

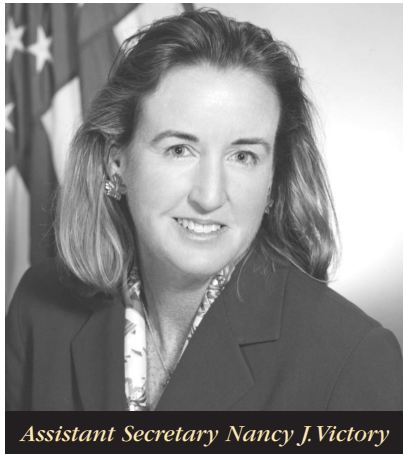
TOP UPDATE

Fall 2001 • Volume 4, Number 4

Technology Opportunities Program

Connecting Americans to the World of Information

New Assistant Secretary Awards Grants Totaling \$42.8 Million



Assistant Secretary Nancy J. Victory

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) welcomes Nancy J. Victory as the new Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information. Nominated by President George W. Bush in June and confirmed by the

Senate in August 2001, Ms. Victory comes to NTIA with substantial expertise in wireless, satellite, and spectrum allocation issues from her previous position as partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Wiley, Rein, and Fielding.

Ms. Victory recently announced the 74 new Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) grants for fiscal year 2001, which total \$42.8 million from federal funds and are matched by \$46.8 million in other sources. The projects - located in 33 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico - use a variety of technologies, including leased telephone lines, cable television facilities, and wireless services. All but a few use the Internet, and incorporate personal computers, handheld devices, and other Internet appliances. As in previous years, the awards are split almost evenly between rural and urban communities.

As the Assistant Secretary, Ms. Victory has developed a clear agenda for the agency. One of her priorities for NTIA will be issues surrounding 3rd generation wireless services (3G). Ms. Victory also plans a review of the domestic spectrum planning and management process.

Another area of focus for Assistant Secretary Victory will be promoting access to advanced information technologies. "We are very much focused on looking at ways to improve the availability of broadband services," said Victory. Promoting access to advanced network technologies is a priority of TOP. In announcing the grants, Assistant Secretary Victory said, "I look forward to working with the Technology Opportunities Program to support new, innovative uses of digital network technologies."

Many of the newly awarded TOP projects will demonstrate how information technology is becoming more central to American life. For example, the National Council of La Raza will develop a one-stop affordable housing digital network using automated underwriting software and online counseling services for prospective Latino homeowners. Grambling State University will create a rural Internet connection in local black churches so low-income African-American households in six rural Louisiana parishes can gain computer skills. And, Goodwill Industries is planning a model project involving the national headquarters and six local offices to provide virtual workforce retention services to clients in their homes. These are but a few of the new digital network application tools that TOP-funded projects will demonstrate.

In announcing the TOP projects, Assistant Secretary Victory stated, "the impact of these awards will be felt around the country." She further added that, "these grants help people own their homes, take care of their elders, retain their new jobs, raise their children, and improve their communities. In addition, these grants will help us, as a nation, learn how to apply these exciting new technologies to meet society's greatest challenges."

Visit www.ntia.doc.gov/top, for a full listing and description of **FY2001 TOP grant awards**.

News From the Field

TOP Project Attracts Global Attention

Washington, DC. The Community Preservation Development Corporation ([CPDC](#)) (TOP 99) project at Edgewood Terrace in Washington, D.C., continues to attract attention from people in the business, foundation, non-profit, and academic worlds. A delegation from the Bank of America and three community development corporations in Baltimore met with Al Browne, CPDC Vice President, to understand more about EdgeNet's community network. CPDC also hosted a delegation of community network specialists from France and several Francophone countries in sub-Saharan Africa. And, the National Director of the Neighborhood Networks Program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development visited Edgewood Terrace for an update on the lessons gained through the community network portion of the project. Visit www.cpd.org

