NETWORKING 101

Mark your calendar!! The West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference 2012 (WVHETC12) will be held November 12-13, 2012 at the Waterfront Place Hotel in Morgantown, WV. This conference focuses mainly on technology in higher education in West Virginia but also includes tracks for K-12 and state government.

WVHETC12 brings together experts from all over the state to connect, discuss, and learn about the latest in technology, the future of education and changes in the workplace. Keynote speakers in the technology field, vendors, and a full schedule of presentations will make this event a "must attend." You may visit the conference website at: wvconference.com

The WVHETC12 theme is **The Big Picture—Integrated & Collective Technologies.** Integrating technology into classroom instruction means more than teaching basic computer skills and software programs. It involves using modern technologies such as Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, etc.), Blackboard, chat and e-mail to enhance communication and understanding between teachers and their students. The Web connects students to experts in the real world and provides numerous opportunities for enhancing understanding through images, sound, video and text. We live in the age of connectivity and information, and to ignore these powerful tools is to render yourself slowly obsolete. The myriad of resources online provides more interesting, diverse, and effective learning materials. It's time for us to focus on how to really dig deep, think creatively, problem solve and learn how to make these new technologies routine and transparent. As our theme states, we need to step back and see The Big Picture and how we fit into this age of new technology. We look forward to seeing you at the conference and invite you to SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS NOW (deadline for submissions September 30, 2012). We are building a fantastic program that covers a broad spectrum of topics that will help push West Virginia into the horizon of tomorrow.

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Organizational Changes

- *Michael Pittman is WVNET's newest Network Operator. Michael has 15 years of IT experience in various aspects of the industry. He currently resides in Philippi and has lived all over the country.*

- *Russell McCormack is interning in the Administrative Applications group. Russell is a senior at WVU majoring in computer science and is originally from Bel Air, Maryland.*

- *Chris Reed has joined our Web Services Group as a Web Developer. Chris comes to WVNET from The Manahan Group where he worked as a Senior Web Developer and Interactive Designer. He brings an outstanding skillset which will be of tremendous value as we continue to expand.*

WVROCKS' PILOT A SUCCESS

In an effort to make college courses more accessible to all West Virginians, the Higher Education Policy Commission in conjunction with WVNET is piloting a web portal, the West Virginia Remote Online Collaborative Knowledge System (WVROCKS). WVROCKS is designed to be a collaborative effort between all institutions of higher education in West Virginia who offer the Regents Bachelor of Arts degree. Bluefield State College, Fairmont State University and Marshall University are participating in the initial pilot. Students from the participating institutions register for the classes at their respective home campuses, but they actually log on to the WVROCKS portal to take their classes. RBA students from around the state benefit because they are able to take accelerated, accessible, and affordable courses.

Current courses offered on the portal are compressed in an eight week format, with two eight week sessions per semester. WVROCKS' goal is to ensure consistent quality across all courses by aligning them with the Quality Matters Rubric designed to assess online course content and design for excellence and rigor. When the portal goes in to full production, every course will undergo a QM faculty peer review to maintain standards of excellence. Courses for the first two sessions of the pilot include:

* *ILT 300 Advanced Digital Literacy Skills taught by Dr. Monica Brooks, MU*

* *PSY 300 Adulthood and Aging taught by Dr. Julie Patrick, WVU*

* *POL 300 Politics and Film taught by Dr. Joseph Robbins, SU*

* *BUS 300 Self-Leadership and Personal Growth taught by Dr. Timothy Oxley, FSU*

* *FAC 300 Management Problems in the Family taught by Dr. Roxann Humbert, FSU*

The Fall 2012 pilot has generated 58 course enrollments to date, and students may still enroll in the second session which begins on Monday, October 22, 2012. Spring registration begins in late October at BSC, FSU, and MU. Interested parties should contact the RBA Coordinators for more information on how to register.

WVNET currently hosts the WVROCKS.org website and the Blackboard 9.1 portal for course delivery and provides 24/7 Help Desk support as well as system administration, instructional design, graphic design, and training support. WVNET also provides an office and administrative support for the Statewide Director of eLearning, Dr. Roxann Humbert.

Institutions interested in being part of the Spring pilot, should contact Dr. Roxann Humbert by phone at (304) 293-5192 x270, by email rhumbert@hepc.wvnet.edu. For general questions related to WVROCKS and WVNET's support of the portal, contact Dr. Mary Stewart by phone at (304) 293-5192 x231, by email mstewart@mail.wvnet.edu .

Is this not the most adorable face —- little Miss Natalie Noyes on her first day of school (granddaughter to WVNET's very own Libby Cress).

And —- yet another —- Baby Michael Oak Fincham born Friday, August 17, and weighing in at 6 pounds and 12 ounces (grandson to WVNET's very own Lola Fincham). Congratulations and best wishes to Joe and Kathleen Fincham (parents) and 'godfather' Dan O'Hanlon.

