University of Nebraska - Lincoln DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

ACUTA Newsletters

ACUTA: Association for College and University
Technology Advancement

3-2007

ACUTA eNews March 2007, Vol. 36, No. 3

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/acutanews

Part of the <u>Higher Education Commons</u>, and the <u>Operations Research</u>, <u>Systems Engineering and Industrial Engineering Commons</u>

"ACUTA eNews March 2007, Vol. 36, No. 3" (2007). ACUTA Newsletters. 90. http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/acutanews/90

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the ACUTA: Association for College and University Technology Advancement at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in ACUTA Newsletters by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



The Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education

ALVS

March 2007

Vol. 36, No.3

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

are Cell Phones a Taxable Benefit?

Tax time will be here before we know it, and this seems like an appropriate time to discuss an issue that has generated quite a bit of interest among ACUTA members in the U.S.—the tax treatment of university-owned cell phones. Many institutions are re-examining their policies in this area, and they are turning to ACUTA members for guidance.

The key question is whether the university-owned cell phone should be considered a taxable benefit to the employee. From press reports, it appears that the IRS is taking note of this issue and several audits have occurred. Before discussing the issue further, I need to give the obligatory disclaimer—each institution (or company, for that matter) should consult with its tax counsel before making a decision on this matter.

Some of the options that have been selected by various members are:

- 1. Prohibit any personal use of institutional cell phones. (This is required by state law for some state institutions.)
- 2. Permit personal use if the employee reimburses the institution for the personal calls. In some cases, employees are required to reimburse only when costs exceed the monthly package.
- 3. Do not issue cell phones, but provide a monetary stipend to employees who are required (by whatever approval process the institution adopts) to use cell phones for university business. (That stipend becomes income to the employee, which they can deal with on their own tax returns.)

ACUTA does not recommend any particular option. Each institution's situation is different, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

The IRS recently published an article on their website that may be very helpful to you in analyzing and recommending a policy for your institution. The article is available at http://www.irs.gov/govt/fslg/article/0, id=167154,00.html. Although the article

continued on page 2

Thanks to the sponsor of the March eNews



An advanced wireless network from NextG Networks will generate revenue improve cellular coverage, an .ble new wireless services on non-ampus by leveraging existing liber.

Visit us at nextgnetworks.net

Nominations for ACUTA 2007-08 Board of Directors are due March 23.

See details at http://www.acuta.org/?1711

In This Issue

- 6 D C Update Jeanne Jansenius, Sewanee, The University of the South
- 8 Invite Your Vendors to Join ACUTA
- 9 Web Tip: New RFI/RFP Web Page Aaron Fuehrer, ACUTA Information Technology Manager
- 10 ACUTA Member Site to See
- 11 Welcome New Members
- 11 Extricom Grant Enables the Wireless School

is specifically written for an audience of government agencies, the guidance is applicable to both public and private institutions.

Some of the key points in this article are:

- 1. Employees need to keep records of business and personal usage, and employers should have a policy requiring their employees to keep these records. In the absence of proper substantiation of business/personal use, the entire cost of the cell phone becomes taxable income to the employee.
- 2. The amount that represents personal use of the phone should be reported as income to the employee. This includes individual personal calls, as well as a prorated share of monthly service charges. (In other words, if the phone charges do not go over the monthly package cost, this is not sufficient to prevent the employee from having a taxable benefit. If there is any personal usage, a prorated amount of the monthly charges based on the percentage of personal use becomes taxable income.)

The article also describes some fairly clear and simple scenarios for alternative ways to handle this, and the tax implications for each of these alternatives. I urge you to review this information, so you can get ahead of this issue, initiate the discussions, and be prepared with information to advise your institution. You might also wish to forward this information to others on campus with an interest in this issue, such as the Business Officer, HR department, legal counsel or tax department.

The Higher Education Advisory Panel has selected the general theme of business/personal usage of institutional technology resources as the main topic for the ACUTA Forum for Strategic Leadership in Communications Technology this summer, July 30-31 in conjunction with the 2007 ACUTA Annual Conference. We will cover more in-depth information on the issues discussed in this article, as well as a deeper examination of a broad range of implications for university technologies and policies. Watch the ACUTA website for details.

