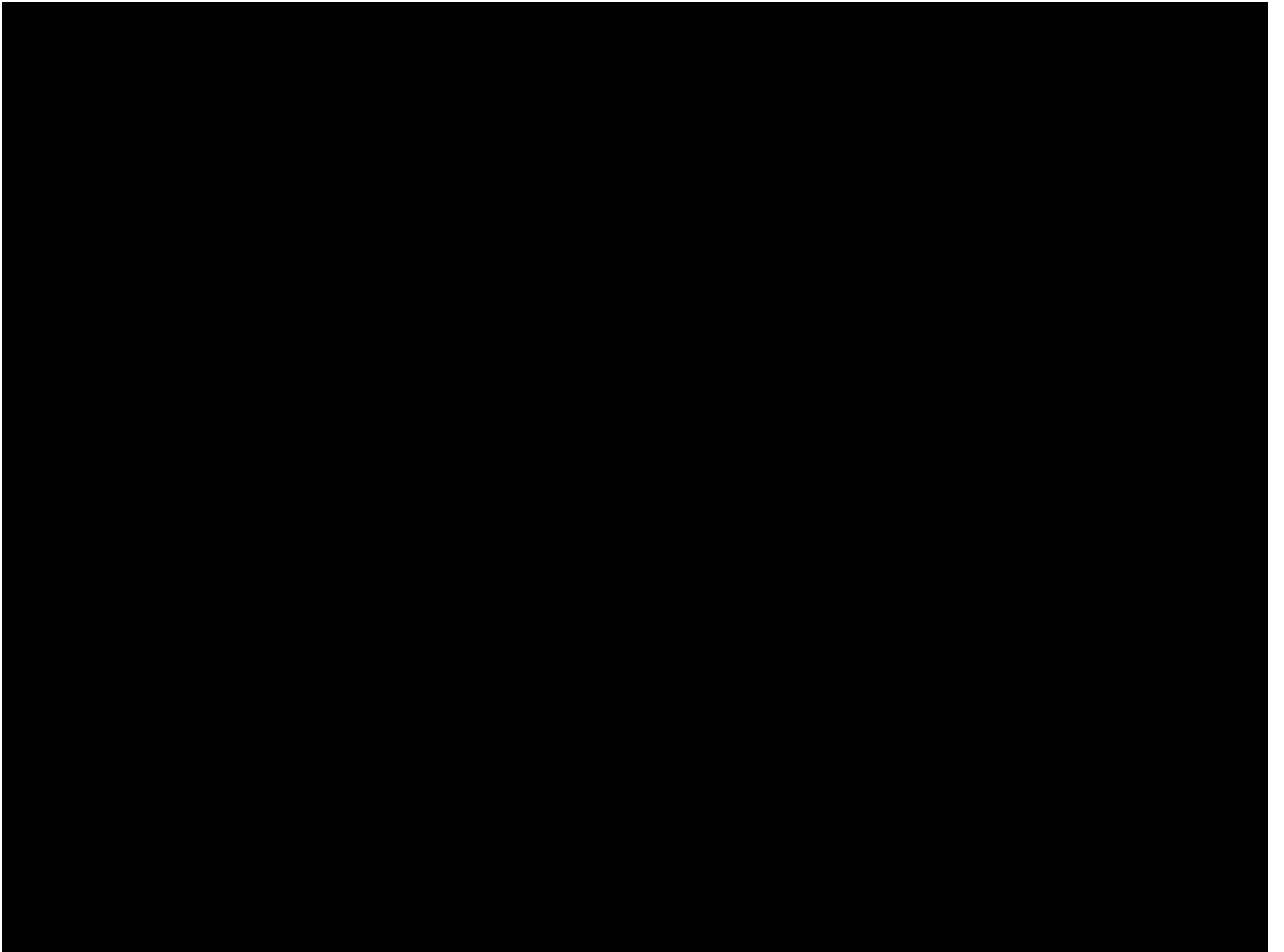




National Center for Research in Advanced Information and Digital Technologies

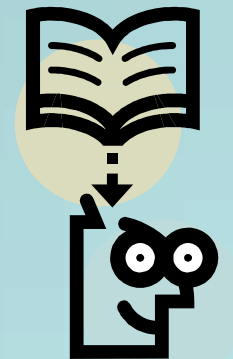
Anne G. Murphy, Co-Chair
Digital Promise

November 2008



PURPOSE

The purpose of the Center is to support a comprehensive research and development program to harness the increasing capacity of advanced information and digital technologies to improve all levels of learning and education. This includes K-12, college and university, corporate and government training, and both formal and informal learning such as that provided by museums, libraries, and public television.





AUTHORIZATION

- Authorized as part of the Higher Education Act PL 110-315
- Established as an independent 501 (c) 3 housed in the Department of Education
- Directed by a nine member board named by the Secretary of Education from recommendations received from the House and Senate



FUNDING

- Such sums as may be necessary FY 2009-14
- Establishment dependent on appropriation
- May accept funds from any Federal Agency or private entity, personal or corporate and/or foundation
- May accept any gift, devise, or bequest of real or personal property (except from foreign sources)
- Funding request for FY 2010 is \$50 Million

ACTIVITIES

- Re-competitive research, development and demonstrations of learning technologies that could include simulations, games, virtual worlds, intelligent tutors, performance-based assessments, and innovative approaches to pedagogy that these tools can implement.
- Design and testing of components needed to build prototype systems.
- Research to determine how these new systems can best be used to build interest and expertise in learners of different ages and backgrounds.
- Encourage widespread adoption and use of effective innovative digital approaches to improving teaching and learning.



PARTNERSHIPS

It has been difficult for private developers to make the significant, sustained investment in research needed to address these critical but difficult issues. The National Center will fill this gap by funding “pre competitive” research that will provide information critical for groups building commercial products.

The Center will reach out to corporate America, universities and other entities to build partnerships to meet its goals.

MANAGEMENT

- The Board will appoint an Executive Director after conducting a National Search
- The Board and staff will develop a research plan and invite competitive proposals.
- Grantees will be selected by a peer review process.
- With limited exceptions, all material resulting from the research will be made freely and nonexclusively available to the public.



NEXT STEPS

Digital Promise will develop a Management Plan that will:

- Develop criteria and recommendations for selecting the Center's first board of directors.
- Produce a detailed set of start-up recommendations for the operation of the National Center and for its new board to review:
 - A proposed staff organizational table including the roles and responsibilities of principal staff members.
 - A statement of goals, missions and priorities, including the tools needed to achieve these goals and ways to assess progress.
 - A draft research roadmap.



- How research topics should be selected; ways to communicate to communities likely to contribute to the research; methods to select and monitor research teams.
- How to communicate with groups likely to use and benefit from the research.
- A review of existing research models (federal: NSF, DARPA, NIH, NEA, NEH, Dept of Energy, etc) corporate research organizations, foundations.
- An examination of the experiences of other federally chartered 501(c)(3) organizations.

APPROPRIATIONS

- Seeking a \$5 million appropriation in the 2009 Omnibus
- Requesting \$50 Million in FY 2010



We invite your help and your comments.

We can be reached at:

www.digitalpromise.org

