



Sakai Newsletter

November 16, 2006

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1. 6th Sakai Conference in Atlanta Updates

* Call for volunteers

We are asking conference attendees to help convene sessions that they plan on attending at the Sakai Atlanta conference. Convenor responsibilities include:

- Introductions -- Introduce the presenters for each session.
- Timekeeping -- Attempt to start the session they are convening on time. It is also the responsibility of the Session Convenor to end the session on time. (It often works well to signal the presenter(s) when they have 5 minutes left and then assertively end the session on time.)
- Evaluations -- Distribute session evaluations to attendees at the beginning of the session and encourage attendees to put their completed evaluations in the Evaluation Collection Boxes at the door. The convenor should pick up any completed session evaluations from the box and bring them to the registration table after the session is over.

Please visit the Volunteers page to select the session you can convene (login required).
<https://sakaiproject.org/conference/volunteer.php>

* Presentation templates now available

Presenters can download presentation templates for Microsoft PowerPoint or Apple Keynote via the links below:

Keynote template (.zip):

http://sakaiproject.org/conference/Atlanta_Template.zip

Powerpoint template:

http://sakaiproject.org/conference/Atlanta_Template_PowerPoint.ppt

* Exciting news for the Atlanta Conference and accessibility!

With the help of Robert Todd of CASEA at Georgia Tech and Anil Lewis of the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia (NFBGA), we have arranged a panel of blind and low vision users to demonstrate how they navigate through good and bad websites. They've also offered to take a look at Sakai to give us feedback on its accessibility. This session will take place Friday, December 8 from 8:30 to 10:00, and will be a great opportunity to ask questions of JAWS and ZoomText users. There will be a BOF later that day in which instruction will be given on how to use JAWS.

Mike Elledge
elledge@msu.edu

* Presenters can now edit session materials, add items, etc. on Confluence

To do this, go to the Sakai Conference Sessions page in Confluence:
<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/CONF06/Conference+Sessions>

* Attendees can now schedule their BOF Meetings

Information about BOFs (birds of a feather meetings):
<http://sakaiproject.org/conference/bof.html>

Instructions for setting up and reserving BOF space:
<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/CONF06/BOF+-Birds+of+a+Feather+meetings>

* New! Now accepting poster proposals

We are now accepting proposals for Showcase/Poster sessions using this call for proposals form. We encourage you to create a poster that showcases your campus implementation or toolset. You can use our conference poster template as a start or use your own design.

http://sakaiproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=420&Itemid=593

Posters will be displayed during the conference in the main dining/gathering hall. Posters will also be displayed during the Technical Demonstrations on Thursday evening, December 7th.

Please Note: We will provide one easel/stand for each poster you plan to submit. The maximum poster size we can accommodate is 24 x 36 inches. You may bring more than one poster for a given topic. However, if you plan to present on multiple projects or topics, please complete a separate submission form for each additional topic. These posters won't be judged in any way, and you're not required to stand by your poster.

* Guitar Hero after the Tuesday evening Welcome Reception

Guitar Hero (<http://www.guitarherogame.com/>) is a gaming experience like no other. Elements of Dance Dance Revolution and Air Guitar combine to form the ultimate rock and roll fantasy. Come join us for an evening of fun with both Guitar Hero and the recently released Guitar Hero II. We have two guitars, so you can jam together with a partner or wage a battle of the bands. Fun for all ages! Everyone is welcome.

2. Sakai Board Elections Close November 22

Elections to fill three open seats on the Sakai Board are underway. Institutional and corporate representatives have received polling invitations and instructions. Please cast your ballot. The polls close at 12 midnight, on Wednesday, November 22.

Carl Jacobson
cwj000@gmail.com

3. Board Nominee Michael Feldstein Moving to Oracle

Dear Sakai Community Members,

I am writing to inform you of a development in my professional life that may impact your thinking regarding my candidacy for the Board of Directors. Effective December 1st, I will start a new job working for Oracle as a Product Manager for their Academic Enterprise Initiative. I am delighted at the prospect of being able to work closely and productively with the Sakai community in this new capacity. That said, I understand that my new situation may factor into your voting decision.