Of course, tax consequences are not the only considerations when developing a cell phone use policy. State laws regarding the use of cell phones also vary, so it is important to consider any state statutes when crafting a policy for your institution. In addition, employers should consider ways of reducing their institution's potential liability for cell-phone related car accidents. (See Brendan Carr's article on page 3 for more information on this issue.)

Board Report February

Riny Ledgerwood San Diego State Univ. ACUTA Secretary/Treasurer rledgerw@mail.sdsu.edu The Board of Directors met by conference call on February 1 and approved the following:

- to waive the registration fee for the User Group Coordinator for the 2007 Annual conference.
- to continue the Sunday night hospitality suite at the annual conference only when sponsored by a vendor.

The Board is seeking input from the Program Committee to recommend a different format that is unique for the 2009 Summer Seminar in Denver.

ACUTA is exploring collaboration opportunities with the Association of Higher Education Cable Television Administrators (AHECTA).

Respectfully submitted, Riny Ledgerwood, Director Communications and Computing Services San Diego State University

Steering Clear of Liability When Employees Use Cell Phones While Driving

Brendan Carr Wiley Rein LLP bcarr@wileyrein.com ACUTA members should adopt cell phone use policies for two important reasons: First, due to a growing trend in the law, institutions may have to pay million dollar judgments or settlements if an employee is involved in a traffic accident while talking on a cell phone. Second, state governments are taking an increasingly active role in addressing the relationship between driver cell phone use and traffic safety.

If your institution either (a) provides cell phones to its employees, (b) reimburses employees for cell phone-related expenses, or (c) employs individuals who use cell phones as part of their jobs, then your institution should adopt a cell phone use policy to minimize your organization's potential liability.

The Law Is Trending Toward Greater Employer Liability.

Over the past few years, plaintiffs have filed a number of high-profile lawsuits against employers based on their employee's use of cell phones while driving. At bottom, these lawsuits claim that employers can be

held liable for a car accident if the employee was talking on her cell phone at the time of the accident.

While employers have always been liable for car accidents involving employees who are acting "within the scope of their employment," theses new cell phone cases dramatically expand employer liability. Employers may now be liable even if their employee was driving their own car, outside of normal business hours, and not driving to or from any work-related event. In one recent case, for example, an employee struck and killed a motorcyclist while driving to a non-business-related event. The employee, however, was making a work-related call at the time of the accident. The employer paid \$500,000 to settle the case even though it did not provide the employee with the cell phone. In another distracted driving case, an attorney struck and killed a teenage girl. The attorney, who was returning home from a meeting, was allegedly talking on her cell phone with a client at the time of the accident. The decedent's family filed a \$30 million lawsuit against the attorney's employer.

New State Laws.

In the past few years, state legislatures have taken an aggressive new approach to cell phone use by drivers. Since 1999, every state has considered adopting cell phone use laws. And at least 22 states have passed laws regulating the use of cell phones while driving. While these new laws do not directly address employer liability, they have the potential to increase employer exposure for cell phone-related car accidents and each institution should be familiar with their state's cell phone use laws.

Greater Liability for Employers.

In general, before holding an employer liable, the plaintiff must prove that the employee's cell phone use caused the car accident. To date, this "causation requirement" has afforded employers some degree of protection. Recently enacted state laws, however—like those in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and the District of Columbia—that prohibit the use of hand-held phones while driving, may eliminate the causation requirement. In those states, plaintiffs may only have to prove that the employee was using a hand-held cell phone while driving—not that the cell phone use caused the accident—before a court allows them to reach into the employer's "deep pockets." In other words, the mere fact that an employee uses a cell phone to make a work-related call could be sufficient to find the employer liable.

What Should ACUTA Member Institutions Do?

While there is no guaranteed defense to liability, developing appropriate policies, training, and enforcement mechanisms can help limit an institution's potential liability and increase public safety.

continued on page 4

Each institution should determine whether the benefits of employee cell phone use outweigh the risks and should discuss this issue with counsel. Typical cell phone use policies may include the following types of provisions:

- · completely banning cell phone use while driving;
- requiring employees to use hands-free devices while driving;
- directing employees to comply with all applicable state and local laws governing cell phone use;
- requiring employees to pull over to take phone calls;
- limiting the scope of certain employee's job descriptions so that it is clear that their positions do not include using cell phones while driving; and
- emphasizing the importance of safety while taking cell phone calls on the road;

Regardless of the policy your institution adopts, all employers should educate their employees about the dangers of talking on cell phones while driving. Employers should train employees on how to use cell phones safely and should state that failure to comply with company guidelines may result in disciplinary action.