Los Angeles Digital Arts Network Creates Citywide Exhibits

Los Angeles, CA. In June, the California Institute of the Arts' (TOP 99) [DIGITAL ARTS NETWORK](#) (DAN) completed its first set of year-end digital public events at all ten project sites in the Los Angeles area, attended by more than 250 people. On June 12, 2001 each site hosted a party for the students in conjunction with a public screening of student artwork. And on June 22, the DAN sites of Plaza de la Raza, KAOS Network, Self-Help Graphics & Art, and Visual Communications collaboratively held another public event at Plaza de la Raza. Each site provided screenings of student videos and attendees viewed student computer projects, including i-movies, webpages, and CD-ROMs. To date, nearly 300 teens have participated in DAN workshops at the ten sites. A CD-ROM compilation of DAN student artwork from the 2000/01 academic year is currently in production. Visit www.calarts.edu

National Award to Kapi'olani Medical Center Fetal Tele-Ultrasound Project

Honolulu, HI. Kapi'olani Medical Center (TOP 99) was recently recognized for its efforts at the TeleCon 2000 Conference in Anaheim, California. Of the 281 projects nominated for awards, the Fetal Tele-Ultrasound Project won first prize in the Telemedicine & Health category.

For Hawaiian women with high risk pregnancies, the ability to access ultrasound tools can be daunting. Traditionally, these expectant mothers would wait weeks for the next visit from the maternal-fetal medical specialist, or have to undergo the physical, financial, and emotional demands of travel to see a specialist.

With help from the TOP grant, women can now access an ultrasound specialist in real-time via a video connection. The equipment allows a local technician at a remote hospital to link, diagnose, and communicate with maternal-fetal medicine specialists at [Kapi'olani Medical Center](#). In addition, full-motion, high-resolution images are instantly read and interpreted by perinatologists, which in some cases could mean life-saving or time-sensitive interventions for mother and baby.

Visit www.kapiolani.org/facilities/children.html

Rural Oregon County Finds the Right Route For Emergency Responders

Eugene, Oregon. In rural areas, property access can be a stab in the dark for emergency responders. Often, many roads are unmarked and driveways may not be the best access to buildings on large, irregular lots. Lane County (TOP 2000), Oregon, is combining GIS mapping, Global Positioning Satellite receivers and satellite photos to show property lines and the buildings located there. Firemen also are driving the roads to map access roads and driveways more accurately.

In a project demonstration, the combined results showed one lot with a very narrow road frontage, but with no access from the road. The lot widened dramatically as it progressed toward the rear, where a single building was located very close to one of the adjacent lots. Aerial photos showed a driveway on the next lot, but that driveway did not provide access to the building either. Finally, by overlaying the aerial view, the driving view, and the existing GIS view, it was discovered that the access to the lot and building was from a property a half-mile away. Without this system, displayed on mobile data terminals in emergency vehicles, response to an emergency in that building would have taken extra time. And, in the case of an emergency, could have been life threatening.

Unemployed Adults Flock To New Jersey Computer Training

Elizabeth, NJ. The headline of the May 24, 2001, article in the Newark Star Ledger read: "Underemployed adults flock to computer training, [Union County College](#) (UCC) program targets unemployed, underemployed, and non-English speakers." According to Project Director Charley Tracy, "It's any teachers dream, the students came and they wouldn't leave." UCC (TOP 99) established three community-learning centers in Elizabeth, which were initially designed as a recruiting preparation tool for the community college. To date, more than 1,100 students have been through the program. Demand has outstripped supply, a waiting list is in effect and continues to grow. The program has developed three "post-TOP" classes, in both English and Spanish. Visit www.ucc.edu



Kapi'olani Medical Center

LESSONS LEARNED

Client Privacy Encourages Data-Sharing

As San Francisco's HIV/AIDS population rose and services became more dispersed, the San Francisco Department of Public Health saw a need to develop a central intake system that would allow patients to register for multiple services once without having to re-register for additional services. Health care providers and patients using HIV/AIDS-related services were frustrated with the lack of coordination and found that the intake process was repetitive and burdensome. Named after a deceased patient, [Project REGGIE](#) developed a city-wide, centralized database that collects unduplicated client demographic, health, and service use data.

The key to successful human and social service projects often rests with security and privacy of information. Client confidentiality is a cornerstone of the REGGIE project. The system supports composite data (such as sex and age) and personal identifier data (such as name and address). According to TOP Program Officer Steve Saleh, "providing information is voluntary." Alberto Martinez, Project REGGIE staffer, describes the security system as "comprehensive." Security is at the client level, the agency level, and at the Department of Public Health level.

