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Sinclair Wins National Communications Technology Award Again

Dayton, Ohio – For the second time in three years, Sinclair Community College has won the Institutional Excellence in Communications Technology Award, presented by ACUTA, the Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education. It was awarded July 26 during ACUTA's annual conference in San Diego.

Now in its 14th year, the Institutional Excellence in Communications Technology Award is determined by a peer review committee. Sinclair captured the top honor for its Secure Local Area Network Strategy project. The 24,000-student community college developed the strategy in response to significant growth in both wired and wireless networking. In 2004, Sinclair won ACUTA's top award for its web content management system.

"I could not be prouder of our Information Technology Services staff," said Dr. Kenneth Moore, Sinclair Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. "Although it is a technology award, the whole intent of the IT project was simply to deliver superior service to Sinclair students, faculty and staff."

Sinclair's award-winning design consists of five phases: development of an acceptable use policy, network management system configuration, dynamic intrusion response, authentication of imaged devices, and authentication of non-imaged devices.

Sinclair's solution gives access to campus resources based on the role of the user, the configuration of their computing device, and verifiability that the device is problem-free. The college was also able to develop innovative partnerships with vendors to reduce its costs for the project.

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“Projects such as Sinclair Community College’s Secure LAN Strategy initiative demonstrate the tremendous innovation we are seeing on ACUTA member campuses all over North America,” said Jeri Semer, Executive Director of ACUTA. “This is why the information sharing integral to ACUTA is so important to all our members.”

Earning Institutional Excellence honorable mentions were Wake Forest University in North Carolina and the Naval Postgraduate School in California. Wake Forest implemented Mobile U, a pilot project designed to enhance campus communications by providing highly mobile data access via pocket PC phones. The Naval Postgraduate School implemented Monterey Peninsula Department of Defense Net, a regional fiber-optic telecommunications transport system created in cooperation with the City of Monterey, California.

ACUTA, the Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education, is an international non-profit educational association serving colleges and universities. Its core purpose is to support higher education communications technology professionals in contributing to the achievement of the strategic mission of their institutions. ACUTA represents nearly 2000 individuals at 825 institutions of higher education, with members ranging from small schools and community colleges to the 50 largest U.S. institutions.

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