For additional information on drafting a cell phone use policy or advice on this issue, please contact Brendan Carr at (202) 719-7305 or bcarr@wileyrein.com. Mr. Carr, a communications and litigation associate at Wiley Rein LLP, advises the Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee on a wide range of regulatory issues.

Telecom Managers Profit from VoIP Knowledge

Gary Audin Delphi, Inc. delphi-inc@att.net I find it interesting that at all the VoIP seminars and conferences I've taught, more than 90% of the attendees have been from the telecom—not data—world. Many of the data network technicians I spoke to didn't think that VoIP/IPT would seriously affect them, so they didn't care to learn much about it. In contrast, telecom personnel have learned a lot—and now they're reaping the benefits of that knowledge.

It may come as a surprise, but the average enterprise has *not* seen a staff reduction when IT takes over telecom. Job descriptions changed, but telecom jobs have not been lost. What's more, telecom salaries have increased. A salary survey in the

Voice Report (10/30/06) reveals that telecom managers who learned about VoIP/IPT have seen salary gains.

Pessimistic expectations of the telecom community about the impact of VoIP/IPT have not come true. 81% of the telecom managers responding thought that IPT was good for their careers. 59% believe that they are, or will be, integral to the IPT implementation. When survey participants read the statement, "The introduction of IP telephony will be good for my career," 27% strongly agreed, 54% agreed, and only 20% disagreed. This is a much more optimistic attitude than this group displayed five years ago.

Perception of the telecom staff's value is reviving now that many IT organizations realize the issues and problems of implementing IPT. One of the salary differences relates to management and technology training. Most enterprises will reimburse some or all of the education costs. The value to the telecom manager is roughly an additional \$10,000/year.

One of the most valuable tips *Voice Report* gave to "super size" your next raise was "Redefine your role to reflect responsibilities." Re-titling your job to "Enterprise Telecom Manager" will help. When the implementation does occur, add the title "Project manager." Project managers in general are gaining much higher salary increases—up to 15% per year.

Another interesting observation is that technical certifications, which have become dominant in the IT world, are less important when it comes to VoIP. Other salary surveys show that salary increases are rising faster for non-certified personnel, and one of these growing non-certified technology segments is VoIP/IPT.

The bottom line is that as a telecom manager, you will be highly rewarded for your IP telephony knowledge. Why? Because the knowledge is rare.

Excerpted from www.voiploop.com with permission from the author.



Time for a Change? Yes, and It's March 11

Kevin Tanzillo Dux PR kevin@duxpr.com This is one of those ideas that looked really good two years ago. We'll add four weeks more of Daylight Savings Time, and it will save energy. Now that we're a few days away from setting the clocks ahead, this all doesn't seem quite as nifty as it did back in 2005, when our lawmakers conceived of and passed this legislation.

> We won't bother addressing the energy saving part, since we're frankly skeptical that this change will make more than a tiny fraction of a percentage point difference in energy usage-even traditional DST has proven questionable in that regard; rather, it's the timechanging part that now affects us technology folks.

> Considering that the Day of Reckoning is upon us as we "leap forward" three weeks earlier than usual (Sunday morning, March 11, 2 a.m.), we hope that you have a plan ready to deal with this. If this all sounds reminiscent of Y2K, that is no coincidence. Yours truly sure remembers powering up the computer the morning of January 1. 2000, and breathing a sigh of relief; even better, the computers all worked fine at the company we worked for at the time.

> The consensus is that this time around, our time issue will cause many small headaches, as opposed to the potential killer migraine that Y2K portended. Still, if there are things we all can do in the next week or so to make sure our systems and networks won't cause

us undue stress on Monday the 12th, we highly recommend it.

Most major system and network vendors have been good about informing their customers, making information available online, and creating the patches needed to keep everything running smoothly. However, that isn't true in every case. It would behoove you to double-check with all your vendors and make sure you're covered.