Last, but not least and while we weren't looking, the following WVNET staff members had September birthdays: Jason Chastain, Barry Gregg, Scott Hutton, Randy Long and Donna Meadowcroft.

WVNET is currently offering these employment opportunities:

♦ *Telecommunications Internship (2 positions available)*

♦ *Systems Programmer—Lead*

Go to www.wvnet.edu & click on "Jobs" at the left side bar

YEARS OF SERVICE TO WVNET AWARD PRESENTATIONS BY DELEGATE BARBARA FLEISCHAUER

Roman Chuby and Barbara Fleischauer

Jason Chastain and Barbara Fleischauer

WVNET Director Dan O'Hanlon and his staff were in for a treat on August 22, 2012, when *Monongalia County Delegate Barbara Fleischauer* visited. As it so happened, *Years of Service to WVNET awards* were made during the general staff meeting and the Director deferred to Delegate Fleischauer who presented the awards as Dan O'Hanlon (at left above) looked on. Each year WVNET celebrates the longevity and contributions of qualifying staff members with these awards. This year's recipients represented the following number of years each: *Roman Chuby (30), Jason Chastain (20), Marcie Layman (30), and Denise Gwinn (35)*

Marcie Layman and Barbara Fleischauer

Denise Gwinn and Barbara Fleischauer

Once the presentations were made, Delegate Fleischauer discussed those things she is passionate about —- her family, her work, friends at WVNET, her commitment to keeping jobs in Monongalia County, work with Veterans, autistic children and others. After the general staff meeting, Barbara toured WVNET administrative offices and the data center and witnessed the need first hand for a new building to house both. It was, indeed, another special day as in previous occasions when Senators Beach and Prezioso visited.

Delegate Fleischauer addresses staff

Delegate Fleischauer tours data center

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Update

Argos — WVNET staff have been working with Evisions Argos support on deploying Argos for all our participating campuses. Our goal is to have a number of useful reports from a cross-section of Banner functional areas available in October. That initial set of reports will be used as a basis for training report developers and users around the state, with useful examples that can be used as a basis for further development. A new version of Argos was installed this week, which provides new functionality for security configurations that will make it easier to manage access for different campuses and user roles. WVNET developers, Dana Keith and Ron Hamilton, along with our new intern, Russell McCormack, have been working with Evisions and report developers around the state to develop the core set of data blocks and reports for this initial phase. *Mark Your Calendars* — The Argos kickoff and initial training session has tentatively been scheduled for October 16-19 in Morgantown. More information and training agenda will be coming soon. WVNET also plans to have Argos sessions at the West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference 2012 in November.

DegreeWorks — The WVNET-hosted production DegreeWorks server has been installed and is ready for use by the first wave of participating institutions, which includes Blue Ridge CTC, Bridgemont CTC, Concord University, Glenville State College, New River CTC, Southern WV CTC, WV Northern CC, and WVU Parkersburg. Campuses are finishing up with "localizations" and will roll out training and production implementations according to campus schedules. The next group of institutions will begin this month with a starting focus call on September 19 and production target next spring. This group includes Fairmont State University, Kanawha Valley Community and Technical College, Mountwest Community and Technical College, Pierpont Community and Technical College, Shepherd University, and WV State University. These two groups will join Marshall University, WVU and Bluefield State College who have implemented DegreeWorks separately. DegreeWorks provides a comprehensive set of web-based tools to assist academic advisors and students develop academic plans, evaluate progress, do what-if analysis, and help students complete degree requirements in the shortest amount of time. License purchase for DegreeWorks was covered by HEPC and CTCS in order to provide this important application to improve completion rates and time to degree. WVNET is happy to be able to play a role in this effort.

WVNET Banner Users Group — The next BUG call will be Thursday, September 20 at 2:00 pm. These calls are open to any of our Banner user community and are held monthly on the third Thursday at 2:00 pm. Announcements with agenda and connection information are sent out the week of the call to the Banner Users Group email list: wvnetbug@listserv.wvnet.edu To join the list, send an email to: listserv@listserv.wvnet.edu with "subscribe wvnet-bug" in the message body, or send an email to Fran Barnes fran@mail.wvnet.edu

From the Director...

The biggest thing going on today in the networking world is called Software Defined Networks [SDN]. The point of it is that, when the Internet was designed and developed 40 years ago, no one back then realized what it would become. Today we watch TV and movies, have social networks, move huge data bases around. And we all want to bring our cell phones, tablets and laptops to school with us.

The SDN Initiative says, "If we could go back in time and redesign the Internet to meet the needs of today, how would we do that?" The answer is, we would do it with software as much as possible instead of hardware. Software can be revised and updated very easily — think of the software updates you download on your computers regularly. Hardware, on the other hand, is difficult and expensive to change or upgrade — like when you buy a new iPhone or computer.

So WVNET is very involved in the SDN world, learning how to evolve our network quickly to meet the real-world needs of our students and customers all over West Virginia. Stay tuned for more news about this exciting new area of network computing!

—Dan O'Hanlon, Director