

Date: Mon, 04 Jun 2007 14:46:22 -0400
From: "Mary Miles" <mmiles@umich.edu>
Subject: Sakai Foundation announces new Executive Director
To: <announcements@collab.sakaiproject.org>,
<advocacy@collab.sakaiproject.org>, <partners@collab.sakaiproject.org>
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Message being sent on behalf of John Norman, Chair, Sakai Board of Directors...

Sakai Foundation announces new Executive Director.

After a thorough search I am pleased to announce, on behalf of the Board of Directors, that Michael Korcuska has been named Executive Director of the Sakai Foundation, effective July 23, 2007. In this role, he will lead the Foundation's activities in developing technology, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration on behalf of the Sakai community.

"Michael has an intense passion for Sakai's mission and purpose, a disposition and leadership style that will work well in our collaborative, energetic community. He has a great track record managing software-focused operations for learning that provide him a great base of experience to draw on as he leads us through the entirely new challenges of this ground-breaking initiative. I'm excited that we've been able to pair this exceptional community and an exceptional individual like Michael to lead us." Chris Coppola, President, rSmart Group and Sakai Board

"Michael's experience with large scale software development and the culture of higher education are an excellent fit for the growing Sakai Community. He understands the Sakai vision and can help our community continue to achieve it." Brad Wheeler, CIO, Indiana University and Sakai Board.

"I look forward to working with Michael to build on the fantastic efforts of the founding institutions and the first years of the Sakai Foundation. Michael is an ideal person to develop the shared vision of the Sakai community for a new model of open, collaborative development in higher education and to lead the Foundation as the facilitator of that future." John Norman, Sakai Board Chair

Michael has a long and distinguished career in educational technology, which began over twenty years ago at Stanford University's Courseware Authoring Tools Group and Apple Computer's Multimedia Lab. Throughout this time he has served in a wide variety of roles relevant to Sakai including software engineering, product management, instructional design and information technology management. Michael most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer at Employment Law Training, based in San Francisco and delivering an e-Learning service to 500+ customers and 600,000+ learners. Michael previously held positions of leadership and technology innovation at DigitalThink, Cognitive Arts Corporation and the Institute for Learning Sciences at Northwestern University. He has an M.S. in Computer Science from Northwestern University, and a B.S. in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University, two universities that are, coincidentally, members of the Sakai Foundation. He has also recently been contributing, as a volunteer, to the Sakai Requirements working group.

"Sakai is one of the most important technology efforts in higher education

today and it is an honor to be joining the community.

Everyone has collaborated to create a tremendous foundation, both in terms of product and community, and I look forward to helping the community realize the full potential of Sakai" said Michael. "I especially want to thank Chuck Severance, whose leadership as Chief Architect and Executive Director has made this incredible opportunity possible and has already provided invaluable assistance as we begin this transition."

Michael will be attending the upcoming conference in Amsterdam where he looks forward to meeting and listening to as many members of the community as possible. Chuck Severance has kindly agreed to stay on as Executive Director until Michael takes up the post in July.

John Norman
Chairman,
Sakai Board of Directors

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Attachments:

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