



Don't Get Burned! Stay Cyber Safe this Summer!

June is the beginning of the summer vacation season and for many a time of travel. Before you leave home and while you are on the go, use the following tips to help you steer clear of digital dangers.

Getting Ready

- * **Update, Update, Update:** Before you hit the road, make sure all security and critical software are up to date on your Internet-connected devices and keep them updated during travel. It is your best line of defense.
- * **Get two steps ahead:** Turn on two-step authentication (also known as multifactor authentication) for an extra layer of security beyond the password that is available on most major email, social and financial accounts.
- * **Make sure all devices are password protected:** Use a passcode or security feature (like a finger swipe) to lock your phone or mobile device. Think before you app: Review the privacy policy and understand what data (such as location and entry to your social networks) the app can access on your device before you download. Delete apps you are no longer using.
- * **Own your online presence:** Set the privacy and security settings on web services and devices. It is okay to limit how and with whom you share information – especially when you are away.

While Traveling

- * **Actively manage location services:** Location tools come in handy while planning your trip or navigating a new place, but they can also expose your location – even through photos. Turn off location services when not in use.
- * **Get savvy about WiFi hot spots:** Do not transmit personal info or make purchases on unsecure networks. Instead, use a virtual private network (VPN) or your phone as a personal hotspot to surf more securely.
- * **Turn off WiFi and Bluetooth when idle:** When WiFi and Bluetooth are on, they connect and track your whereabouts. If you do not need them, switch them off.
- * **Protect your \$\$\$:** Be sure to shop or bank only on secure sites. Look for a padlock symbol on the page and a Web address that starts with "https://." The "s" stands for "secure."
- * **Never use public computers to log in to any accounts:** Be extremely cautious on public computers in airports, hotel lobbies and Internet cafes. Keep activities as generic and anonymous as possible.

Enjoy your vacation, travel safely, and remember to always practice safe computing!

(Guest article by WVNET staff members Steven White, Randy Long and Barbara Long)

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West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference
2016 (WVSTC 2016) will be held July 19-21,

2016, at The Waterfront Hotel and Morgantown Event

Center in Morgantown, WV. Registration is open for attendees and exhibitors. *Early registration ends June 24.*

At one point in time technology imposed barriers to education, but now with expanded access and affordability, the tide has turned, and technology is actually breaking down the barriers to education. Opening keynote is **Kelly Reddin, Global Master Trainer, Lego Education**, on Tuesday, July 19th at 1:00pm. Closing keynote is **Apple, Inc.** on Thursday, July 21st at 11:00am. Pre-conference workshops are filling up quickly. Offering 123 concurrent sessions covering a wide range of topics and numerous exhibitors (*exhibitor booth space is filling up quickly*), you'll want to register now. Explore all the opportunities WVSTC 2016 has to offer you at the conference website here: wvstc.com



Engaged: Hands + Brain = Creativity + Learning

Opening Keynote—Tuesday, July 19th—1:00PM

This keynote will be hands-on and minds-on! You will learn how being creative gets your brain engaged in learning. Using creativity makes teaching and learning more effective, more enjoyable, and more memorable. Come experience putting your hands to work in order to put your brains to work.

Kelly Reddin's Bio: Kelly started with the Pitsco/LEGO Dacta partnership in 2000 as a curriculum specialist. She is currently a Global Master Trainer, facilitating workshops for products from preschool through college. Kelly has worked creating new products using

the US, UK, and German standards to help focus new development for global curriculum and products. Kelly has facilitated hundreds of workshops across all 50 states as well as other countries. She loves learning from the people she meets who often inspire new ideas. Kelly hopes to open people's minds to what teaching can really be like – engaging, hands-on, connected, inquiring, and fun!

Prior to joining LEGO Education, she taught elementary and middle school as well as college courses. She has taught, studied, and worked in many regions of the United States as well as Germany and Japan. Kelly holds degrees from the University of Missouri, Columbus University, and College of Notre Dame with additional studies completed at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. She lives in Joplin, Missouri, with her husband, Steve. They have two adult children – Ben and his wife, Alissa, who live in Jacksonville, AR, and Rebecca who lives in Logrono, Spain.

Catch up, Keep up, or Lead

Closing Keynote—Thursday, July 21st—11:00AM

You have come to this conference because you're excited about the possibilities of technology for learning. Will you take back your new found knowledge and have an impact on other educators? How will what you've learned change your teaching practice? Are you able to inspire your colleagues? Can you turn your passion for technology in education into actions that will impact your community? Your leadership can make a difference on whether your school is catching up, keeping up, or leading.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As this column is being written, we are all on the edge of our chairs waiting to see what happens with our budget and yours also. There are many scenarios, some OK, some pretty scary. No matter what, WVNET will find a way to continue to provide support to our schools. Together we will help each other through this difficult spot in our state's history.



