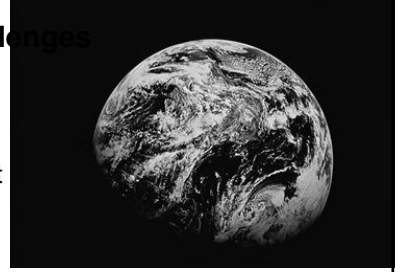


## Uncommon Thinking for the Common Good

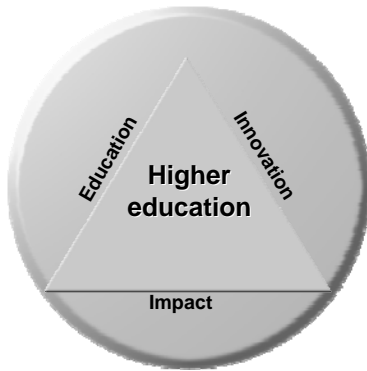
Diana G. Oblinger, Ph.D.

## Global challenges

- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Economy



## Social compact



“How do you take the best of intentions and turn it into positive change?”

—Clinton, 2009

## Emerging culture

## Anything, anywhere, anytime



## Expertise redefined



## Collective intelligence

- Collective intelligence: everyone has something to contribute
- Knowledge is created not possessed
- Shift in emphasis, e.g., wikipedia is a process not a product
- Social connections are important
- Need "skills for participation" (e.g. social skills; cultural competencies) not just individual skills
- Age doesn't matter; a "newbie" can be 60 and the expert 16



## Enabling architecture

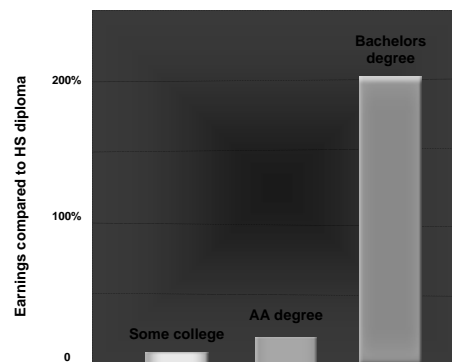
- Internet provides an architecture for participation and collaborative creation
- Accessible work can be modified
- Society benefits from small, cumulative contributions of millions of people
- Use by everyone does not exclude use by anyone



**The Internet is not just a technology....it is a mindset**

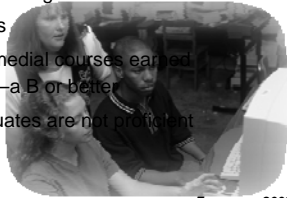
## Educational imperative

## Impact of a degree



## Inadequate preparation for college

- Only 22% of high school students are prepared to earn a C or above in first year college courses
- 6 of 10 high school students took the recommended core curriculum
- Of that 60%, only 27% achieved level of attainment needed to succeed in 4 core college courses
- 4 in 10 take remedial courses
- 4 or 5 students in college remedial courses earned good grades in high school—a B or better
- 75% of US high school graduates are not proficient in math



—Ferguson, 2008

## College readiness and work crisis

- Students need the same level of preparation in reading and mathematics for work or college
- Most American high school students are not ready for either work or college
  - Half of students are capable of succeeding but are not prepared to do so
  - 3 in 10 students aren't yet, but could be, prepared to succeed



—ACT, 2004

## Inadequate preparation costs \$16B

- Graduating from high school without adequate preparation for college or work will cost **\$16 billion** per year in remediation, lost productivity, and increased demands on criminal justice and welfare systems
- Students who require remedial courses are less likely to graduate
  - 70% who took 1 or more remedial reading courses did not graduate or receive a certificate
  - 58% who took 1-2 remedial math courses did not graduate or receive a certificate

—ACT, 2005

## High school may be too late

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade academic achievement has a greater impact on college and career success than high school achievement or family background
- **80%** of 8<sup>th</sup> graders do not have the knowledge and skills they need to enter high school and succeed
- Students not prepared for high school are less likely than others to be prepared for college or work



—ACT, 2008

## College completion challenge

- 100 students in 9th grade
- 70 graduate high school in 4 years
- 37 of the 70 enter college within 1 year
- 22 of the 37 don't need remediation before earning college credit
- 19 of the 37 graduate college (BA) within 6 years



—Sampson, 2008

## Access and affordability

- Tuition increasing 2x faster than inflation
- Tuition increasing faster than state funds
- All 50 states face long-term budget deficits; budgets squeezed by mandated spending increases
- State funding not keeping pace with enrollment growth or inflation

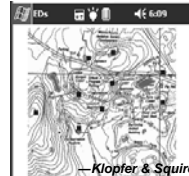
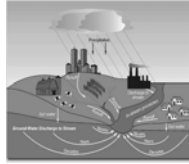


—Wellman et al., 2008



## Augmented reality

- Environmental detectives
- Players briefed about rash of local health problems linked to the environment
- Need to determine source of pollution by drilling sampling wells and ultimately remediate with pumping wells
- Work in teams representing different interests (EPA, industry, etc.)



