Computing Research Association
Conference at Snowbird 2000

Slides from a workshop
on the topic of

"Policy Forum:
Issues in Information Technology Policy"

presented by

Daniel Reed,
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

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3:00 pm

http://www.cra.org/Activities/snowbird/00/wk2-3.html

Information Technology Policy

Dan Reed

University of Illinois

reed@cs.uiuc.edu

http://www.cs.uiuc.edu

Participants/Format

- **Participants**
  - Gene Spafford, Purdue
    - » Chair, ACM U.S. Public Policy Committee
  - Lisa Thompson, CRA
    - » Director of Government Affairs
  - Dan Reed, Illinois
    - » Chair, CRA Government Affairs Committee

- **Format**
  - brief updates and action items
  - Q&A

Information Sources

- CRA web site
  - position statements
  - Congressional testimony
  - http://www.cra.org
- CRA advocacy network
  - email alerts for action
  - subscribe via the CRA web site

- AIP Bulletin of Science Policy News
  - http://www.aip.org/enews/fyi

IT Advisory Commission

- President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC)
  - current co-chairs
    - » Raj Reddy (CMU)
    - » Irving Wladawsky-Berger (IBM)
- Major IT report
  - http://www.ccic.gov/ac/report/
  - drove research agency funding requests
  - stimulated two proposals

Does Advocacy Work?

- YES!!!

- Congress is receptive
  - compelling, well-presented arguments
- Legislators will respond
  - constituent concerns
  - no substitute for direct contacts
- Communities matter
  - leverage influence
  - coordinated activity

Get Involved!

- **Join the CRA Advocacy Network**
  - support increased IT funding
  - write letters, make telephone calls

- **Visit Capitol Hill**
  - Share information about IT's importance

- **Share information with your colleagues**
  - email, word of mouth, ...

What Can You Do?

■ Write your legislators
– ask your colleagues to co-sign

■ Visit your legislators' offices
– Washington and local district offices

■ Attend your legislators' town meetings
– ask them to address science issues

What Can You Do?

- Invite your legislators to campus
  - tour the facilities
  - speak to faculty
  - discuss research, education, and workforce

- Work with your institution
  - cultivate local, grassroots networks
  - educate others about federal support

Cardinal Congressional Rules

- Frame arguments carefully
  - national and public interest
- Understand the legislative process
  - recognize that you are part of it
- Get to know your legislators and interests
  - cultivate friendships
  - become an ally
- Be specific, forthright, and honest
  - legislators expect it