I want to emphasize that Oracle had nothing to do with my decision to run for the Board. When Ian Dolphin first approached me about accepting a nomination, I had just begun a job search and was not certain where or when I would be going. Furthermore, I did not inform Oracle of my nomination (which was not yet public) until relatively late in the interview process. When I did, Cary Brown (my hiring manager) told me that Oracle had made a conscious decision not to nominate an employee for the Board because they wanted to show appropriate respect and deference for the long-standing members of the community. That said, since I had been nominated independently by a current member of the Board, Oracle is comfortable having me continue to stand for election. (Cary also made a heroic effort to get my paperwork processed in record time so that I would be able to inform you of my change in status as far in advance of the polls closing as possible.)

My enthusiasm for the prospect of serving on the Board is undiminished and my platform is unchanged. Regardless of the outcome of the election, though, I am delighted at the new opportunities I will have to work with all of you.

Kindest regards,

Michael Feldstein

4. myUnisa Reaches a Major Milestone

The myUnisa projects reached a major milestone on the 13th of November 2006 when the number of fully registered students on the system crossed the 120,000 mark.

myUnisa will also be upgraded from Sakai v 2.01 to v 2.3 over the next few months. We are planning on presenting myUnisa via uPortal using WSRP (<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2822484234926052902&q=sakai+dr+chuck>). The latter will eventually also become framework for our enterprise portal. If everything goes according to plan, myUnisa v2 will go live in March 2007.

Deon van der Merwe
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5. Article in Computerworld: Software Patent Ignites Firestorm in Higher Education

A firestorm of controversy is spreading in the education community over attempts by key software vendor Blackboard to enforce its patent claims.

It's a case in which the level of vitriol and vilification is making the long-running and now settled patent battle between Research in Motion and NTP look like high tea at the Ritz. There are claims, counterclaims, a civil suit, an extraordinary demand from a higher education IT group and a mounting torrent of blog postings.

The spark ignited in late July when Blackboard, by far the dominant vendor of learning management software, announced it had been awarded a U.S. patent earlier this year for some elements of its software, the Blackboard Learning System.

The spark was fanned when Canadian rival Desire2Learn (D2L) revealed publicly that on the same day that Blackboard issued the press release, it also filed suit in U.S. District Court charging D2L with infringing that patent.

The latest legal move occurred last Monday when US federal District Court Judge Ron Clark, in the Eastern District of Texas, ruled that a Desire2Learn counterclaim could stand. D2L claims "intentional misconduct" by Blackboard officials for failing to notify the Patent Office of prior art -- of ideas and inventions by others that could undermine the patent claims.

The next move is scheduled for early December when the two sides meet for a pretrial scheduling conference. A tentative trial date of February 2008 has been set.

Fueling passions

Passions on both sides were fueled in October, when the board of directors of EDUCAUSE, perhaps the leading nonprofit group promoting IT in higher education, voted unanimously to weigh in. "Our community feels these actions [the patent and the lawsuit] go beyond competition to challenging the core values and interests of higher education," wrote EDUCAUSE President Brian Hawkins, in a letter hand-delivered to Blackboard CEO Michael Chasen at last month's annual EDUCAUSE conference.

Hawkins was not available for comment and no one else at EDUCAUSE is authorized to speak on the matter, according to an EDUCAUSE spokesman.

In the letter, Hawkins urged the company to forgo its rights under the patent, put the patent in the public domain and drop the suit against its rival.

"We're not going to disclaim our rights under the patent," says Mathew Small, Blackboard's senior vice president and general counsel. "That would be an unprecedented and extraordinary step to take."

Some university IT officials agree.

"If I was the CEO of Blackboard and I didn't protect the company's intellectual property, the shareholders should ask me to step down," says Mitch Davis, CIO of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, and a Blackboard customer. "I don't understand what EDUCAUSE is doing or why Brian and the board decided to get involved."