Any applications that record transactions or are in any way timestamp-dependent are at issue. That includes billing programs, network timing, medical and financial records, and of course much more.

According to a recent Forrester Research commentary on the subject, system patches are required for operating systems that were released prior to early 2006. These patches range from automatically applied updates for recent versions of Windows and OS X to installable fix-packs for Unix, Linux, and others, as well as instructions and tools for manually manipulating time zone tables in older versions of Windows and Java.

The fact that major problems didn't materialize seven years ago has led to a bit of complacency this time around. So while there's still time, go ahead and check out your situation. You'll be glad you did.

Of course, getting through March 11 is only the first step. We face this again the first Sunday in November, when we "fall back" a week later than usual. Good luck out there!

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.

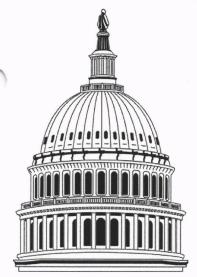


acuta

Summit on IP Communications in Higher Education

April 1-4 · Baltimore, Maryland

This "must-attend" event showcases how widely VoIP is deployed and the challenges and benefits it presents. Register Online: www.acuta.org



D C Update

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

NTCA Request Retransmission Consent Reform

As bundling arrangements become more popular, the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), according to Michael E. Brunner, Chief Executive Officer, is urging the FCC to act expeditiously to stop television broadcasters from imposing unjust rate increases and unreasonable tying/bundling arrangements. In his January 22, 2007 letter to the FCC, Brunner stated, "I respectfully request that the Commission amend the current retransmission consent rules to prevent overthe-air commercial broadcast television stations (Broadcasters) from imposing unjust rate increases and unreasonable tying/bundling arrangements on small video providers that will significantly harm the affordability of video services to rural consumers." He also noted that "the current rules prevent small MVPDs from pursuing low-cost alternatives, such as negotiating and importing a commercial broadcast television station signal from a neighboring DMA, pool bargaining, and arbitration. The current rules are causing significantly higher costs for rural CATV and IPTV providers and higher rates for rural consumers—creating increasing concerns for regulatory and legislative policymakers alike." The proposed amendment was filed with the Commission on November 29, 2006, in the FCC's Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, MB Docket No. 06-189. (http://www.ntca.org/content_documents/ 0107NTCARetransLtrSignatories.pdf)

Garage Door Openers Impacted by Wireless Signal

This report sort of reminds me of the TV commercial where the husband asks his wife if she knows what the light switch he is turning off and on multiple times turns on. When the commercial scene cuts over, it shows the next door neighbor with a frantic look, sitting in her car with the garage door going up and down on her car (...those catch 22s). In 2005, the FCC issued a consumer-beware warning that "consumers located near military installations may begin experiencing interference with their garage door openers or cause the device to stop working altogether. In response to the increased needs of homeland security, the Department of Defense now must make more use of these frequencies to deploy new mobile radio systems on and around certain military bases. Some consumers near these bases may experience interference to their garage door openers that can reduce operating range or cause the remote control to cease functioning. This interference will not cause the garage doors to open or close on their own. Inside the garage, wall-mounted push buttons will not be affected by any interference that might occur, and will continue to operate normally." (http://www.ddc.dla.mil/news/2005_02_15_FCC_Garage_Door.pdf)

According to the February 28, 2007 Networld report, "The military radio signal is sometimes so strong that it overpowers the opener's signal, preventing the door from opening. Or it can also vastly reduce the opener's range, forcing the user to walk close to the garage before it will open. Unless another solution is reached, the consumer will either have to live with the inconvenience or pay to fix the problem," the Pentagon said. (http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9011960&source=NLT_NET&nlid=27)

Broadband adoption in Tennessee is Unacceptable

As a Tennessean, I know this broadband issue well. According to *Telecommunications Reports*, "traditional providers are doing a good job in supplying broadband service to high-density areas

For More In-Depth Coverage of Legislative & Regulatory Issues:

ACUTA members may read about the latest developments in telecommunicationsand 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/DownloadFile.cfm?docNum=309 of the state, the current level of broadband adoption in Tennessee is unacceptable." Broadband in rural areas lags behind, but it is hard to determine where broadband has

been deployed as service providers consider this information to be proprietary. The report also stated that the State of Tennessee needs to make an effort to reach out to rural areas.