—Klopper & Squire, 2003



Image courtesy of Phil Long, MIT

## Environment

### The Internet is not carbon neutral

- The Internet requires 14 power stations for power, turning out the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as the airline industry
- One small server generates as much CO<sub>2</sub> as a SUV with a fuel efficiency of 15 mpg
- Data center servers, AC and networking equipment used 1.2% of US power in 2005
- PCs and monitors account for 1.2% of power consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- At current growth rates the Internet will consume as much energy in 25 years as all of humanity does today



### E-Waste

- Estimated 133,000 PCs are discarded by US homes and businesses each day
- Less than 10% of electronics are recycled
- In 2005 EPA estimated that unused/unwanted electronics amounted to 1.9 to 2.2 million tons of waste
  - 1.5 to 1.8 million tons discarded in landfills
  - 345,000 – 379,000 tons were recycled
- Estimated 50 million tons of e-waste is generated globally each year



—Friedman & Pegah, 2007

### International challenge

- All countries have their own version of the “American dream”—house, car, microwave, refrigerator
- Billions of people are moving from “low impact” to “high impact” lifestyles
- By 2020 80% of the growth in energy demand will be from developing countries
  - China will represent 32%
  - Middle East will represent 10%

—Friedman, 2008

### The Internet may be part of the solution

- Dematerialization, or creating goods and services using fewer natural resources (e.g., online news) may be part of the solution
  - PDA vs newspaper: 32-140 times less CO<sub>2</sub>; several orders less NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>
- Virtualization one of most effective tools for cost-effective, greener computing
  - Example: Princeton's plasma physics lab
  - Cut 75% of annual power and cooling costs
  - Improved processing power 3x
  - Emitted 28 fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub>
- More efficient PCs (thin clients, notebooks) can reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by 75%

—Intel, 2007; American Consumer Institute, 2008; McGee, 2007

**“Widespread adoption of broadband in the US alone would cut energy use by the equivalent of 11% of annual oil imports.”**

—American Consumer Institute, 2008

## Economic development

### Broadband

- The critical infrastructure of the future
- Universal broadband would contribute 300,000 jobs for each 1% increase in penetration
- Broadband enables
  - Innovation
  - Cost-savings
  - Addressing problems in education and health care



—Brookings Institute; Criterion Economics, 2008

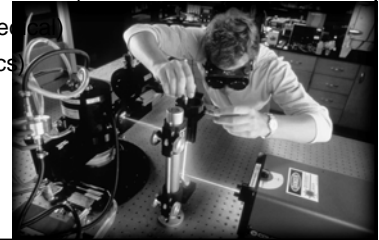
### Universities as economic engines

- Over 50% of basic research is conducted at universities; foundation for new industries
- Universities account for 15% of applied research and development
- Campus innovations diffused through patents, start-ups and consulting
- Economic impact of universities, for example:
  - NC State graduates infuse \$2.9 billion into North Carolina's economy each year
  - Every dollar of state funding generates \$8 in total income for North Carolina

—Bernanke, 2007

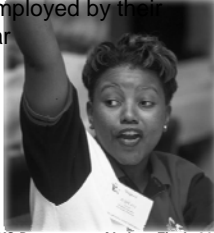
### Spin off companies

- SAS (software)
- Sical Technologies (biomedical)
- Biolex (neutraceuticals)
- Lipomed (biomed)
- Cree (electronics)



## Re-creating yourself

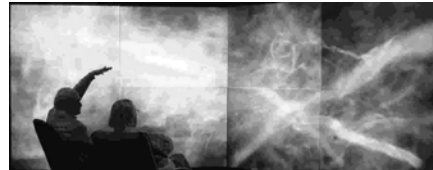
- Today's learners will have 10-14 jobs by age 38
- The top 10 in-demand jobs in 2010 didn't exist in 2004
- 1 out of 4 workers has been employed by their company for less than one year
- 1 out of 2 workers has been employed by their company for less than 5 years



—US Department of Labor; Fisch, 2007

## Virtual organizations

- Distributed across space: participants span locales and institutions (can include 'citizen scientists')
- Distributed across time: synchronous and asynchronous
- Computationally enabled: collaboration support systems
- Computationally enhanced: simulations, databases, analytic services



—NSF, 2008

## Earthquake collaboratory

- Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES)
- National collaboratory: a distributed research center
- Advances understanding of how earthquakes and tsunamis affect man-made infrastructure
  - Roads
  - Buildings
  - Port facilities
  - Public utility systems
- Shared, community-wide data system
- Open system for community contributions



**“We are now all connected, economically, technically, socially, and industrially. Being connected is not sufficient—we must be smarter—intelligently—intelligence into the way the world works.”**

