

## **CyberInfrastructure (CI) Days at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs): A MSI-CIEC Update in a Changing Climate**

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### **Abstract**

Elements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the “Stimulus Bill”, and the renewal of the Higher Education Act, related to information technology (IT), broadband, and science provide a new context, opportunities and obstacles for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and their campus CyberInfrastructure (CI), as well as the national CI, including TeraGrid (TG). Working directly with MSIs to: raise executive and faculty awareness about CI; explore possible engagement strategies for CI, and initiate strategic planning for such engagement has new significance for MSIs, CI and TG. A major function of the NSF CI TEAM, Minority Serving Institutions- CyberInfrastructure Empowerment Coalition (MSI-CIEC) undertakes this effort through campus visits and assessments, referred to as CI Days. This presentation addresses MSI-CIEC and the CI Days models as well as the potential of utilizing CI to enhance the quality of research and education with added benefits for impacting recruitment and retention at MSIs with implications for all institutions. We address this broader context, its relationship to prior CI Days, their specific outcomes, and significance of the lessons learned. The need for campuses to understand the strategic importance of CI, like partnering with TeraGrid, extends beyond MSIs, and is the purpose of a collaboration of Internet2, National Lambda Rail, Educause, Open Science Grid and TeraGrid in which MSI-CIEC participates. MSIs are an efficient, and as some of the data indicate, an effective venue for educating and broadening the participation of underrepresented minorities, African American, Native American and Hispanics, in CI, the TeraGrid, and STEM.