

ADVANCED NETWORK PROJECT FOR ARMED FORCES WINS CENIC'S 2012 INNOVATIONS IN NETWORKING AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL APPLICATIONS

March 12, 2012 — La Mirada, CA — The Naval Postgraduate School of Monterey, CA and the US Army's Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center have been honored by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) as recipients of the **2012 Innovations in Networking Awards for Educational Applications**.

CENIC Associate the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), together with the US Army's Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC), developed an academic network partnership to enable DLIFLC to access the NPS's CENIC capabilities and thus enhance their students' language training with real-time news feeds, social networking, and mobile access to course materials, while still remaining subject to the increasingly firm security policies of the Department of Defense (DoD).

Network-enabled distributed learning technology is a major tool for any research and education institution, particularly one that specializes in intensive, distributed language instruction. Yet, when the institutions in question are subject to the increasingly firm security policies of the Department of Defense (DoD), the openness required to allow students to make the most of educational resources and collaborate among themselves can be difficult to achieve.

This was the challenge faced by the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and the US Army's Defense Language Institute's Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC). Responsible for training over 20,000 professional and squad designated linguists in the military in addition to general purpose forces, DLIFLC opted to reach across service branch boundaries to the NPS – already a CENIC Associate – about leveraging the campus's CENIC capabilities to enhance their language instruction and help them meet the military's need for qualified linguists, currently at an all-time high.

Through the pilot phase of the planned DLIFLC migration to the NPS academic network, performed of course according to stringent DoD security standards, students were given mobile learning devices and access to Internet based systems that they previously did not have access to. Through these capabilities, which most of today's college students take for granted, the DLIFLC students were able to access class materials from home or a mobile device, use Skype to confer with peers and faculty members, and remain connected to the school and their coursework after graduation. Furthermore, students were able to empower themselves by combining these resources with real-time news feeds and social networking data. Thanks to this project, students reported recapturing between 15 and 30 minutes of their seven-hour class day, translating over a 64-week course to an additional 9 days of valuable training.

In the next phases of this pioneering program marrying network openness and security, the pilot network will become a full migration of the DLIFLC to the NPS academic network. Following this will be a development of completely new efficiencies that will fully leverage CENIC, up to and including virtual-world simulation as a substitute for the immersion experiences so crucial to acquiring true fluency.

Four Innovations on Networking Awards are given annually by CENIC to highlight exemplary innovations that leverage ultra high-bandwidth networking, particularly where those innovations have the potential to revolutionize the ways in which instruction and research are conducted, or where they further the deployment of broadband in underserved areas.

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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.

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