

*For Immediate Release*  
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## **Great Plains Network Launches Professional Development Program for Research & Education Community**

Beginning in September, 2011, the Great Plains Network (GPN) will be launching a web-based **Professional Development Program** for faculty and staff at member institutions and GPN Network Participants. Planned topics are in areas of advanced networking, high performance computing, data life cycle management, and other aspects of advanced technology, critical to advancing the missions of the higher education community. Each program will be brief--60 to 90 minutes--and will be interactive.

"The GPN Professional Development program will put us in touch with the latest developments in advanced network technology," explained **Bill Mitchell**, GPN Executive Director. **Rick McMullen**, of the **University of Kansas** and Chair of **GPN's Cyberinfrastructure Program** added that ""Developing a shared understanding of new CI and IT technologies and how they can advance our institutional missions opens up the possibility of cost-sharing and efficient adoption of game-changing CI across the region."

The Professional Development Program was piloted over the summer with speakers from **Internet2**, **InCommon** and **VisiMeet**. Since then the GPN community has been polled for recommendations for speakers and topics for the Fall and Spring Semesters. Speakers from Internet2, the **University of Chicago**, the **National Center for Supercomputing Applications**, as well as industry partners like **Adva Optical** will cover topics related to new services, trends in Research and Education Networking, advanced computing applications and more. The schedule of sessions is updated at <http://www.greatplains.net/display/Home/Professional+Development+Program> .

GPN also maintains a calendar of upcoming network and cyberinfrastructure training at their web site ( <http://www.greatplains.net> ).

To receive notifications about GPN and announcements of dates/times of Professional Development meetings or to add an event to the GPN Training calendar, please contact Kate Adams, System Administrator, via email ([kate@greatplains.net](mailto:kate@greatplains.net)).

### **About GPN**

The Great Plains Network (GPN) is dedicated to supporting research and education through the use of advanced networking technology and cyberinfrastructure. GPN membership includes universities in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota.

### **Primary Contact Information**

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