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nmc highlights 2004

Major Events

- Director's Meeting and Collaboration Marketplace, February 2004 in Austin, Texas.
- NMC Summer Conference hosted by the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.
- Annual NMC Directors' Dinner & Dialog with the NMC Board of Directors, held in June in Vancouver.
- Three online conferences with more than 725 attendees from 14 countries: The NMC Online Conference on Learning Objects, held in October; the Spring Online Conference, held in March; and a special online conference held in conjunction with the 2004 Summer Conference.

Major Projects and Activities

- The Dynamic Knowledge Communities Initiative (DKC) launched in October 2003, with a major new section on the NMC website devoted to communities of practice, knowledge objects, knowledge sharing and tools, blogs and RSS, and other related activities. A number of prototypical knowledge webs have been developed, including the social computing infrastructure of the Pachyderm Project. The new series of online conferences were the first major events held under the umbrella of this initiative.
- The Pachyderm 2.0 Project is ahead of schedule with the beta version scheduled to be released for testing within the NMC in January 2005. This multi-million dollar, 3-year effort, supported by the IMLS, is a collaboration of 12 NMC universities and museums to develop an open-source authoring environment for media-rich online learning experiences.
- The 2005 Advisory Board of the Horizon Project launched work on the 2005 Horizon Report, scheduled for release in January 2005.

Collaborations and Partnerships

- The Horizon Project VCOP (Virtual Community of Practice), a collaboration with NLII that will build on the work of the Horizon Project, was announced at the 2004 NMC Summer Conference.
- A Collaboration Marketplace was held in Austin, Texas to provide NMC members the opportunity to share project ideas and develop project-related linkages among the membership.
- Five new corporate partners were added: Distinguished Partners iCohere and Sony Pictures Digital; and Supporting Partners Avid Technology, Inc., Hippasus, and Thomson Course Technology.

Grants & Funded Projects

- A \$499,500 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Leadership Grants program was received in October 2003 to support the work of the Pachyderm Project over a three-year period. The resources provided by this grant, along with more than \$3 million in support of the creation of a new, open source authoring environment for creators of learning objects and other forms of multimedia and online learning experiences.
- A \$30,000 grant from Adobe will support curricular projects within NMC institutions that explore the potential of Adobe Atmosphere.
- Special grants from Corel and McGraw Hill supported the *2004 Horizon Report* and the *Guidelines for Authors of Learning Objects*.
- A variety of smaller grants funded surveys, focus groups, and other activities.

Monographs and Reports

- The 2004 Horizon Report
- Guidelines for Authors of Learning Objects
- Annual NMC Salary Survey

Website Expansions and Enhancements

- Major expansions and additions to the NMC website continue. The site is home to an extensive and growing collection of content supporting NMC initiatives, comprehensive information about NMC activities, and dozens of examples of member projects.
- The Dynamic Online Gallery of Member Projects was launched, with an initial collection highlighting some 75 member projects and programs. A new subset of these projects is presented each time a visitor views the page.
- A variety of weblogs were launched: *NMC News* (items of interest related to NMC projects, events, and activities); *NMC Ideas* (a discussion forum); as well as others in support of a variety of major projects, such as the *Pachyblog*.