



Chairman, Thomas Kinghorn

Vision 2006 Delaware County Community Technology Initiative

Newsletter



March, 2003

Cluster Computing Research Project Presented at March Tech Tuesday

“Developing high performance computing systems at an affordable price: bringing supercomputing to Middletown, U.S.A.” was the focus of the March Tech Tuesday event.

How fast is your computer? 500Mhz? 800Mhz? 1,000Mhz? The average personal computer today benchmarks at 1,000Mhz. How would you like to have a computer with 22,000Mhz? How would you like a computer that fast for only \$500? That is exactly what students at Ball State University have built.

Cluster Computing promises to be the business tool of the future. A team of Ball State University students is building a cluster computer in the College of Business right now. A cluster computer is an independent network of personal computers that are networked together to harness their cumulative power. The result is a system that outperforms traditional supercomputers. The benefits are faster processing speed, and superior database capabilities, at a fraction of the cost associated with a traditional supercomputer.

The Cluster Computing Research Project (CCRP) at Ball State University began in the Fall of 2001 as a student project. It has since taken on a life of its own as a hands-on course. It is the only such undergraduate course in the world, and Ball State is the only University to teach cluster computing in a college of business.

Donna Penticuff was the winner of a 17-inch flat panel monitor. The prize was donated by Pathologists Associated. Attendees of Tech Tuesday events are eligible to win quarterly prizes. Future prizes include a digital camera, portable DVD player, and Sony PDA. Prize sponsors for these gifts include Thompson Technologies, n'Harmony, and Cardinal Health Systems. Ball State University's CICS department will be donating a technology assessment to some lucky business. The value of this assessment is estimated to be \$5,000!

Ball State to Launch Entrepreneurship Lab

The Entrepreneurship Dynamics Laboratory (EDL) positions the university's nationally recognized entrepreneurship program to offer services to transform innovative ideas and projects into commercial applications and products.

"There has been an increasing awareness across Indiana that something needs to be done to add new dimensions to the state's economy," said Thomas J. Kinghorn, Ball State's Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer. "Promoting and facilitating entrepreneurship is a critical factor in the success we seek."

"People with ideas need sound business plans and financial backing to make it into the marketplace, and the Entrepreneurship Dynamics Laboratory will provide expertise to ensure all the factors are in place to help a business get started and succeed."

Kinghorn envisions the lab working on commercial ideas generated by Ball State's iCommunication initiative, which is developing content for new digital technologies.

"Other faculty projects and economic development efforts fostered by organizations such as the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership and Delaware County's Vision 2006 are also potential sources for business ideas," said Kinghorn, who is the chairman of the technology business development initiative for Vision 2006.

The Entrepreneurship Dynamics Laboratory's creation is the result of a \$1 million federal education grant awarded Feb. 14, 2003 with the sponsorship by U.S. Senators Richard Lugar and Evan Bayh, and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence.

The lab will be directed by Donald F. Kuratko, the Stoops Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship and founding director of Ball State's entrepreneurship program.

"The initiative is the next logical step in the program's celebrated 20-year history," Kuratko said. "The lab brings the academic world to economic development," Kuratko said. "Because our students will be heavily involved, we will provide them with the best laboratory experience in the world, but this also gives fledgling businesses access to some incredible resources."

"This will be a special place where exciting things will happen," he said. Kuratko said the lab allows for the expansion of several existing programs and the inception of others.

The project will initially include:





cooperation among and between state and federal programs.

Communication

SSTI supplies information about tech-based economic development through:

The Web: SSTI's website allows users to learn more about leading tech-based economic development programs, take advantage of links to hundreds of available resources, and reference past newsletters.

SSTI Weekly Digest: SSTI's free weekly electronic newsletter provides readers with valuable, timely information on critical issues affecting the tech-based economic development community.

Funding Supplement: This electronic publication accompanies the *SSTI Weekly Digest* and provides readers with application information, eligibility criteria and submission deadlines for hundreds of funding opportunities offered by the federal government and others.

Education

SSTI's Annual Conference offers invaluable opportunities for tech-based economic development practitioners and policymakers to further their professional development and learn how to apply best practices to their situation. Through seminars led by seasoned professionals, the conference offers participants the chance to discover successful approaches to building tech-based economies, gain information about new and existing federal programs, and reach a better understanding of trends in tech-based economic development.

Information

SSTI maintains current and historical information about tech-based economic development programs and the impact they have. SSTI sponsors and affiliates can access the information from our in-house comprehensive and up-to-date library by searching this website or through phone and e-mail discussions with knowledgeable SSTI staff.

Research

SSTI conducts research to provide practitioners and policymakers with information essential to the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs for building tech-based economies. In recent years, SSTI has examined the amount of state spending on tech-based economic development, state R&D tax incentives, and best practices in developing a science and technology strategic plan.

Muncie Innovation Connector (MIC) – Where New Ideas Come to Life!

Do you have a business idea or concept? Have you always wanted to run your own business? Do you have the passion and desire it takes to be successful? If so,



