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NPACI'S Education Center on Computational Science and Engineering

Building a Bridge Between High Performance Computing and the Undergraduate Curriculum

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY—On October 10, 1997, members of the National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (NPACI) community are invited to an open house of the newly established Education Center on Computational Science and Engineering (EC/CSE) at San Diego State University (SDSU). The EC/CSE will incorporate high-performance research tools into the undergraduate curriculum at SDSU in an effort to better prepare students for post-baccalaureate activities where computer technologies of the future will be integral tools in scientific research and problem solving.

The Education Center is part of the NPACI, funding for which begins October 1 with the official start of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Partnerships for Advanced Computational Infrastructure (PACI) program.

As part of NPACI's collaborative education, outreach, and training (EOT) activities with the National Computational Science Alliance (the Alliance), the EC/CSE will offer students and faculty access to state-of-the art programs and technologies being developed throughout NPACI and the Alliance. Led by NPACI partner Kris Stewart, EC/CSE will sponsor workshops and faculty seminars on the effective use of advanced computing tools. Two projects, MICE—Molecular Interactive Collaborative Environment—and the Biology Workshop are already being prepared for use in the Education Center. MICE is being developed at SDSC for molecular modeling, interactive visualization, and researcher collaboration. The Biology Workbench has been developed at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) to support remote identification and manipulation of protein sequences.



In addition to scientific applications, the Education Center will focus on introducing high performance computing applications to disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. Stewart has conducted a series of presentations for the Deans of SDSU over the past few months, to begin communication with faculty and college support staff about resources and training available through the EC/CSE.

At the Education Center's open house—October 10 at 3:00pm—visitors can view online demonstrations from the NPACI thrust areas of molecular science, neuroscience, earth systems science, and engineering. The EC/CSE is housed in the Library Annex, Room 73, on the SDSU campus. All who are interested in visiting and learning more about the new NPACI resource are urged to attend and celebrate the Center's opening. For more information, please contact the Education Center at edcenter@sdsu.edu.

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