USF 2006 Underpayments Recovered

The FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Kris Monteith reported that the bureau took more than 4,000 enforcement actions last year and has recovered nearly \$1.5 million in USF underpayments. The bureau also reviewed thousands of CPNI (customer proprietary network information) certificates along with investigating carriers, data brokers, and others that provided CPNI data.

Time Warner Telecom Calls for FCC to Eliminate Discriminatory Pricing of Pole Attachment Fees for Broadband Service Providers

On January 17, 2007, Time Warner Telecom filed a white paper with the FCC requesting that the agency get rid of "discriminatory regulations" that regulate fees charged for pole attachment. Time Warner and other telecom carrier broadband providers can pay as much at 272% more than non-telecom carrier competitors deploying fiber-optic infrastructures. "Time Warner Telecom, along with broadband telecommunications carrier service providers across the country, is charged significantly higher pole attachment fees than competitors providing identical broadband services simply because they are classified as telecommunications carriers," said Paul Jones, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Time Warner Telecom. (http://www.twtelecom.com/news_info/twtc_news.html)

IRS Cracks Down on Federal Telephone Excise Tax

IRS Commissioner Mark Everson stated, "[W]hile the vast majority of taxpayers are claiming the telephone tax refund correctly, we are seeing some clear abuse involving overstated refund requests." Everson also noted that "people requesting an inflated amount will likely see their refund frozen, may have their entire tax return audited and even face criminal prosecution where warranted." (TR, 2/15/2007)

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Want Birds Protected

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) are recommending that communications towers "where practicable" be kept below 200 feet and contain no guy wire and lights. This is in response [WT Docket No. 03-187; FCC 06-164] requesting comments before January 22, 2007, reply comments due on or before February 20, 2007. "Apart from any possible obligation under NEPA and ESA, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) provides that it is unlawful to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill ** * any migratory bird" unless permitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 16 U.S.C. 703, 704(a)." You may find additional information at http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-IMPACT/2006/November/Day-22/i19742.htm.

Survey Results Show Households Are Still Unaware of DTV

According to the *Telecommunications Reports*, February 15, 2007, the majority of households receiving their TV signals over-the-air are unaware of the digital TV (DTV) transition. According to a survey conducted by Association of Public Television Stations (APTS), "61% of respondents said they didn't know about the transition, 10% said they had limited awareness, and 25% said they were either somewhat aware or very aware of the transition. But 53% said they weren't aware that analog signals will be shut off by February 17, 2009."

Important Information...
Useful Resources...
The Best in Professional Networking:

Invite a Colleague to join ACUTA today!

Invite Your Vendors to oin ACUTA

Are the companies with which you regularly do business Corporate Affiliates of ACUTA? If not, should they be? If they supply communications technology products or services to your campus, they could be working with other campuses as well. If you trust them with your business, others might appreciate an introduction.

ACUTA members generally report that they value the contributions the vendors make to our events as well as the occasion to interact with new companies *and* familiar faces. Vendors tell us that ACUTA offers unique opportunities to contribute their expertise by participating in a variety of ACUTA activities.

Please tell your vendors about ACUTA. Forward this information to them, or direct them to our website for complete information. It's a win-win for everyone!

What Every Company Should Know about ACUTA

Our Members Are Your Customers

We have more than 1700 institutional members from nearly 800 campuses throughout the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand. Seventy-two percent of our members are responsible for institutional telephone services, and seventy-one percent that have functional responsibilities that cover not just voice but data and video services as well. Increasingly, ACUTA members report that communications technology plays a strategic role in the long-range plan for their campus.

Our Events Put You in Touch with Your Customers

There are exhibit and sponsorship opportunities at all 4 of our national events each year. From a survey of our 2006 Annual Conference attendees, we learned that 94% expect to meet with vendors they already have a relationship with and 96% expect to meet new or potential vendors. For information on our upcoming events, go to the tradeshow section of our Corporate Participation page: http://www.acuta.org/ex-spon/index.cfm#book2

Membership is Affordable

Membership starts at just \$580. And members receive discounts on exhibit booths, advertisements in our ACUTA Journal, and access to free membership benefits such as our Press Room, listserv, and Annual Membership Directory. For more information on corporate membership and the application to join, visit http://www.acuta.org/Relation/downloadFile.cfm?DocNum=432

You Can Reach Out to our Members by Renting a Mailing List

Our membership mailing list (mailing addresses only) is available on labels for nonmember companies at a fee of \$500, and electronically for member companies for \$50-75. Contact Kellie Adkins, kellie@acuta.org, for information.

