACUTA will jointly sponsor an audio seminar regarding the February 2009 digital TV mandate and its impact on colleges and universities, which will be held on May 8, 2008.

ACUTA gained 21 institutional members and 5 corporate affiliates that can be attributed directly to the recent membership recruitment campaign.

ACUTA staff is reviewing dates for major activities/deadlines related to the 2009 Conference planning, which will be used to update the master planning calendar online.

The Board reviewed all of the proposed Strategic Plan action items submitted by committees as well as the suggested budget amounts for approval at the next Board meeting in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Riny Ledgerwood Secretary/Treasurer

Important Information...Useful Resources...The Best in Professional Networking:
Invite a Colleague to join ACUTA today!

Recycle Old Cell Phones

Is your department or some group on your campus looking for a charity project? Got some cell phones stuck useless in a drawer? Why not recycle—it's good for all of us!

Fewer than 20 percent of cell phones are recycled each year, and most people don't know where to recycle them. Cell phones and accessories are made from valuable resources such as precious metals, copper, and plastics—all of which require energy to extract and manufacture. Recycling cell phones reduces greenhouse gas emissions, keeps valuable material out of landfills and incinerators, and conserves natural resources.

Recycling just a million cell phones reduces greenhouse gas emissions equal to taking 1,368 cars off the road for a year.

Recycling all of the 100 million cell phones ready for end-of-life management in the U.S. would save enough energy to power more than 194,000 U.S. households with electricity for one year.

Check out these websites http://www.epa.gov/plugin and http://www.collectivegood.com for some great recycling project ideas.

Be a Telecom BMOC: Win Big Bucks

Here's a contest you might want to enter: The Big Mobile On Campus Challenge from AT&T. The contest is open to full-time college students and staff who develop innovative mobile applications that enhance academic performance, build campus community, and help to improve campus security operations.

The contest is open to all full-time students and full- or part-time staff at a four-year public or private accredited, nonprofit college or university in the continental United States. Entrants must be 18 or older and legal residents of the continental U.S.

The contest opened in April. Deadline is Aug. 31, 2008. After a judging period in September, the winner will be announced in October and receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Two runners-up — either as an individual or team — will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and device of choice for each entrant. For details hit www.att.com/higherEDcontest.

Check It Out: Press Releases Job Postings RFIs/RFPs

The ACUTA website is a useful tool for communicating with other members, whether you've got some exciting news to share, a position to fill, or a project for which you need a vendor. Check the website frequently for the latest postings. Here are items that have been posted since our last eNews.

PRESS RELEASES

- Westwood College Deploys IP PBX System from Interactive Intelligence
- · Fijitsu Collaborates with Indiana University on Optical Communications Research
- Graybar's Kathleen Mazzarella Joins Industry Leaders on NAW Institute for Distribution Excellence Board
- Graybar Vice President Named to Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) Board
- DePaul University Announces the College of Computing and Digital Media
- Gigafin Networks Adds Next-Generation Denial of Service Protection to Network Analysis and Remediation Solutions
- More Louisiana Colleges and Universities Invest in Multi-Modal Alert System From e2Campus
- Campuses Embrace Emergency Notification Systems for Improved Crisis Communications
- PosTrack Selects Siemens OpenScape Unified Communications Server to Deliver a More Costeffective Path to Hosted Unified Communications and Fixed-Mobile Convergence

JOB POSTINGS

- NetworkTechnician, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY.
- Computer Service Consultant II, University of Southern California-ITS, Los Angeles, CA.
- Sr Communications Engineer, USC Information Technology Services, Los Angeles, CA.
- Windows Systems Administrator, Ohio University, Athens, OH.

RFIs/RFPs

No new RFIs/RFPs submitted since last report. Be sure to post your RFIs/RFPs to the ACUTA website. Contact Aaron Fuehrer (afuehrer@acuta.org) for details.

Info Links Randy Hayes University of Northern Iowa randal.hayes@uni.edu

Frequently, vendors, associations, governmental bodies, and others provide white papers and other informational documents which are announced through a variety of media sources. While some admittedly have a certain slant or opinion, others are quite objective; however, they often contain valuable information. Below are links to selected documents.

- World Economic Forum Global IT 2007-2008 (U.S. Ranked 4th): http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Global%20Information%20Technology%20Report/index.htm
- World Economic Forum Video of Issuance of Global IT Report: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YnTba0rcPM
- Commerce Dept Spectrum Management for the 21st Century: http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2008/FederalStrategicSpectrumPlan2008.pdf
- FCC Telephone Subscribership in the U.S: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-280980A1.pdf
- FCC Number Resource Utilization in the U.S: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-280978A1.pdf
- FCC Telephone Penetration in the U.S: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-280982A1.pdf
- FCC Local Telephone Competition in the U.S: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-280943A1.pdf
- George Mason U Proposed Universal Service Options: http://www.neca.org/wawatch/wwpdf/041108_4.pdf
- U of Washington Web Page Changes between Server/Client: http://www.cs.washington.edu/research/security/web-tripwire/nsdi-2008.pdf
- CTIA Semi-Annual Wireless Survey Result Summary: http://files.ctia.org/pdf/CTIA_Survey_Year_End_2007_Graphics.pdf
- U.S. Trade Rep 2008 Review of Telecom Trade Agreements: http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Trade_Sectors/Telecom-E-commerce/Section_1377/asset_up-load_file386_14697.pdf
- TIA Exhaust of Wireless ESNs/Migration to MEIDs: http://www.tiaonline.org/standards/resources/meid/documents/tia_esn_whitepaper.pdf
- Scarborough Research Broadband Penetration Analysis: http://www.scarborough.com/press_releases/Broadband%20FINAL%204.15.08.pdf

Be a Moderator or Monitor at the Annual Conference

Donna Hall ACUTA Manager of Professional Development This year's ACUTA Conference in Las Vegas is going to be great. Our website includes descriptions of our educational sessions and a sign-up sheet for moderating or monitoring sessions.