Every week, we work on possibilities for saving our customers money to help them through this difficult financial time. We've done it together before and we shall do it again!

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY And this month's winner is...

*No more pencils, no more books.
No more teacher's dirty looks.
Out for summer, out till fall,
We might not go back at all*

- Alice Cooper, School's Out for Summer



School is closing down here in the Mountain State for most K-12 counties, as well as already being over for the Spring Semester for most universities and colleges. That's a reason to get excited, right! For all those that are done, please enjoy your summer away! For those that just can't get enough and are engaging in the summer sessions, WVNET is still here supporting students and instructors alike, making sure your summer classes go as smoothly as you would expect.

Each month, WVNET recognizes a customer who took the time to complete our Customer Satisfaction Service Survey to let us know how we are doing. We thank everyone who takes that extra few minutes to give us advice, kudos, or criticisms that will help us improve our service.

This month we would like to congratulate our winner, Natasha Hardy, a student at Fairmont State University. Natasha called in with an issue about a particular Blackboard class she was taking at FSU. She worked with Network Operations Center employee Mark Saffron who helped to solve the issue. Mark was able to identify an availability issue and alerted the professor of the problem. This call came in at 9:15 in the evening, emphasizing the fact that WVNET is here 24 hours a day, 365 days out of the year, with a highly qualified staff who are willing to help customers with problems and to find solutions in a timely fashion.

We have agreements for premier Blackboard support with several institutions of higher education, and the Network Operations Staff is well prepared with countless hours of Blackboard experience, as well as having certifications in Course Graphical User Interface Delivery from Blackboard.

Natasha, pleased with the level of service she received, commented, "Mark was very helpful with my situation and I am satisfied with his service." We are very pleased that we were able to meet your expectations of timely, effective incident resolution and return you to your course.

As always, at the end of each month, we will draw a winner, contact them by email and then send WVNET memorabilia in appreciation. Please complete our survey by looking within the incident email of any interaction that you have had with us. All comments are taken seriously and help to improve what we do on a daily basis.

Thank you, Natasha, and thanks again to all our customers who continue to shape and improve WVNET.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Booker Walton, III, Customer Resource Specialist, pictured.)





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WVHETC 2016

West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference 2016 (WVHETC 2016) will be held September 26-27, 2016, at The Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown, WV. The conference theme is *"Transform Technology: Share, Educate & Secure."* This year's conference will bring together higher education, state agencies and K12 for the common purpose of embracing new ideas, developing new insights, and designing new approaches to help move education forward in the State.

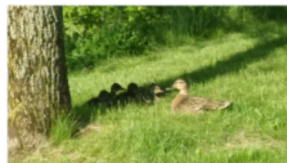
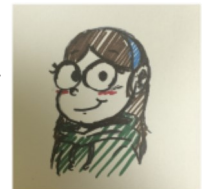
Exhibitor registration is open with attendee early registration at \$125 opening this month. Opening keynote is Nicholas Bowman, Ph.D., Associate, Professor, WVU, who will speak on *"Where We're Going, We Don't Need Pencils: Using Social Media to Foster Student Engagement."* Closing keynote is Karen Rhodes, SLED Chief Technologist, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, who will speak on *"Curiosity—The Most Important Skill in Technology For the Future."* Two pre-conference sessions will be offered together with 50+ concurrent sessions covering a wide range of topics, and 30+ exhibitors will be showcasing their latest products.

WVHETC 2016 **Call for Proposals** has been extended to June 24, 2016. Presenters receive a discounted registration of \$65 if their proposal is accepted. The Call offers presenters an opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise with colleagues throughout the State. Please see the conference website for suggested concurrent session topics. Plan for a session length of 40 minutes, with another 5 to 10 minutes to answer questions. To submit a proposal, use the **Call for Proposals Submission Form** at wvhetc.com. We look forward to building a fantastic program that will offer a broad spectrum of topics pertaining to technology. More details as they become available.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)

A Day in the Life of a Very Special Intern...

As the daughter of an employee, I was already familiar with WVNET and some of the people who work here. Now, as an intern, I've met more of the unique staff and learned about what goes on behind the scenes. For the past week, I've had the opportunity to work with the people in Media Services. I've been taught how to create a website, code for formatting within text, and how to use a few apps that can be helpful to graphic design. It's really neat to see how much effort goes into just highlighting a little bit of context or to set up a web page in a way that will correctly represent its school.



Over the past week, I've come to realize that the people aren't the only ones that make interning at WVNET interesting. Between the cicadas that want to serenade everyone and the ducks that decided to make a home in a wet spot at one side of the building, there's typically something to liven up the daily grind. Then again, none of the staff here is boring, each individual person brings a different perspective to the office each day. Not everything here is constant, either. WVNET changes just as technology does, because they're always on the cutting edge of it.

(Special guest article by WVNET intern Abbyrose Sisler)