We Have Free Online Resources for Corporate Members

- Press Room: Corporate Members can post their press releases for free on the ACUTA Online Press Room. Go here for more information: http://www.acuta.org/relation/downloadfile.cfm?docnum=838
- RFI/RFP Webpage: Our school and corporate members can post and access active RFIs and RFPs on our RFI/RFP Webpage. For more information: http://www.acuta.org/?1683
 - Listserv: Be a part of our members' daily conversations by joining the ACUTA Listserv. Contact Kellie Adkins, kellie@acuta.org, for information on how to join.

We Have Advertising Space in our Journal

We sell advertising space in our popular *Journal of Communications Technology in Higher Education* which is mailed quarterly to our full membership. And corporate members receive a 15% discount. Go here for more info: http://www.acuta.org/ex-spon/index.cfm#book4

We Have Corporate Member Logos

Corporate members can advertise their support of ACUTA with official member logos. Contact Amy Burton for more information (aburton@acuta.org, 859/278-3338 x240).

Have Questions about ACUTA?

Contact Amy Burton, Mgr., Corp. Relations & Marketing at 859/278-3338 x240, aburton@acuta.org.

It's Your Market, Your Moment, Your Move.





Useful Information from the Campus

http://www.studentmonitor.com

In the spring of 2006, Student Monitor of Ridgewood, NJ, conducted extensive research into how students are using communications technology on campus today. *ACUTA eNews* is pleased once again to feature selected results of that survey. We appreciate Student Monitor's assistance as we strive to provide the most useful and up-to-date information.

If you would like to know more about the survey, contact Eric Weil, managing partner at Student Monitor (weil@studentmonitor.com).

Monthly Cell Spending

The average student cell phone owner spends \$69.20 monthly. Females spend 4% more.

Total	\$69.20		
Male	\$67.90		
Female	\$70.50		
North	\$64.70		
South	\$75.10		
Midwest	\$62.70		
West	\$75.00		

©2006 Student Monitor LLC.

Cell Ownership

Cell ownership is highest among females and students in the North.

	1999 %		2000 %	2001 %	2002 %	2003 %	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %
Total # Owners	26	34	50	62	78	79	90	91	
Male	22	30	43	59	74	75	88	89	
Female	30	38	57	65	82	84	92	92	
North	24	32	47	63	77	82	88	94	
South	32	44	59	66	80	78	91	89	
Midwest	24	27	44	54	72	78	90	92	
West	22	28	48	67	83	80	88	86	
On-campus	22	28	45	58	77	78	87	91	
Off-campus	30	36	56	67	80	81	93	91	
At home	30	42	53	64	76	78	90	88	

©2006 Student Monitor LLC. Used with permission



Aaron Fuehrer ACUTA Information Technology Manager afuehrer@acuta.org

New RFI/RFP Web Page

http://www.acuta.org

ACUTA is pleased to announce an enhancement to our website that we hope will be a valuable resource for all members—institutional, corporate affiliate, associate, and emeritus. Our new RFI/RFP page allows members who have an active account password to post or view new and active RFIs and RFPs. For school members this is the perfect avenue to include ACUTA corporate members in your search for new providers. For corporate affiliates, this is a great tool for introducing your company to potential new customers.

We encourage all members to submit RFIs and RFPs for any new product or service. Simply email your document to Aaron Fuehrer at afuehrer@acuta.org as a PDF, Word, or Excel file.

The RFI/RFP documents will be in Acrobat PDF format and viewing will require an ACUTA Web account password. If you are not sure if you have an account password, go to http://www.acuta.org/myacuta.

The RFI/RFP page is available at: http://www.acuta.org/?1683.

New RFIs and RFPs will remain on the website for 60 days, after which time they will be archived in our online Resource Library (unless otherwise instructed) so that they are available for future reference as examples. We will be noting all new submissions each month in the *ACUTA eNews* (link to the first submission below!). We are also offering email notification to any member who would like to be notified personally when a new submission is posted. Send your email address to Amy Burton at aburton@acuta.org to be included in this email notification.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at afuehrer@acuta.org.

