The Internet of Things (IoT) in Higher Education: What Is It, and Why Should I Care?

Tuesday, November 3, 2015
11:00 am – noon
Xanadu II & III
The Internet of Things (IoT) in Higher Education: What Is It, and Why Should I Care?

The Internet of Things is NOT simply a story about connecting millions of devices to the global Internet. IoT is about what our states and institutions actually DO with Internet connectivity. IoT translates to strategic legislation, operational policy, and tactical events, timelines, and impact on student performance. The requirements of IoT go far beyond the capabilities and decision-making authority of our institutional chief information officers. Therefore, the need for informed leaders at all levels is critical to investments in student success. IoT-associated activity is a major investment in time, money, and people for the foreseeable future.

This session is based on a core narrative: What do we do when our students arrive on our campuses in Internet-enabled vehicles, wearing Internet-enabled clothing, carrying eight to 10 Internet-enabled devices, and with clear expectations that our systems can support them? What do we do as we collect more data about our students? Is this data considered “Pattern of Life Data?” Will we be accused of profiling? Real issues are finance, security versus privacy, policy, staffing, legal, and the presence (or absence) of a viable IoT strategy to provide a framework for future investments.

The IoT phenomenon is unfolding as we speak in your home and community. Does your state have an IoT strategy? Are you ready for the inevitable?

**Speaker:** Mike Abbiatti, WCET executive director, and WICHE vice president for educational technologies

**Biographical Information on the Speaker**

Mike Abbiatti is the executive director of WCET and WICHE vice president for educational technologies. Abbiatti assumed the WCET leadership position in January 2015. Previously he was the director of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Educational Technology Cooperative. Abbiatti was formerly associate commissioner for information and learning technology for the Louisiana Board of Regents. He is the founding director of the successful Louisiana Board of Regents Electronic Campus, and former director of distance education for Louisiana State University. Abbiatti has been recognized by the Computerworld-Smithsonian Awards Program as a laureate for his leadership in the design, deployment, and utilization of information technology for the benefit of Louisiana’s citizens, and is a past member of the EDNET Education Executive Advisory Board. Other national recognitions include the United States Distance Learning Association’s Most Outstanding Achievement by an Individual in K-12 Award, and Electronic Learning Magazine’s Distinguished Achievement Award through the Educator of the Year Program.