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New UMD VP of Information Technology: Brian Voss, IT Leader in Higher Education

Voss Looks to IT To Gain Strategic Advantage

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - The University of Maryland has named Brian D. Voss as its new vice president of information technology (IT) and chief information officer (CIO). His IT experience spans 25 years, much of it spent in leadership positions at public, flagship, research universities.

Voss has been active in major national higher education technology initiatives, and is a nationally recognized leader in cybersecurity, cyberinfrastructure, IT strategy and disaster recovery planning.

Currently, he serves as Louisiana State University's (LSU) first-ever vice chancellor for information technology.

Voss begins at Maryland in August 2011.

Brian D. Voss
Credit: IU

At LSU for the past six years and at Indiana University (IU) for nearly 20 years before that, Voss has been instrumental in the use of IT in transforming the institution's environment.

Among his recent areas of focus at Louisiana, Voss includes: IT strategic planning and governance; expanding cyberinfrastructure to support emerging research needs, especially in the area of high-performance computing and networking; shifting campus IT services and applications to "the cloud" to improve effectiveness and cut costs; and expanding opportunities for online education and support of classroom teaching and learning.

Voss also was involved in the LSU effort to aid recovery in Louisiana following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and gained recognition nationally for his experiences in IT disaster planning.

"Information technology is the central nervous system of a major public research institution, and vital to our statewide service mission," says University of Maryland President Wallace Loh. "Brian's experience, approach and leadership will keep us on the path to a first-class information technology infrastructure. We're fortunate to have someone of Brian's stature at the helm."

Philosophically, Voss describes himself as a believer in "user-centric, community-driven IT planning and governance," implemented with a "nurturing leadership style." He embraces the principle of *IT abundance* - providing an environment that features advanced technology readily

available to the university community. Also, Voss advocates *humanware* - ensuring that investments in hardware and software are well supported by the human resources needed to get the most value possible from the IT environment.

"All areas of IT must be addressed to help the institution move forward; no one area can be addressed at the expense of another," Voss stresses.

On the national stage, Voss has actively collaborated with other higher education institutions and organizations, particularly on issues of cybersecurity and cyberinfrastructure. He has served on key advisory boards, councils, management groups, as well as organizations such as EDUCAUSE, Internet2, ACUTA, Campus Technology, Microsoft, and REN-ISAC.

Among his IT initiatives, Voss notes his role securing more than $10 million in funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the past decade, helping both IU and LSU become part of the national Teragrid - an NSF network extending high-performance computing.

Voss led efforts at LSU to adopt the open source Moodle Learning Management system, helping teachers create instructional web sites and doing so on a large scale without increasing costs. While at Indiana, he helped pioneer the campus/enterprise software licensing model - with Microsoft as the prime example - providing access to a broad suite of products for the entire campus community; this model is widely used today and benefits many universities nationally.

His publications span the IT discipline, including IT support models and best practices; campus networking (wireless and wired infrastructure) and regional and national optical networking; disaster recovery and campus crisis notification; cyberinfrastructure for research; cybersecurity and policy; and IT leadership.

"The pace of technological advance, as well as growing challenges, such as cybersecurity, demand that universities like Maryland remain lithe, responsive and yet prudent in their deployment of IT," Voss adds. "I am very pleased to join the Maryland team, as I believe President Loh and the campus community grasps the critical role that IT plays in the strategic advance of a public, flagship, research university in the 21st century."

Voss will succeed interim IT vice president and CIO Joseph JaJa, and the late Jeffrey Huskamp.

Biography: Brian D. Voss

Brian D. Voss has been appointed as Vice President of information technology and chief information officer (CIO) at the University of Maryland. He currently serves as vice chancellor for information technology and CIO for Louisiana State University (LSU), at the flagship A&M campus in Baton Rouge.

Brian joined LSU in April 2005, where he leads the *Information Technology Services* organization and is responsible for university information systems, networking and infrastructure, research IT enablement, user support services and student IT enablement. Brian also has oversight of the Louisiana Board of Regents' *Louisiana Library Network* (LOUIS) initiative, and oversight of operations for the Regent's *Louisiana Optical Networking Initiative* (LONI) – a regional optical network and grid computing environment. He has over 25 years of leadership experience in

Brian D. Voss
Credit: IU

information technology both in higher education and in the private sector, and is recognized as a leading CIO in higher education.

Brian is the architect of LSU's *Flagship IT Strategy* and is responsible for leading its implementation. He is principal investigator on the LSU's 'BIPAS' project, a National Science Foundation funded effort to expand cyberinfrastructure connectivity on the LSU campus in a secure fashion advancing research collaboration. He is co-principal investigator on the LSU/LONI project that was funded by the NSF in 2007 to bring LONI's High Performanc Computing resources into the national TeraGrid (a key part of the nation's cyberinfrastructure supporting research); this was the second institution with which he has led TeraGrid connectivity (he did so at Indiana University in 2003). His efforts at advancing the state of IT-security at LSU have led to the institution's close involvement in supporting Indiana University's operation of the Research and Education Network Information Sharing & Analysis Center (REN-ISAC) – part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's national ISAC structure.

Throughout his career, Brian has been part of several ground-breaking IT initiatives, including enterprise software licensing strategies employed by major vendors (like Microsoft), LSU's program for credit monitoring with Equifax, and LSU's migration to the open source Moodle learning management system.

Brian serves on several national councils and advisory groups for information technology in higher education and has a long history of service to the community. He currently chairs the *REN-ISAC Executive Advisory Group*, serves on the *Association for Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Education* (ACUTA) *Advisory Council* and on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Campus Technology*, and he is an elected member of the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) IT Steering Committee.

Brian is also completing an appointment as a member of the *National Science Foundation Advisory Committee on Cyberinfrastructure (ACCI) Campus Bridging Task Force*. Brian's past service includes having been a member of *Microsoft's Higher Education Advisory Group,* co-chair of the EDUCAUSE/Internet2 *Higher Education Information Security Council (HEISC)*, deputy chair and a founding member of the *REN-ISAC Executive Advisory Group*, an elected

CIO representative to the Internet2 *Architecture and Operations Advisory Council* and he was a past member of the *Internet2 Abilene Executive Committee*.

Brian serves as a member of the LONI Management Council and previously served as the Louisiana Board of Regents' representative to the *National LambdaRail (NLR) Board of Directors*; he was also involved in the founding of NLR in 2003, representing the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) CIO group from his position at Indiana University.

Before joining LSU, Brian served as the associate vice president for information technology (Telecommunications) at Indiana University; his responsibilities included oversight of Indiana's Global Network Operations Center and Network Engineering group, providing a suite of services to NLR, Internet2, and other national and international high-performance research networks. He led initiatives that were the recipient of two EDUCAUSE excellence awards for IU's work in advanced networks (I-Light) and online IT support systems (The KB – Knowledgebase). While AVP, he also was chief operating officer for the Pervasive Technology Labs – a Lilly Endowment grant-funded, economic development-fostering initiative focused on developing that State's IT economy and reputation.

Brian is well known nationally as a result of his many publications and presentations. His contributions span a broad set of topics, ranging from cyberinfrastructure and high performance computing environments, IT-enabled research, telecommunications and advanced research networking, IT support and pervasive computing, economic development impact of IT, IT leadership, IT Strategic Planning, IT security and policy, and disaster impacts on business/IT continuity planning.

Brian is an engineer by training, and graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Industrial Engineering.