—Pamisano, 2008

## Common and uncommon

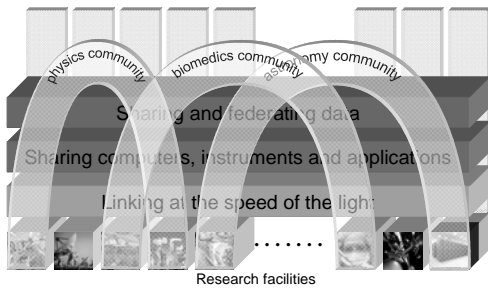
## Collaboration

- Community's ability to interact, collaborate and explore
- Harness distributed computing resources that cannot be supported by individual campuses
- Create international network of resources
- Enable new forms of scholarly inquiry and education



—Botzum et al., 2008

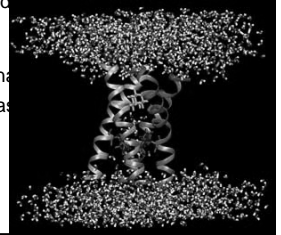
## Infrastructure for discovery



—Campolargo, 2008

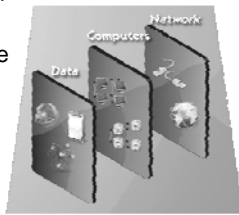
## Distributed

- TeraGrid: Open, distributed scientific discovery infrastructure—brings campus resources together in grid
- Low-threshold access to more resources than a campus could afford individually
- Distributed facility; resources independently owned and managed
- 100+ discipline-specific databases
- Enables communities to use resources through a common interface

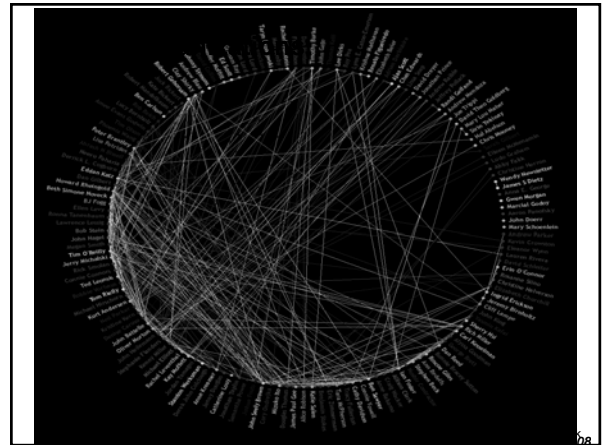


## Data as an infrastructure

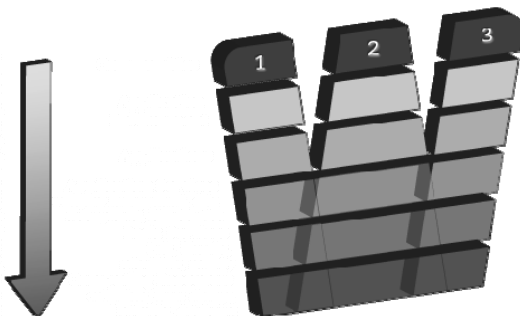
- The amount of data is doubling every year
- Large collaborations are emerging to collect and aggregate data
- E-research is emerging; computational techniques are essential
- Scientists need to be at home with their discipline, but also data management and computational skills



—Campolargo, 2008



## Leveraging investments



—McCartney, 2008

## Creating a collaborative culture

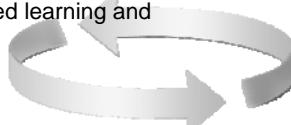
- IT has a role in creating social connections
- It facilitates the work of virtual organizations
- Enhances the power of discovery through human + machine computation
- IT contributes interfaces for
  - Interaction
  - Workflow
  - Visualization
  - Collaboration
- Mechanisms for sharing resources and services





## Leverage all contributions

- Adopt principles of connections, co-creation and collective intelligence
- Networked community that pools resources
  - Distributed across the globe
  - Sampled, mashed up, remixed and re-contextualized for effective local use
- University becomes a platform for collaborative, supported learning and discovery



—Oblinger & Lombardi 2008; Hylan, 2006

## A common purpose

**uncommon  
thinking** for the  
**common  
good**

It's not about information.  
Or technology.  
It's what we do with IT  
that counts.

doblinger@edUCAUSE.edu

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*Transforming Education Through Information Technologies*

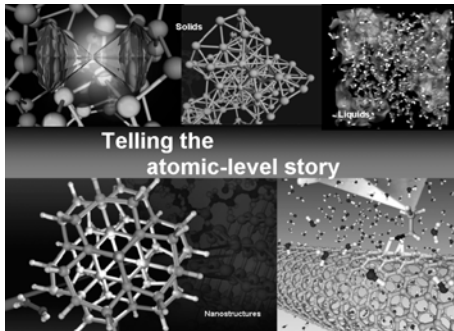
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## Virtual university



## Active

- Goal is to live as long as possible and reproduce
- Ability to survive is linked to the genome; must figure out the genetics involved
- Mating is by "beaming" between hand-helds

## Reduction in greenhouse gases

	Annual savings	Forecast 10-year savings
Telecommuting	134.7	568.2
E-commerce	37.5	206.3
Teleconferencing	36.3	199.8
Replacement of mail, CDs, publications with online equivalents	9.8	67.2
	(millions of tons)	

—American Consumer Institute, 2008

