

Statement of Commitment – Information Technology (IT)

The Northeast Higher Education District's Presidential Plan of Action 2010-2015 calls for the development of intense collaboration across colleges and the creation of interdependent service entities within the organization. This plan will align our resources and priorities to drive cross-college improvements and increased efficiencies. The President's Cabinet embraces the President's vision of integration of services for the purpose of increasing efficiencies and better service to all of our constituencies. The urgency behind the integration of services has been accentuated by the Chancellor's call to action within his strategic framework for the system and the ongoing dramatic decrease in state support for higher education.

The Shared IT Initiative

The President's Cabinet recognizes an opportunity to share many information technology services across the district. Similar initiatives have been taking place across the country as colleges plan to address the future needs of their students, faculty, and staff. Our shared goal is to build an IT system which best positions the district to implement and adapt to leading edge technology in support of extraordinary education and student services. This fundamental change in the way that services are provided and IT decisions are made will have the following effects over time:

- All district colleges will share in the most up-to-date IT services
- We will meet the needs of our student population which increasingly demands access to current technological advancements in support of teaching and learning
- A level of standardization of IT infrastructure that supports our district needs and aligns with MnSCU standards
- Full utilization and sharing of the vast and diverse knowledge and expertise of our current IT staffs to the benefit of the entire district
- Focus and assist the colleges in their efforts to provide better end-user support
- A decrease in the duplication of hardware purchases across the district colleges
- Facilitate wise investments and capture opportunities for long-term financial savings

The following components of NHED shared IT plan have been completed or are underway.

- VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) at each campus to replace traditional land lines
- Single platform website development with a single shared server and backup site
- Standardized MBS system for college bookstores utilizing a single LADE process server to facilitate easier and timely financial aid disbursement for textbook payment
- An integrated directory service utilizing Active Directory including a migration to single Star Id login at all colleges (Pending summer 2012)

Additionally, the IT Planning Team will continue to focus on recommendations for the remaining components of the NHED IT Plan. These recommendations will be communicated broadly via the NHED website and forwarded to the President's Cabinet for decisions.



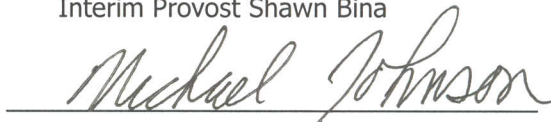
President M. Sue Collins



Interim Provost Shawn Bina



Interim Provost Kathy Burlingame



Provost Michael Johnson



Provost Kenneth Simberg