Although Blackboard has not made an official response to the letter, Chasen says the company is "working with them to address those concerns."

Dueling interpretations

Many Blackboard critics interpret the wording in the patent and in Blackboard's lawsuit as evidence that the company is claiming in effect to have invented learning management systems.

"It's simply not fair competition," says Frank Lowney, director of Web-enabled resources, at the Georgia College & State University Library, a user of WebCT, a product now owned by Blackboard through an acquisition.

"Much of what Blackboard claims to have invented really came from and was freely given by the education community. Now the community is being punished through a gross lessening of competition in this market."

A flock of Web sites have sprung up in an effort by higher-education IT staff to document such prior art.

But Blackboard executives repeatedly insist that there are only two key claims in the patent (the other 38 or so depend on one or the other of these two "independent claims"). Both of those claims, Blackboard says, involve assigning multiple roles to the system's users, so that a student in one class could be a teacher in another, and then managing permissions and privileges differently for different courses as those roles change.

"In order for a patent to be granted, the idea must be 'non-obvious to the skilled practitioner' at the time of the patent filing," says Alfred Essa, deputy CIO for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, St. Paul, Minn., and a strong Blackboard critic. "I consider myself to be a skilled practitioner. Not only was the patent idea obvious at the time of the filing, but there were scores of people who were implementing or working out the implications of the same idea at the time of the filing."

Essa cites as one example the work of Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher Philip Greenspun, who developed a generalized Web tool kit for supporting collaboration and communities. The idea of roles was a key part of that and Greenspun published a book on his work in 1997, Essa says.

The open source ethos

Course or learning management systems have been the focus of a wide range of in-house development activity at schools, much of it in cooperative ventures, since the latter half of the 1990s. At the same time, a range of vendors developed commercial software products.

More recently, this activity has been organized around open source software principles, most notably by the Sakai [pronounced sah-KI, as in sky] Foundation, whose learning management software is in production with about a half-dozen institutions and is in the process of being adopted at 30 to 40 more, says Joseph Hardin, chairman of Sakai board.

The foundation is working with the Software Freedom Law Center on issues related to Blackboard's patent actions.

"This [patent] took a lot of people by surprise," he says. "Their legal counsel, Small, has said that Blackboard will not pursue the patent against open source groups like the Sakai Foundation. But commercial users of open source code would be targets. That shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the open source community."

Small denies saying commercial users would be targets. "I never said that," he says. "I've repeatedly reiterated our support for the open source community.... We have open source code in our own products."

Facts yielding to perceptions?

But the facts, however they may be interpreted, are being overtaken by perceptions molded by deep convictions that may deepen the divide between the two camps.

"Blackboard is going to get a very rude wake-up call when they realize that while they are a commercial vendor, with all the attendant rights, they also have obligations to the higher education community, which are unlike [those of] a faceless, corporate, software platform company," says Lev Gonick, CIO at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

"Many people in education...feel like Blackboard cheated and is not being a good academic colleague," says Bowdoin's Davis. "I agree with them. But Blackboard never sold itself as anything but a for-profit business."

by John Cox (Network World)

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php/id;96811954;fp;4194304;fpid;1>

6. Page Order Helper Tool Now Available

Since launching Sakai at Arizona State University, one of the top requests/complaints we've had for Sakai has been the need for instructors to be able to order pages within a site and the ability to hide pages from students for part of a semester. I know many of you are in a similar situation as I've followed countless threads on the dev list over the last year or so on similar topics... With that said, we are now very pleased to share with you a new Sakai helper tool that allows site maintainers to do just that and more.

The Page Order Helper Tool allows users with update permissions on a site to:

- Order / Reorder pages (drag n' drop)
- Add pages (drag n' drop)
- Remove pages
- Edit pages (currently only page title and url for web content tools)
- Toggle page visibility to show and hide pages from non maintain members of the site

All with an easy to use modern interface and integrated into the existing SiteInfo tool set.

