



Transforming Education Through Information Technologies

May 31, 2005

Ahmed El-Haggan  
Vice President of IT & CIO  
Coppin State University  
2500 West North Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21216

Dear Ahmed:

As a follow-up to our conversation, I am very pleased to confirm that Coppin State University has been selected as this year's recipient of the EDUCAUSE Award for Excellence in Networking: Innovation in Network Technology, Services, and Management, for your success in transforming your campus through converged IP networking.

This award, sponsored by Cisco Systems, Inc., honors specific innovative programs or practices that improve the quality of campus network services through new or enhanced network architectures, infrastructure, integration, management, and/or operational practices. Our committee particularly commended the strategic approach that Coppin State took to its efforts, with strong executive leadership, clear awareness of its mission and the needs of students, and careful attention to fiscal realities and technological possibilities. The result is an environment in which technology is understood, accepted, embraced, and utilized as an enabler of teaching, learning, collaboration, services, and innovation. Our higher education colleagues should find many features to explore for their own use.

This award will be showcased at EDUCAUSE 2005 in Orlando, October 18–21. In addition to a plaque custom-designed by Boulder artist John Haertling, the award carries complimentary conference registration and housing for one person, plus reimbursement for travel expenses, including air (coach class) and ground travel. Information from your application will be posted on the EDUCAUSE award Web site to provide a model for others. Public announcements of the award will begin in early August.

We hope you will join our committee, the EDUCAUSE Board, association leaders and staff, award sponsors, and other award winners at an award reception on Tuesday, October 18, at 6:00 p.m. On Thursday, the 9:30 a.m. general session at which you will be recognized will open with a video tribute to award winners. We also invite you to share with colleagues the story of your award-winning efforts in a 45-minute track session later that day.

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Karen McBride on the EDUCAUSE staff will work with you on these details. She will contact you very soon to answer any questions, and will also talk with you about publicity plans and the video featuring this year's award recipients. You can reach her directly at 303-939-0313, e-mail [kmcbride@educause.edu](mailto:kmcbride@educause.edu).

Congratulations on this well-deserved honor. I look forward to meeting you at the conference.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Oberst", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Oberst  
Director, OIT Enterprise Infrastructure Services, Princeton University  
Chair, 2005 EDUCAUSE Network Award Committee

cc: Stanley F. Battle, President, Coppin State University  
Diantha Pinner, MarComm Manager, Cisco Systems, Inc., Award Sponsor