Being a moderator or monitor is a wonderful way you can contribute to the Conference. Moderators introduce presenters and lead question-and-answer periods at the end of the sessions. Monitors distribute and collect evaluation forms and call for help if there is a problem with projectors, air conditioning, etc. Both jobs are pretty easy and provide a great avenue to get more involved in the association.

The Conference agenda is posted at http://www.acuta.org/conferences_sql/agenda.cfm?id=88.

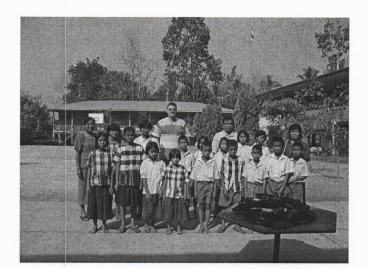
The moderator and monitor schedule is posted at http://www.acuta.org/donna2/moderator.pdf.

Please take a look at the sessions where there are openings for moderators and monitors and let me know where you'd like to help. Feel free to call (859/278-3338 x231) or email (dhall@acuta.org) if you have any questions.

See you in Vegas-where everybody wins!

ACUTA Members Help Tsunami Victims

Above, Art Leible presents an ACUTA seminar bag to a 5-year-old girl. In the photo below, Art is standing with one of the groups of children, of of their teachers, and the school's assistic nt principal. Art says, "The smiles on their faces and in their eyes make it very worthwhile. We appreciate the generous donations which will help these children learn and grow."



If anyone doubts that ACUTA includes some of the most warmhearted people on earth, just introduce them to Art Leible and his co-workers at Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell.

On February 17, Art and his wife, Kay, delivered money and goods to victims of the tsunami. Among those who benefited from this act of compassion were school children in a rural village in Thailand. In this village, the majority of the population make \$1,000-1,500 annually.

The little girl in the top photo at left is 5 years old and has AIDS. Art is presenting her with one of the tote bags from the ACUTA seminars in San Antonio. More than 40 bags were donated, some going to the local Buddhist nuns who help take care of the school and children.

These bags may seem like an insignificant token to most of us, but they are useful in this country where so many lost so much. On behalf of the people he met on his trip overseas, Art expresses thanks to ACUTA, MiCTA, and Mutare Software for the seminar tote bags and some beach bags.

After spending just a few days in this area affected by the tsunami, Art said, "To be quite honest, Thailand has had better response, better government involvement, and is in better recovery mode than India, Indonesia, or Sri Lanka. Can you imagine an entire town of 44,000 disappearing with only a few hundred survivors as happened in Indonesia? My wife is

Thai, so we had a chance to see the devastation in Panang Ng (Khao Lak) and Phuket area. All we tried to do was help where we could.

"ENMU Roswell staff and faculty and members of the community donated funds also. These donations went to a temple/school set up for the orphans to make certain that they have the opportunity to complete school through a Bachelor degree under a program approved personally by the King, ensuring it will happen.

"Other funds went to families devastated by the Tsunami but who did not qualify for government funds. They were there selling goods but not listed as living there. One family lost 25 out of 27 members. At the hotel where our late nephew was working, out of 30 staff and about 400-500 guests from the Christmas party the day before, one survived. How could we not help?"

ACUTA is pleased to have a small part in bringing a smile to some very oppressed and unfortunate people. Hats off to Art and those at ENMU Roswell and their community for the part they played in the disaster recovery in this devastated area.

If your campus or your department is participating in this relief effort or some other philanthropic or community-enrichment project, share the details with others via the ACUTA eNews. Contact Pat Scott at pscott@acuta.org.

ACUTA NEWS, Vol. 37, No. 5

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Welcome New Members

Institutional Members

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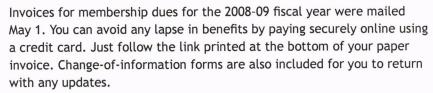
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Snom Technology AG designs and manufactures VoIP phones for small and large enterprises world-wide. We emphasize high security and help make everyday communication considerably easier. Look to Snom for interoperability, technology leadership, and reasonable solutions.

Dues Notices Mailed May 1



What are the benefits of membership? Networking...discounts at events...legislative and regulatory updates...the listserv...journal... eNews...professional development...and lots more!

ACUTA has a tiered dues structure based on a school's Carnegie classification and the number of students enrolled in a degree program according to the Higher Education Directory. Corporate affiliates choose their level of membership based on the benefits offered at four different levels.

For details, contact Michele West, Manager, Membership Services, at mwest@acuta.or



July 13-17 • Register Today! www.acuta.org