<https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/asu/PageOrderHelper>

Under the hood you will find my two new favorite tools: RSF and jquery, I highly recommend them both in their respective roles to any one developing any new Sakai tools.

Joshua Ryan
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7. OSP 2.4 Meeting Hosted by rSmart in Phoenix

A group of contributors to the OSP project met to work on plans for the OSP 2.4 release this week in Phoenix, AZ. Outcomes from the meeting will be: agreement on the scope of the release among contributing organizations; an understanding of the resources available to the 2.4 development project from contributing organizations; early design work on improved UI workflows / consistency / ease of use / etc. Follow progress in Confluence: <http://issues.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/xXQ>

Look for a forthcoming video from the Dr. Chuck series!

Attendees: rSmart, Indiana University, University of Michigan, Vtech, IBM, University of Amsterdam, Syracuse University, and Arizona State University.

Chris Coppola
chris.coppola@rsmart.com

8. Sakai AppBuilder 0.7 and Update Site

Version 0.7 of the Sakai AppBuilder is finally to a point where I am ready to inflict it on other people. It took a while to get the Velocity templates to a point where I was happy with them. More info about the plugin itself and installing it is available on the website: <https://content.cc.vt.edu/confluence/display/DEV/Sakai+App+Builder>

I am also excited to say that we now have an "official" eclipse update site that is part of the Sakai project (plus the update site should be working again -- we broke it with version 0.6). Here is the link to put in eclipse for the update site (installation instructions at the link above): <http://source.sakaiproject.org/appbuilder/update/>

Hope this is helpful for everyone who uses it and please send me feedback about it so I can improve it.

Aaron Zeckowski
aaronz@vt.edu

9. Sakai 2.3 Now on New EduTools Site

The review of Sakai 2.3 is now live on the EduTools Course Management System (CMS) website.

EduTools has launched a new community focused site that supports Course Management System (CMS) feature comparison and community discussions of each product. EduTools has been working on a new site for months to solve two long-standing issues: Keeping product information up-to-date and facilitating wider community involvement. Each product review page now has a linked discussion forum where users can have conversations about the product's features. I would like to invite you to join me in participating in the discussion forums, as they take off. Both adopters and product providers will benefit from healthy dialogue about CMS functionality.

Sakai was invited to be one of the first products on the new site to help provide a balance of options to potential CMS adopters. I have completed and published a comprehensive review of Sakai 2.3, including provisional tools and new development work that is going on within the Sakai community for an informed, inclusive review.

Go to: http://www.edutools.info/item_list.jsp?pj=4

You can check and compare any two or more products, side-by-side. Or, click on Sakai 2.3 for a review of its capabilities. I have provided a great deal of details so it should be helpful to interested adopters, RFP's, etc.

I have accepted the responsibility of continuing to update the Sakai reviews on the EduTools site. The new website allows me to update and publish content at any time, so please feel free to contact me with revisions or additions.

Thanks to everyone who contributed text and information for the EduTools review.

Vivie Sinou
ETUDES Consortium Project
Foothill College
SinouVivie@foothill.edu

10. Talk by Josh Baron: Sakai: A New Model for Innovation in the Design, Development and Support of Learning Environments

Josh Baron, Director of Academic Technology and eLearning at Marist College, presented a talk titled "Sakai: A New Model for Innovation in the Design, Development and Support of Learning Environments" at this year's Sloan Consortium distance learning conference (The Power of Online Learning: Realizing the Vision).

This conference is attended primarily by faculty and faculty support staff who are involved in running small to large scale distance learning programs. Despite being scheduled for the very last conference session on Friday afternoon, the presentation was

well attended with many indicating that they were interested in bringing Sakai to their institutions.

Session Abstract: The "community source" model upon which the Sakai Project is based has the potential to drive remarkable innovation in today's learning environments. This presentation will discuss the strengths/weaknesses of this model, implications for future innovation and share lessons learned from our recent implementation of Sakai and the Open Source Portfolio."