The heart of the system, the server, is accessible through passwords known only to REGGIE system administrators, and the system software is regulated by passwords that give

limited use to certified users at each agency. On the client end, a "consent to share" requirement is in effect, which ensures that clients have given their permission to share their information among agencies. Clients also have the unique option to select a personal identification number that allows them to control an agency's access to their individual information. At the agency level, there are assigned system administrators. In addition, all participating agencies limit phone disclosure of client information, hard copy dissemination of client information, and prohibit printing information linked to personal identifier data.

Many of the social service agencies fall under the Ryan White CARE Act, which funds primary care and support service organizations working with medically underserved people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Agencies interested in using the CARE funds found that by using the REGGIE system they automatically had a "one-stop" database from which to collect the data they needed to apply for funding. Now, 90% of all CARE-funded agencies in San Francisco participate in REGGIE. This greatly reduces the burden on clients for repeated registration at multiple agencies, and it helps agencies better assess the unmet needs of clients. And, because the information has been streamlined and is shared and collected in a more organized fashion, agencies are better able to determine the services that clients are receiving.

FACES OF TOP

Mothers and Daughters Cross The Digital Bridge Together



Eva Waiswa and her daughter, Catherine

Boston, MA. The Digital Bridge Foundation (TOP 2000) developed the "Technology Goes Home" project, which provides low-income families with computers as well as training and Internet access, in exchange for community service hours.

When Krista Buiting and her daughter, Katie, joined the program she wrote, "I am not qualified [because I lack] computer skills. I am a single parent." Krista had started the program without knowing even how to turn on a computer or use a mouse. In May, 2001, she and Katie graduated from the program and now

have basic computer skills, a solid knowledge of how to use the Internet, and their own computer system. Krista writes, "I've been back to work now for two years. I was on AFDC before that. I'm a quick learner and I'm intelligent. I want to better myself to be a good role model for my three children. They're bright, outgoing kids. I want them to have the same opportunities other children have. And I will work hard to achieve the best for them."

Another graduate, Eva Waiswa, an immigrant from Uganda, lost her full-time job as a sales clerk when the large retail outlet she worked for closed its doors. She knew that she would need to acquire basic computer skills in order to find a new job. Technology Goes Home was a perfect opportunity for her to gain these skills – and to acquire a valuable tool for her bright fourth-grade daughter, Catherine. Completing the program helped Eva to develop greater confidence in her ability to learn and prepare her for the next step – a new job as a customer service representative with a large computer store close to her home.

The experiences of Krista, Katie, Eva, and Catherine underscore what projects like [Technology Goes Home](#) can mean in the lives of people who are eager to be productive members of their communities. It's also significant because it works with adults and children to facilitate intergenerational learning. Learning across generations is important because older people can be an invaluable source of support for young people. By working with older adults, young people develop important skills. Intergenerational learning ensures the transfer of culture across generations and builds stronger communities.

Visit www.techboston.org/daley/mbdf.htm

REGISTER NOW!!!
Networks for People 2001: Focusing on Results
FY 2002 Technical and Assistance Workshop
December 6 & 7, 2001
Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel

Come to Networks for People and join in the discussion. Call the Renaissance Hotel (202-898-9000) and refer to "Networks for People Conference" to get the special hotel room rate, in effect until November 1, 2001. Conference Registration fee of \$65 includes conference materials, refreshments, lunch on December 6, and the Technical Assistance Workshop on December 7.

The Technical Assistance Workshop is an opportunity to discuss TOP's fiscal year 2002 grant round, program funding priorities, and application requirements. It is a key opportunity for interested parties to understand TOP's goals and process.

Online Conference Registration (www.nist.gov/conferences) is now open! For more details, visit the TOP website, www.ntia.doc.gov/top.

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For more information or to send comments, contact the Editor, TOP Update, U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA/TOP, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 4092, Washington, DC 20230. To be added to the TOP mailing list or receive TOP publications, e-mail (top@ntia.doc.gov), write to the above address, fax (202-501-5136), or call (202-482-2048).

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