



Professional Learning from Merit Network

As an important part of meeting its mission, Merit Network provides a regular program of learning opportunities for its Member organizations. Through an ongoing series of workshops, seminars and community meetings, Merit Members can learn and share knowledge about networking, network-related technologies and the policies involved in providing technology services.

Merit's Professional Learning program is designed to promote a high level of accomplishment and awareness among Michigan's specialists in networking for research and education. It provides several benefits for Merit Members:

- Current information about advances in networking and technology for research and education.
- Forums in which like-minded community members can learn from each other's work.
- Professional networking to help spawn collaborative activities among organizations.
- The ability to reduce costs of training and professional development by essentially sharing costs with similar organizations in Michigan.

Through its connections with national initiatives, other regional networking organizations and Michigan's education and research communities, Merit is in a strong position to identify relevant trends, key technologies and opportunities for learning. These connections also provide opportunities to invite excellent speakers and presenters to bring their knowledge to Michigan.

In addition to spreading information, Merit's Professional Learning program serves to help build a community of users by bringing together individuals who have similar needs and interests. This helps to form bonds between organizations that would not otherwise exist and adds significantly to the value Merit offers to Member organizations.

The current Professional Learning schedule is available at:
www.merit.edu/learning

Types of events to watch for

Merit's Professional Learning program includes professional conferences, seminars, workshops and training sessions, presented in an ongoing schedule throughout the year. The variety helps provide opportunities that meet the needs of engineering, technical, managerial, instructional and administrative professionals.



Merit's Mission

Merit's mission is to be a respected leader in developing and providing advanced networking services to the research and education community.

Merit is a trusted source for providing high-quality network infrastructure; initiating and facilitating collaboration; and providing knowledge and technology transfer through outreach.



Types of events to watch for (Continued)



Merit Member Conference

Each year in June, Merit hosts a two-day conference on current trends and technologies. Presenters include prominent national speakers as well as members of the Merit community who share their knowledge and the best practices of their organizations.



MJTS

For over thirty years, Merit has hosted regular meetings of the Merit Joint Technical Staff, open to representatives from any Merit Member organization. MJTS meetings are held twice annually, in the spring and fall, with a one-day agenda of presentations and discussions on relevant topics.



Topic-centered Seminars

Merit keeps an eye on issues of current high interest in networking for research and education, and develops occasional day-long seminars on those topics. Agendas are built to provide timely, high-quality information with key national and local experts as presenters. Recent topics have included Voice over IP, CALEA and Internet Television.



Skill-centered Workshops

In partnership with Internet2 and other professional organizations, Merit presents hands-on workshops that help build the skills of technologists. Recent topics have included Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity, IPv6, and Multicasting.



Professional Training

Merit seeks to help maximize Members' training resources by presenting training courses in key technical areas. These courses are presented in partnership with professional training organizations that bring their specialized offerings to Michigan locations. By sponsoring courses in this way, Merit is able to provide essential technical training to its Membership in a way that lowers the overall price and provides specialized training locally.

For more information

Merit's Professional Learning program is constantly evolving in response to technological change and Member needs. We invite your suggestions for topics that would benefit your organization and the Merit membership. For more information or to share ideas, please contact: learning@merit.edu