Joshua Baron
Marist College
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11. Institutions Continue to Select rSmart for Open Source e-Learning Solutions

The rSmart Group Inc., the first provider of commercial support for the open source collaboration and learning environment Sakai, has announced that it would begin providing commercial support and its rSmart Sakai CLE, a Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE), to three separate institutions across the globe: The Georgia Institute of Technology, The University of Windsor, and The University of Limerick.

The Georgia Institute of Technology

Atlanta, Georgia is piloting the rSmart Sakai CLE this fall and evaluating it as a full replacement for its proprietary course management system. Several factors have led Georgia Tech to this decision including the robust nature of the Sakai tools for collaboration, the commercial support offered by rSmart and the freedom from vendor lock-in that is common with traditional proprietary software vendors. Donna Llewellyn, Director of Georgia Tech's Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, said, "rSmart was a key factor in our decision to pilot Sakai on our campus. With rSmart's support we expect to be able to test out Sakai in a number of courses without first ramping up our internal support."

University of Windsor

Windsor, Ontario, Canada is receiving commercial support for Sakai from rSmart after spending several months running the Sakai solution without formal commercial support. The University of Windsor has hired the rSmart Group to help provide commercial support for its pioneering Sakai open-source learning system, said Purita Bristow, Manager - Information Systems Services. "We felt it was the right business decision for the institution to establish a more traditional partnership for support," added Bristow. "rSmart's commercial support for Sakai is outstanding and the firm's strong reputation in the Sakai community gave us a lot of confidence in their ability to deliver service that meets our needs." The open-source software learning model enables the university to craft an information system to meet its unique needs and to work in partnership with

other post-secondary institutions, such as the University of Michigan, Indiana University, and Stanford University.

University of Limerick

Limerick, Ireland is piloting the rSmart Sakai CLE this fall. The University is utilizing rSmart's on-demand 'hosted' solution and will be integrating the CLE with their LDAP and Student Information Systems. "We have carefully followed the progress of the Sakai Community and believe that deploying this solution with rSmart allows us to deploy a Sakai product that is very user friendly and a solution that can be hosted through rSmart providing us greater flexibility, security, and an overall lower total cost of ownership than is available through proprietary solutions," said Gordon Young, IT Director, University of Limerick. "Our rSmart Sakai CLE continues to be the most successful commercial open source enterprise application for education, and it is paving the way for a fundamental shift in the development and business of software in Education," said Chris Coppola, President and Co-Founder of The rSmart Group. "Our ability to bring these geographically diverse customers on board clearly shows the market demand for an alternative that better meets the needs of colleges and universities around the world."

12. Unicon's New Sakai Cooperative Support Program Debuts with University of the Arts

Institutions Receive Priority Technical Support While Contributing to the Sakai Community

Unicon, Inc., has announced that University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has become a member of Unicon's innovative new Sakai Cooperative Support Program for higher education. Under the unique program, Unicon has established a dedicated expert technical team of development and support specialists for Sakai that will provide direct support and assistance to individual member institutions in the program. This new cooperative support program is consistent with the open source philosophy of contributing features and fixes towards the overall progress of the Sakai Project, as the resulting enhancements will be shared with the open source community. It also addresses individual institution's need for a predictable cost support solution for Sakai.

Participation in the program requires an annual membership fee that enables institutions to access the support services and also funds a dedicated support and development team. Support issues are managed on a priority basis with an escalation mechanism available for high priority issues. All development work performed by the team will be undertaken in direct participation with the community source Sakai project. The Sakai Cooperative Support Program is a strong complement to Unicon's professional services for Sakai, which include various bundled services comprised of implementation, project planning, installation, configuration, branding, and training components.

“It is challenging and costly to find and maintain full-time technical personnel that have both the in-depth knowledge and experience with Sakai and other important related applications,” said Jack Post, director of administrative computing for University of the Arts. “Unicon’s Sakai Cooperative Support Program is an ideal model for us because it provides us with direct access to industry-leading experts that quickly resolve our problems and help keep our online campus operating smoothly.”

