

## Historical Findings:

### **The U.S. Commission on National Security in the 21st Century (The Hart-Rudman Report)**

warned: “the inadequacies of our systems of research and education pose a greater threat to U.S. national security over the next quarter century than any potential conventional war that we might imagine. American national leadership must understand these deficiencies as threats to national security. If we do not invest heavily and wisely in rebuilding these two core strengths, America will be incapable of maintaining its global position long into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”<sup>i</sup>

**Former Federal Reserve Board Chair Alan Greenspan:** “Workers must be equipped not simply with technical know-how but also with the ability to create, analyze, and transform information and to interact effectively with others. Moreover, that learning will increasingly be a lifelong activity.”<sup>ii</sup>

**Ex-Secretary of Education Rod Paige:** “Education is the only business still debating the usefulness of technology...We still educate our students based on an agricultural timetable, in an industrial setting, yet tell students they live in a digital age.”<sup>iii</sup>

**Undersecretary of Commerce Phillip J. Bond:** “We need to...create a new ‘knowledge utility’ for all, which integrates learning into all aspects of our work and our lives, making learning opportunities as ubiquitous as electricity for everybody.”<sup>iv</sup>

**The Congressionally appointed, bipartisan Web-based Education Commission:** “Develop high quality online educational content that meets the highest standards of educational excellence...embrace an ‘e-learning’ agenda as a centerpiece of our nation’s federal education policy... [We urge] the federal government to create a comprehensive research, development, and innovation framework for learning technology...as a central goal of telecommunications policy.”<sup>v</sup>

**President George W. Bush’s Information Technology Advisory Committee:** “Our overarching recommendation is to make the effective integration of information technology with education and training a national priority.”<sup>vi</sup>

**Former House Commerce Committee Chairman Thomas Bliley (R-VA),** in an op ed published in *The Hill*, urged his former colleagues in Congress and the White House to achieve the goals of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, which he sponsored: “Soon, I predicted, ‘every inner-city school will have...the resources of our greatest universities and every rural clinic will be able to draw on the latest discoveries at the Mayo Clinic and Sloan Kettering...’ Imagine using the Internet to teach first responders – police, fire and emergency medical technicians – how better to respond to emergencies...That same technology could teach unemployed workers new job skills – on their own time, at their own pace and in their own homes.... Congress and the White House must act, and soon. Happily, there’s a solution on the horizon...It’s called the ‘Digital Opportunity Investment Trust, DO IT.’”<sup>vii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> *Road Map for National Security: Imperative for Change*, Phase III report of the United States Commission on National Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, February, 2001, p. ix.

<sup>ii</sup> *The Evolving Demand for Skills*, Remarks by Chairman Alan Greenspan given at the U.S. Department of Labor National Skills Summit, Washington, D.C. April 11, 2000.

<sup>iii</sup> *2020 Visions, Transforming Education and Training Through Advanced Technologies*: U. S. Department of Commerce: introductory letter dated September 9, 2002.

<sup>iv</sup> *Technology Administration Education and Training in the 21st Century: Creating the Knowledge Utility* Remarks By Phillip J. Bond, Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology U. S. Department of Commerce, Delivered Before A National Summit on Education Technology at the U.S. Chamber of

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Commerce, Washington, D.C. January 25, 2002.

([http://www.technology.gov/speeches/p\\_PJB\\_020125\\_Education.htm](http://www.technology.gov/speeches/p_PJB_020125_Education.htm)).

<sup>v</sup> *The Power of the Internet for Learning: Moving from Promise to Practice*, The Web-Based Education Commission, December, 2000, page iv.

<sup>vi</sup> *Using Information Technology to Transform the Way We Learn*, PITAC Panel on Transforming Learning, Report to President George W. Bush, February 2001.

<sup>vii</sup> Thomas J. Bliley, 'Seeking to fulfill the promise of telecommunications,' *The Hill*, July 19, 2003, page 16.