RFI/RFP Online The new RFI/RFP Online has received its first submission:

University of New Mexico (Posted 2/21/07)

Information Technology Structured Cabling, Equipment Installation, Maintenance and Repair RFP



Congratulations to the University of Minnesota, whose website was selected for recognition by ACUTA as our 1st Quarter 2007 Site to See. Our topic was E-training for Communications Technology. Check out their site for yourself at:

http://uttc.umn.edu/training/tutorials/go4msg/index.html

http://www1.umn.edu/nts/go4msg/

https://breeze5.umn.edu/p11905370

For the 2nd quarter 2007, our topic will be online newsletters. If you would like to submit your website or the website of a colleague for recognition, please visit the ACUTA website at http://www.acuta.org/html/wsrp.cfm.

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.

- CDT Congressional Agenda for the 110th Congress:
 - http://www.cdt.org/legislation/110th/2007agenda.php
- CWA's "Speed Matters: Affordable High Speed Internet for all: http://files.cwa-union.org/speedmatters/SpeedMattersCWAPositionPaper.pdf
- ITU Regulatory Trends....New Enabling Environment:
 - http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/ni/voice/papers/FoV-Madden-Banerjee-Tan-Draft.pdf
- Search SMB.com IT Cheat Sheets for all:

http://searchsmb.techtarget.com/general/0,295582,sid44_gci1076646,00.html?track=NL-383&ad=577659&asrc=EM_NLT_940508

- Eight Bold Steps to a National Broadband Strategy:
 - http://www.baller.com/pdfs/baller-lide_8Steps_NatBBStrategy.pdf
- Measuring Broadband's Economic Impact:
 - http://cfp.mit.edu/groups/broadband/docs/2005/MeasuringBB_EconImpact.pdf
- Commission Primer: Universal Service:
 - http://www.nrri.ohio-state.edu/dspace/bitstream/2068/1001/1/06-08+Universal+Service.pdf
- U.S. FISA Court....an Overview (Jan. 2007):
 - http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL33833.pdf
- FCC High-Speed Services for Internet Access:
 - http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-270128A1.pdf
- FCC Local Telecom Competition:
 - http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-270133A1.pdf
- FCC Number Resource Optimization:
 - http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-269517A1.pdf
- FCC Telephone Subscribership in the U.S.:
 - http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-269512A1.pdf
- USTA Paper on Deregulation of Internet Access Service Providers:
 - http://www.neca.org/wawatch/wwpdf/020707_5.pdf
- Wireless Net Neutrality, by Tim Wu (exec summary/full report):
 - http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/wireless_net_neutrality
- FCC Trends in Telephone Service (Rel. Feb. 9, 2007):
 - http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-270407A1.pdf
- FCC 2006 Biennial Review (Good Update on FCC Activities):
 - Wireline Report: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-656A1.doc
 - Wireless Report: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-674A1.doc
 - Int'l Report: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-675A1.doc
 - Enforce Report: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-667A1.doc
 - Cons/Gov't Affairs: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-672A1.doc>
 - Engineer/Tech: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-07-668A1.doc

ACUTA NEWS, Vol. 36, No. 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Carmine Piscopo, RCDD, Providence College
President-Elect . Walt Magnussen, PhD, Texas A & M Univ.
Sec./Treas. Riny Ledgerwood, San Diego State Univ.
Immed. Past Pres. Patricia Todus, Northwestern Univ.
Directors-at-Large John Bradley, Retired, Rennselaer
Polytechnic Inst.; Buck Buchanan, Florida State Univ.;
Randal Hayes, Univ. of No. Iowa; Corinne Hoch,
Columbia Univ.; Diane McNamara, Union College

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Higher Educ. Advisory Panel .. Jeri A. Semer, CAE, ACUTA Leg./Reg. Dave Ostrom, Washington State Univ. Membership ... Mary Lou Emmons, Ind. Univ. Bloomington Prog./Educ. ... Matt Arthur, Washington Univ. in St. Louis Publications Ron Kovac, PhD, Ball State Univ. Vendor Liaison Sandy Roberts, Wellesley College

