

# DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE SOUTHWEST REGION

March 8, 2002

St. Louis, Missouri

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Friday)

**SESSION A: CLUSTER COMPUTING AS A HANDS-ON  
CLASSROOM PROJECT IN  
NETWORKING**

**Panelists: Fred Kitchens, Ball State University  
Sushil Sharma, Ball State University**

Cluster Computing is quickly emerging as an economical, scalable alternative to traditional supercomputers; bringing the cost of supercomputing capabilities into the affordable range of mid-sized corporations and institutions. Designed as a network of individual computers, the clustered computers work together as a single integrated computing resource. As the technology professionals of the future, today's students will benefit from the study of cluster computing. By augmenting a traditional networking course, or by developing an elective course, students may gain hands-on experience in cluster computing while learning the traditional fundamentals delivered in a networking course such as; operating systems, hardware, network architecture, infrastructure, benchmarking, and administration. This may often be achieved at minimal or even no cost to the institution.

This workshop will include a demonstration of a cluster-computer similar to one currently under development by students as part of a class project. Resource requirements, sources of equipment, a sample curriculum, and a question and answer session including both student and faculty perspectives will be presented.