The Amig@s Project

When the Pandemic and the need to keep collaborating joined the Americas (N)RENS for good
Back in January 2019 executive leaders from Research and Education Networks from across the region met in Mexico for the First Summit of Academic Networks of the Americas. Aiming to:

• define a common agenda for the continents, at the highest level, to address:
  • urgent challenges;
  • foster synergies;
  • increase cooperation; and
  • create positive changes for NRENs in the region.
The group met again in the context of the TICAL conference in 2019 in Cancun (Sept. 5) to check out the advances of each NREN and REN and define courses of action one of which was to carry out a series of seminars.

CANARIE, Internet2, and RedCLARA were committed to start working together in order to address the needs defined in January 2019.
WE ARE THE AMIG@S
aka Building a pan-Americas team

• Working Group formed, and met weekly throughout the pandemic

• Built not only a Working Group, but a friendship that created successful outputs and outcomes during a challenging time for everyone

“It’s more important than ever for NRENs to connect… a team of staff from all three organizations committed to regular meetings to explore what we do, who we support, and how we can better share our NRENs’ efforts.”

Ann Doyle
BRINGING THE UNIVERSE TO YOU
June 10, 2021 - RedCLARA
Astronomy collaborations & innovations enabled by NRENs
• 3 speakers (from México, Chile and Brazil)
• 131 participants from 17 countries
• CEO Fireside Chat

https://youtu.be/sHEG0GAuPFE
FROM THE ATMOSPHERE TO THE AMAZON
December 11, 2021 - Internet2

NREN-connected and unconnected researchers focussed on the Amazon
- 2 speakers (from USA and Colombia)
- 62 participants from 12 countries
- CEO Fireside Chat
CONNECTING THE POLES

April 21, 2022 - Canarie

Advancing NREN connectivity to remote regions of the world

• 3 speakers (from Chile and USA)
• 84 participants from 13 countries
• CEO Fireside Chat

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ntU-RWtSi0&t=2s
Initial Projects (continued)

Infographic to explain the AMRENs collaboration

https://www.redclara.net/images/comunidad/es/Americas_NRENs_Infographic_EN.pdf
What we learned

• Extraordinary research collaborations across the continents enabled by NRENs
• The value of connecting to a local NREN and thus to the global NREN, or GREN, is not well-understood
• Given our geographies and funding structures, still many unconnected institutions
• Working relationship among the project team was extraordinary, so...

WHAT'S NEXT?
Next project... the GREN value proposition

• Goal: to promote connecting the unconnected to the GREN
• Projects:
  • A collection of compelling marketing materials that describes the GREN and the value and relevance of connecting to it -- here's a sneak peek: What is the Global Research and Education Network (GREN) - YouTube
  • A website that hosts GREN marketing collateral, a plan to promote it and metrics that track usage
  • A webinar series that highlights tactics and opportunities to connect the unconnected
  • A plan to leverage these materials with decision-makers involved in advancing GREN connectivity in North and South America
THANK YOU!

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