STAFF

51741	
Executive Director	Jeri A. Semer, CAE
Accounting Admin. Asst	Patti West
Accounts Receivable Analyst	Lori Dodson
Business Manager	Margaret Riley
Communications Manager	Pat Scott
Information Technology Manager	Aaron Fuehrer
Manager, Professional Development	Donna Hall
Manager, Corp. Relations & Market	ing Amy Burton
Meetings Manager	Lisa Thornton, CMP
Membership Development Manager	Kellie Adkins

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and are not necessarily the opinions of their institution or company. ACUTA as an association does not express an opinion or endorse products or services. *ACUTA eNews* is published electronically 12 times per year by ACUTA, The Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education, a nonprofit association. Send material for *ACUTA eNews* to Pat Scott, ACUTA, 152 W. Zandale Dr., Ste. 200, Lexington, KY 40503-2486; ph. 859/278-3338; fax 859/278-3268; e-mail pscott@acuta.org. Copyright ©2007 ACUTA

Extricom Grant Enables the Wireless School

Believing that education is the engine that drives our society, Extricom (a new ACUTA Corporate Affiliate) is pleased to contribute to the critical infrastructure needs of the modern educational institution with the announcement of the 2007 Education Grant Program. The program will award \$1,000,000 in grants in the form of Extricom Wireless LAN equipment and discounts to qualifying educational institutions.

All institutions of higher learning located in the United States or Canadian Provinces are eligible if they possess an immediate need to incorporate WLAN into their infrastructure.

Get more info and download the grant application and program guidelines at www.extricom.com. Applications must be received by April 15, 2007.

(See also press release on ACUTA website.)

Welcome New Members

Institutional Member

Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD. T2

Joy Hatch, VP Info Tech Computing & Tech Svcs; 410/836-4000 jhatch@harford.edu

Wagner College, Staten Island, NY. T1

Joe Spina, Help Desk Manager; 718/390-3322 joe.spina@wagner.edu

Associate Member

New World Symphony, Miami Beach, FL

Tom Snook, Chief Technology Officer; 305/673-3330tom.snook@nws.edu

Corporate Affiliate Members

BRONZE MEMBER

ReTele, Needham, MA www.retele.com

Matt Flanagan, Sales Rep.; 800/346-1211

ReTele Communications fills the gap between traditional distributors and the end-user (universities, major corporations, and hospitals) by providing immediate 24/7 access to mission critical telecommunications/VoIP equipment from Nortel Networks, Cisco, and AVAYA.

COPPER MEMBERS

Abilita Inc., Georgetown, KYwww.abilita.com

Martha Seagram, Project Consultant; 502/863-1863

Abilita is a full-service telecom consulting firm helping clients across North America achieve greater cost efficiencies and improved performance for all of their telecommunications needs—voice, data, and wireless.

Connect-Ed, Sherman Oaks, CA www.ntigroup.com

Shannon Meadows, Vice President, Higher Ed; 818/808-1773

A service of The NTI Group, Inc., the *Connect*-ED® service allows campus leaders and security professionals to schedule, send, and track personalized time-sensitive notifications to thousands of students, faculty, staff, and parents in minutes.

Extricom, Inc., New York, NY.......www.extricom.com

Matthew Riccoboni, Dir. of Marketing; 631/979-5834

Extricom's WLAN technologies require no RF expertise during installation and are easy to manage and maintain. Our standards-based and client-agnostic solution features the simplicity, stability, and speed of wired networks, together with the mobility and ubiquity of WLANs.

Fine Point Technologies, New York, NYwww.finepoint.com

Kenneth Oliver, Vice President, Business Development; 212/962-7410 x56

Fine Point markets a cost-affordable B-RAS access concentrator, ServPoET, specifically designed for any university deploying a PPPoE based broadband network. ServPoET easily interoperates with either open source or commercial grade RADIUS servers. Ideal for on- or off-campus wireless networks.

SMP Data Communications, Swannanoa, NC www.smpdata.com

Brad Everette, Mktg. & bus. Dev. Mgr.; 828/298-2260

SMP Data Communications, a leading manufacturer of copper/fiber passive connectivity components, designs innovative, competitive products ideal for higher ed, platforms. All SMP products are made in the USA and guaranteed to surpass industry standards.