

Roland M. Toups
Chair

Frances T. Henry
Vice Chair

Pat A. Strong
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS

P. O. Box 3677

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677

Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318

www.regents.state.la.us

William D. Blake
Scott O. Brame
Richard E. D'Aquin
Stanley J. Jacobs
Ingrid T. Labat

Robert W. Levy
W. Clinton Rasberry, Jr.
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
Mary Ellen Roy

William Clifford Smith
Harold M. Stokes
Artis L. Terrell, Jr.

Terry Landry, Student Member

September 18, 2006

Contact: Kevin Hardy

**Louisiana to Construct One of Nation's Most Powerful Supercomputing
Environments with Dell Servers**

**Cluster to Aid Hurricane Tracking, Academic Research and Economic
Development**

The Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI), a fiber optics network connecting supercomputers at Louisiana's major research universities, has increased the computing power with standards-based technology from Dell, making LONI's 85 teraflop grid one of the nation's largest.

LONI will install six clusters comprised of Dell PowerEdge™ 1950 servers at the six LONI member campuses: LSU, University of Louisiana - Lafayette, University of New Orleans, Southern University, Louisiana Tech, and Tulane. Each 132-node cluster will feature five teraflops of storage. In addition, LONI will soon install a network that features a 50 teraflop Intel Linux Cluster to be housed at the state's Information Systems Building (ISB).

The new computers, along with additional system and hardware upgrades, will provide a significant increase in computational resources for academic research, including the ability to perform hurricane tracking and storm surge modeling at much higher speeds and with greater accuracy than currently possible.

"These enhancements to LONI's computing power will make the network particularly attractive to the kinds of companies we need here to energize our state's high-tech economy," said Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. "That's why we're leveraging the state's investment in LONI by reserving 10% of the grid's computational power for the creation and retention of high-tech jobs. Simply put, any businesses in the state able to connect to LONI can use access to the network as an inducement to recruit companies that would benefit from world-class computational capacity."

"These advances position LONI and Louisiana to become a world leader in supercomputing and

(More)

Supercomputing
ADD ONE

emerging cyber technologies,” said Charlie McMahon, LONI executive director.

“LONI’s impact on Louisiana’s ability to attract federal research dollars was already being felt prior to last year’s storms,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. “Now, as we anticipate an extended recovery period, LONI’s potential impact on academic research and economic development is more important than ever. This enhanced computing power is welcome news for our devastated education and research infrastructure.”

“Now Louisiana researchers will not only have the most advanced optical network in the country, but will couple that with the most powerful distributed supercomputer resource available to any academic community,” said Les Guice, Louisiana Tech University vice president for research and development and chair of the LONI Management Council. “This is a strong message to the rest of the world that Louisiana intends to be a leader in the knowledge economy.”