

**Statement in favor of continuing  
the Commission for Education Technology**

**By**

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**And**

**Chair, Network Infrastructure and Services Advisory Council for CET**

My name is Ganesan Ravishanker and I am the Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services at Wesleyan University. I also serve as Chairman of the Commission for Educational Technology's Network Infrastructure and Services Advisory Council.

The members of Network Infrastructure and Advisory Council would like to support the continuation of the Commission for Educational Technology in the strongest possible terms. The Commission has the oversight responsibility for this council, which advises the Commission on matters relating to the Connecticut Education Network (CEN), and suggests technical services and enhancements that might benefit CEN users.

Connecticut Education Network (CEN) is an enormously valuable resource for the K-12 schools, libraries and higher education institutions in the state and is the envy of many such institutions who do not enjoy the benefits of such a state sponsored network. With the leadership of Governor Rell, this project was implemented during the early 2000's and was a very forward thinking initiative which stated the commitment of Connecticut to Education in the 21st century in no uncertain terms.

The Commission and the Advisory council have played a very valuable role right from the beginning in assuring that the member institutions benefited from the stated goals in the most effective ways. Not having the Commission or the Advisory council will result in lack of leadership and creative use of the network which may result in us going back several steps at a time when we most need better and faster broadband access and their appropriate use in educating the leaders of tomorrow. Coincidentally, broadband access and commitment to better education are right at the top of the Obama administration priorities.

Over the past few years, the Council, with the help of CET has been instrumental in implementing the internet filters for K-12; has facilitated setting up a disaster recovery facility for the CEN members at a remote facility in Springfield, MA; recommended a reasonable way to provide high speed connectivity to charter schools; and finally, is piloting the possible reselling of unused bandwidth at night to Higher Ed members of CEN.

If the Commission were to be dissolved, it is not clear what happens to the Advisory Council. Without a body with a clear mandate such as the Commission, it is also not clear who exactly would be responsible for the appropriate use of CEN. Both the Commission and the Council consists of very dedicated members who have volunteered valuable time for very creative and forward thinking projects that have helped the educational institutions move into the 21st century. The current oversight structure is crucial to make sure that such a valuable and strategic resource is used in more creative ways to benefit the educational community. Most importantly, the Commission and Council will ensure that the CEN remains a resource for the educational communities and not be diluted by the constant pressure from other uses of this network.

Thank you for giving me the time and I sure hope that the Commission and the Council survives this discussion at a time when their missions are right in line with the future needs of Connecticut and the country.