

EDUCOM Welcome

Welcome

Welcome to the University of Michigan.

Or should I say “Welcome Back to Michigan”,

since it was 25 years ago in Ann Arbor
that EDUCOM was founded.

We are honored indeed to be able to

host your 25th Anniversary Conference.

It is appropriate that EDUCOM

should choose to celebrate its Silver Anniversary
here in Ann Arbor for other reasons.

In many ways, our community has served

as both the prototype and the symbol of
the college town in America.

Further, the management headquarters of

NSFnet, the principal computer network linking
together America’s research universities,
is located on this campus.

It was also fitting to schedule this Conference during

the early fall since there are so many signs
of the excitement of college life...
...the brilliance of the fall colors...
...the rush of students starting a new academic year...
...the pagentry of football weekends...
...and, of course, the excitement of
students purchasing their first computer systems!

Indeed, within this past week we have experienced

all of these...

...the peak of our fall colors...
...a victory over our rival Michigan State
...and our annual fall computer kickoff sale,
with the sale of over 3,000 systems to
our students.

Incidentally, to make certain that the

weather was perfect for your activities,
we took the liberty of working with our
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
and they assured me that the weather would be
spectacular.

Unfortunately, as I found out later, their

real expertise lies in the atmospheres not
of the Earth, but rather of the outer planets.

Speaking of colors, I was told that this

first day of the Conference was to be
“Wear your colors” Day when we were all
supposed to wear our corporate logo.

Since our Athletic Department has

trademarked the Michigan block “M”,
I went to our Athletic Director, General Bo,
for some advice on what to wear!

Ah, well...

Countdown to the 21st Century

You have arrived on our campus at a most

exciting moment...as higher education begins
the countdown toward the 21st Century.

Indeed, the students on our campuses today

are in reality the citizens of that century...

And we can already sense the extraordinary

changes occurring in our society, our nation,
and the world...

The themes of change are clear...

- i) the growing pluralism of our society
- ii) our evolution into a world nation, ever more
tightly coupled to the global community
- iii) and our rapid transition to a knowledge-based
economy

Yet these are not themes of the future...

...they are themes of today...
...and they are already dominating
every aspect of American life.

Knowledge as a Strategic Resource

It is clear that the key strategic resource of our society

has become knowledge itself...
that is, educated people and their ideas.

Knowledge will play the same role for us now

that in the past were played by natural resources,
geography, or unskilled labor.

In the knowledge-intensive future that is our destiny

it seems clear that education in general...
...higher education in particular...
...and the research university most specifically
are rapidly becoming the key ingredients determining
the strength, prosperity, and social-well being
of our communities, states, and nations.

And hence it is also clear that the knowledge

infrastructure of our world provided by
information technology will be of increasing importance
in the years ahead...

...a technology that not only provides a lever for the mind...

...multiplying our talents and extending our
intellectual reach...

...but provides the tools of interaction that
allow us to overcome the barriers of space and time
and unite as students, teachers, and scholars...

...indeed, as a people...in ways we never
dreamed possible...

Here in Ann Arbor, we view information technology

as providing both the infrastructure and the
linkages among these themes of change...

...our growing pluralism

...our growing interdependence with the global community

...and our growing dependence on knowledge as key
to our futures.

Indeed, we view this University as a gigantic

experiment--a laboratory if you will--for the
development of the technology necessary to
support and sustain knowledge-based organizations
such as universities.

In your travels about our campus over the next several

days I hope you have an opportunity to sense some
of the excitement and the extraordinary commitment
we have made to the development and implementation

of information technology.

Conclusion

EDUCOM is an organization of great importance to us,

just as it is to our nation...

...since it will be you who will give us the tools

to do our job...to serve

the highly diverse, knowledge-intensive

world nation that will be America of

the 21st Century!

Once again, welcome to Michigan...

You have our best wishes for an exciting and productive conference!

Our universities...indeed our nation and the world--

are depending on your efforts!

Introduction of Ken King

It is now my pleasure to introduce Dr. Kenneth King,

President of EDUCOM...