Unicon's innovative service offerings make the benefits of Sakai software even more accessible to many types of colleges and universities. This offering is exactly the kind of support innovation envisioned by the Sakai Board when we established the Sakai Commercial Affiliates of which Unicon was a founding member,” stated Brad Wheeler, Sakai Board Vice Chair. “The approach of this program also reflects the community values of the Sakai Foundation where we share our work for the betterment of all.”

Unicon’s Sakai Cooperative Support Program provides Institutions with:

- * An experienced, reliable vendor accountable for their Sakai deployment.
- * Help with Sakai production issues.
- * Direct and timely assistance with reported software defects.
- * Answers and advice to general product questions.
- * Ongoing software maintenance for past, present and future releases of Sakai.
- * The ability to influence code development priorities for future Sakai releases.
- * Visibility into the support team’s activities.

13. Strategy-Advocacy Articles on the Innovate Journal of Online Education

In "Open Source, Openness, and Higher Education" David Wiley provides an overview of open source and the idea of openness in academe:

<http://www.innovateonline.info/index.php?view=article&id=323>

In "Getting Open Source Software into Schools: Strategies and Challenges" Gary Hepburn and Jan Buley outline some of the perennial challenges university's face when advocating for open source solutions.

<http://www.innovateonline.info/index.php?view=article&id=323>

Luke Fernandez
lfernandez@weber.edu

14. New Video from Charles Severance: Using OSP at Alfa College

<http://www.dr-chuck.com/media.php?id=73>

In this video we visit Alfa College in Groningen, Netherlands where students are using Sakai and the Open Source Portfolio (OSP) to track their learning. We visit with Sieger Steenbergen and Oebele Malawer who describe how they teach and assess the students using OSP. OSP is supported at Alfa College by Jim Doherty of portfolio4u.nl. OSP replaced an older paper portfolio system that accumulated rooms of paper.

15. Jira/Confluence Account Creation: Change in Process

Due to an increase in fake accounts being used to post spam in Sakai's Jira and Confluence systems we have disabled self-registration. If you need an account, please contact either one of the following (Jira and Confluence share their user database) and request an account:

jira-admins@collab.sakaiproject.org

or

confluence-admins@collab.sakaiproject.org

The account you receive will work for both Jira and Confluence. The username will by default be the email address you supply, and an initial password will be sent to that address. This is not an automated process, so it may take some time for an individual to get to your request.

Thank you.

Peter Knoop
Sakai Project Coordinator
knoop@umich.edu

16. Job Opening: Web Designer and Programmer at University of Virginia

The Arts & Sciences Center for Instructional Technologies has an open position, as listed below. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please give them a heads up and refer them to me. Thank you.

Rachel Mann
res4n@virginia.edu

Job Title: Information Technology Specialist II (Programmer/Analyst)
Working Title: Web Designer & Programmer
Posting #: AS CINT J05CC 002
Salary Range: \$ 37,869 to \$ 77,720
Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Criteria: This position supports faculty development initiatives on the part of ASCIT and helps faculty integrate the use of new technologies into their teaching and research. This position develops and maintains all center websites, programs internal tools for inventory management and customer service delivery, programs and designs web-based course tools, consults on the College Technology Practicum (CTP), provides training workshops and presentations on web development to College faculty and interns in the TTSP and CTP program, and collaborates with other digital centers and groups on the development and normalization of teaching and research web tools. This position requires knowledge of Windows operating systems, html, CSS, pHp, mySQLand, xml, Flash, and javascript. A demonstrated ability to learn other programming languages as needed, such as Cold Fusion and perl is required. Knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and scanning technologies is preferred, as is graphic and web design experience. Experience working with client group in development of web sites, knowledge of instructional design, and good interpersonal and communication skills are also required. A Bachelor's degree is preferred. Experience designing and developing and programming websites using pHp, mySQL, javascript, xml, Flash, and CSS. Experience implementing technology in an educational setting a plus.

