



The Alliance for Equity in Higher Education  
Uniting for America's Future



**MINORITY SERVING  
INSTITUTIONS  
CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE  
INSTITUTE  
(MSI-CII)  
(NSF CI-TEAM AWARD  
0537498)**

<http://www.educationgrid.org>



The [Minority Serving Institutions CyberInfrastructure Empowerment Coalition \(MSI-CII\)](#) is a coalition of leading CyberInfrastructure experts, projects and resources with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), and the more than 330 MSIs they represent. MSI-CII is led by the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education with Indiana University, NCSA, SDSC and the University of Houston Downtown helping the three national MSI organizations. Julie Foertsch performed the evaluation function and substantial funding was provided to several MSI faculty and staff for the cost of participation in Cyberinfrastructure activities. MSI-CII is a demonstration CI-Team project that is followed by the implementation project [MSI-CIEC](#) or the [Minority Serving Institutions CyberInfrastructure Empowerment Coalition](#).

#### Major MSI-CII Activities



1. MSI attendance at SC05 and Global Grid Forum GGF18 at Boston
2. January 30-31 2006 Planning and Education (train the trainer) meeting at SDSC
3. General Cyberinfrastructure Summer School at SDSC June 26-30 2006
4. Supporting your own CI workshops for MSIs at NCSA in April and August 2006
5. Lots of Planning and discussion leading to MSI-CIEC Concept and CI-Team proposal
6. SDSC meetings Access Grid enabled and talks videotaped with CIChannel and available on web
7. Web 2.0 MSI Portal (MyCISpace) supporting initially exchange of interests and tagged documents, is under development

#### Key Objectives of Project

1. Mobilize the MSI faculty and student community in Minority Serving Institutions starting with a few but with an approach that could eventually reach the over 330 in AIHEC HACU and NAFEO
2. Provide access to physical infrastructure needed to support participation
3. Support curriculum development, research, mentoring, and teaching teams
4. Exploit key Cyberinfrastructure (Grid) resources
5. Develop prototype portal (mashup) supporting broad participation in CI with low barrier to entry
6. Improve our processes through evaluation

#### Advisory Team

[Malcolm Atkinson](#), NESL (UK National e-Science Center), ICEAGE (EU Grid Education)  
[Fran Berman](#), SDSC  
[Jay Boisseau](#), TACC  
[Charles Catlett](#), TeraGrid  
[Kelvin Droegemeier](#), Oklahoma, LEAD  
[Tom Dunning](#), NCSA  
[Mark Ellisman](#), SDSC, BIRN  
[Ian Foster](#), Chicago, Open Science Grid Globus etc  
[Juan Meza](#), LBL  
[Dan Reed](#), UNC, Renaissance Computing  
[Richard Tapia](#), Rice  
[Larry Smarr](#), UCSD, Cal(IT)2

#### Key Ideas behind project

1. Cyberinfrastructure is critical to all involved in Research and Education
2. Cyberinfrastructure is intrinsically democratic supporting broad participation
3. MSIs should lead MSI integration with Cyberinfrastructure
4. One should guide the projects with experts on Cyberinfrastructure
5. One should aim at scalable (systemic) approaches
6. Goal is peer collaborations involving all institutions of higher education for which mentoring is just an initial step
7. Activities should be professionally evaluated
8. Web 2.0 supports user driven identification of their interest in CI
9. Web 2.0 portals (gadgets) could lower entry barrier to CI resources like TeraGrid

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