Advanced Notice of Intent to Submit an Outstanding Accomplishment Awards - UCAR Point of Presence (UPoP)

a) a brief abstract describing the nomination

Nominees: Bev Broach, Jeff Custard, Lisha Kramer, Marla Meehl, Amy Moore, Gina Taberski, David Waltman

The team above undertook the development and construction of a new entity called the UCAR Point of Presence (UPoP). The UPoP is a consortium of Universities, K-20s, non-profit corporations, and government agencies that cooperate in an aggregation point called the UPoP in order to share Wide Area Networking (WAN) services, access to the commodity Internet, access to the Abilene (I2) research network, and access to the National LambdaRail (NLR). The current members are listed on the UPoP Members page and are:

- **AHEC** - Auraria Higher Education Center
- **BVSD** - Boulder Valley School District
- **Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services (CBOCES)**
- **City of Boulder**
- City and County of Denver
- **CMC** - Colorado Mountain College
- **Deproduction**
- **Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA)**
- **ESS** - Educational Support Services
  - San Luis
  - Montrose-AHEC
  - Greeley-AHEC
  - Western-AHEC
  - Craig Memorial-AHEC
  - SW Health Hospital
  - Pueblo CC
- **MSCD** - Metropolitan State College of Denver
- **St. Mary's Academy**

Pending members currently are:
- Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries (CARL)
- Regis High School
- Colorado Springs K-12s
- CBOCES continued growth
This project required the vision to see a role for UCAR, the approval of UCAR to proceed, the development of policies, procedures, agreements, invoicing techniques, and undertaking the education of the users as well as encouraging their commitment to the new enterprise.

There are a number of advantages gained by sharing services through such a consortium. Costs for WAN services are reduced for each partner, expertise among partners can be shared, a higher level of services can be purchased than individual institutions could afford, there is more buying power among a consortium, and there are great economies of scale. All of this leads to much better wide area networking than what individual members could provide on their own to their users. NCAR/UCAR has agreed to provide the engineering, administrative, and NOC support for the UPoP. The service costs incurred by NCAR/UCAR are shared by all members. NETS believes that the greater service and bandwidth provided through the UPoP are important enough for NCAR/UCAR to participate and provide the engineering, administrative, and NOC services.

From the early stages of planning the UPoP, the administrative team has been involved in determining the appropriateness of NCAR/UCAR's involvement in administering this effort. Once it was deemed appropriate for NCAR/UCAR to administer the UPoP, it required many hours of meetings with the UPoP members to hammer out the agreement details and more hours hammering out the financial specifics. Setting up the actual agreements, the financial spreadsheets, and the accounting system were all major efforts that required extensive time, commitment, and expertise.

Bev Broach and Gina Taberski's Contribution
Gina and Bev showed endless commitment to assuring the appropriate nature of this activity and then spent many hours developing and fine-tuning the agreements to meet all the partner's requirements. Their patience, expertise, attention to detail, and dedication are incredible. This is an ongoing effort as each new partner joins and as new contractual issues arise, and Gina and Bev continue to show the same excellent level of performance.

Amy Moore and Dave Waltman's Contribution
Amy and Dave are the NETS lead in setting up the financial spreadsheets that guarantee that the costs are passed on and recovered correctly. Amy and Dave also acts as the liaison between the technical participants and UCAR F&A staff. Amy and Dave have been involved in this effort from the very beginning and their patience, expertise, attention to detail, and dedication to this project are incredible. This is an extremely complicated set of agreements and cost allocations that have and continue to require advanced expertise to design, develop, and track the process. This is an ongoing effort as each new partner joins and as new services and costs are incurred, and Amy and Dave continue to show the same excellent level of performance.

Lisha Kramer's Contribution
Lisha is the lead in setting up the invoicing and accounting that guarantee the costs are passed on and recovered correctly. Lisha has made some excellent recommendations for setting up the budgets efficiently and as simply as possible, and has been very patient with the endless questions and
complexities. This is an extremely complicated set of agreements and cost allocations that have and continue to require advanced expertise to design, develop, and track the process. This is an ongoing effort as each new partner joins and as new services and costs are incurred, and Lisha continues to show the same excellent level of performance.

Jeff Custard's Contribution
Jeff is the lead engineer on this project. Jeff has worked with each member to transition to the UPoP from the technical and engineering aspect. Jeff has worked through many technical issues and has maintained a high level of customer service throughout. Each new member requires individual expertise and coordination. Jeff has also established excellent relationships with the required vendors. Jeff continues to show an ongoing excellent level of performance.

Marla Meehl's Contribution
Marla is the project lead, and it was her vision to establish the UPoP to serve and advance the broader Colorado K-20 community's networking needs. Marla has coordinated all efforts for the UPoP as discussed above from establishing agreements, to accounting policies and procedures, to working with UPoP members and vendors as needed. Marla is committed to this effort and other efforts to advance and expand the research and education community's networking capabilities in Colorado.

The UPoP has already proven to be a very valuable project since its launch on May 1, 2007. The value to the State education community is great. The value to UCAR in its role of education and outreach has been received very positively by the community. The improved networking enhances the ability of the K-20 community to participate in science and math education over the Internet.

UCAR believes strongly that it is in the best interest of the Colorado research and education community to interconnect. This maximizes intra-FRGP/intra-UPoP traffic, which is not rate-limited, keeping all of this network traffic in State; this maximizes performance and builds a sense of community. The economies of scale of this operation saves UPoP members money as well as lowering UCAR and other FRGP member costs.

b) an explanation as to which category it fits into

This nomination fits into the Administrative Achievement category.

c) how it will meet the criteria of the chosen category of the nomination.

This nomination fits the criteria by showing outstanding leadership and professional excellence in administrative support. The UPoP has resulted in substantial and innovative achievement in service to a new set of constituents and customers. It was the leadership and professional excellence of the team that led to the success of this project.
The UPoP project fits all three judgment criteria:

(a) innovation and creativity - this is a completely new arena for UCAR and required innovation and creativity in envisioning, presenting, designing, and deploying this service to fit multiple requirements and constraints introduced by the users and UCAR;

(b) degree of difficulty/magnitude of effort - this was a large and complicated project involving a number of UCAR approvals and the involvement of many administrative components as well as multiple customers involved in order to make this happen. There was a hard deadline to bring the service up so an aggressive schedule was required. There were a number of technical challenges to overcome as well as a number of administrative challenges to overcome.