Description: Design, develop, maintain and enhance computer and related manual systems. Confer with users to define needs. Perform full range of systems development life cycle tasks. To be competitive, applicants should have Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or equivalent and significant programming experience.

Develop Web Pages, Multimedia Applications; Perform Web Site Design, Graphic Design; Write HTML, Javascript, PHP, XML; Develop, Use Flash

17. Job Opening: Learning Systems Manager at Claremont Colleges

The Claremont Colleges are looking for a Learning Systems Manager to oversee and develop our Sakai system. We are in production with Sakai 2.2 this semester and plan to migrate to 2.3 for next semester. Currently we peak at over 250 simultaneous users and anticipate that number will grow substantially over the next year as we begin migration of our WebCT and Moodle users. We expect the person in this position to develop modules for Sakai and OSP, and to contribute these back to the community.

Please see below for an advertisement and visit <http://www.hmc.edu/admin/bao/humres/jobs.html> for a complete job description. If you have any questions about the position or our implementation, please feel free to contact me directly. Thanks.

Richard Parker, Ph.D.
909-621-8613
Richard_Parker@hmc.edu

Harvey Mudd College Learning System Manager

If you are looking for one of the most challenging jobs you'll ever love; if you want to work with seven of the country's most prestigious institutions of higher education, helping to meet the instructional needs of outstanding, creative faculty and some of the nation's brightest students, then read on!

A consortium of seven prestigious colleges will challenge the right computing professional to deliver Sakai, a sophisticated, open source, Java-based collaborative learning environment; to develop a Service Oriented Architecture and integrate Sakai with Jenzabar CX and PeopleSoft ERPs; to modify and develop modules in Java for Sakai to meet the instructional needs of faculty and students.

The Claremont Colleges, located about 35 miles east of Los Angeles, is comprised of five undergraduate colleges: Harvey Mudd College, Scripps College, Pomona College, Pitzer College and Claremont McKenna College; and two graduate institutions: Keck Graduate Institute and Claremont Graduate University. The Colleges use Sakai (www.sakaiproject.org) to support our educational missions. Consider the challenges – wouldn't YOU like to work with some of the brightest people on such an important task?

18. Job Opening: Technology Training Coordinator, ETUDES Consortium Project at Foothill College

The Foothill-De Anza Community College District is currently accepting applications for Technology Training Coordinator, ETUDES Consortium Project, Foothill College.

Closing Date: 12/01/06

Brief Position Description:

Under the direction of the supervisor, provide leadership, strategic planning, coordination of a statewide technology training program, and the usability of learning technology tools. Work closely with consortium, project staff and industry experts to research, develop, manage, and implement new technology training programs. Deliver on-site and online training and provide support to consortium users and staff via online forums, collaboration tools, and e-mail. Consult with consortium trainers and technicians to resolve usability issues with technology.

For more information on job duties and responsibilities, please visit:
<http://hr.fhda.edu/employment/staff>

Salary: \$5,147.38/mo.

Position: Full-time, Grant Funded, 12 months per year

Starting date: As soon as possible upon completion of the search process
Excellent benefits package, which includes full cost medical coverage

Vivie Sinou
Dean, Learning Technology & Innovations ETUDES Consortium Project
Foothill College

19. Events

6th Sakai Conference
December 5 - 8, 2006
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, Georgia
http://www.sakaiproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=418&Itemid=567

LAMS Conference 2006
First International Learning Activity Management System (LAMS)
Conference December 6 - 8, 2006
Conservatorium of Music
University of Sydney
<http://lamsfoundation.org/lams2006/index.htm>

eLearning Africa 2007
KICC - The Kenyatta International Conference Centre
May 28 - 30, 2007
Nairobi, Kenya
<http://www.elearning-africa.com>

Sakai Amsterdam Conference
Movenpick Hotel Amsterdam City Center
June 12 - 14, 2007
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.sakaiproject.org