Subject: [Fwd: Digital divide]
Date: Sun, 09 Jun 2002 08:14:31 -0700
From: Maria Hesse <maria.hesse@cgcmail.maricopa.edu>
To: Marybeth Mason <marybeth.mason@cgcmail.maricopa.edu>, Alan Levine <alan.levine@domail.maricopa.edu>

Food for thought for the Ocotillo crowd --

Subject: Digital divide
Date: Sun, 09 Jun 2002 08:13:41 -0700
From: Maria Hesse <maria.hesse@cgcmail.maricopa.edu>
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Yesterday I had the opportunity to attend a Boys and Girls Club event and I was reminded of why it is important for us to continue to carefully consider how we manage our college computing resources, especially on behalf of our students who may not have access except through the college.

In a recent survey of students and parents for the 9 locations of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley, 85% of the families did not have computers or internet access in their homes. In the past two years, Intel has donated a "computer clubhouse" to two of these locations and computing is one of the most popular afterschool activities for the kids, ages 6-18. As part of the Intel program, one child at the Chandler club was able to win a computer, along with free internet services, to be installed at home. This was for a child who showed exceptional commitment to developing their computer skills and who had participated extensively in the computer clubhouse programs. When they went to install the computer and internet at the home, they realized that the family did not have and could not afford a telephone. Fortunately, over time, they were able to make the arrangements for the phone as well, but it was a stark reminder about the degree of poverty faced by some of the families.

As we looked over program and demographic data at our B+G Club board retreat yesterday and discussed how to help mitigate issues of the "digital divide," I was also thinking about CGCC -- we need to remain vigilant to serving the portion of our community who does not have access to computing resources. I just thought I'd share this while I was thinking about it, as I know that you often discuss related issues such as the proportion of computers to have in computer labs, hours of access for labs, student requirements for computer-infused courses, etc.

Hope you're all doing well this summer.