NETWORKING 101

WEST VIRGINIA
STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE
FULL STEAM AHEAD!
WVSTC 2014

The **West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference (WVSTC) 2014** will be held July 15-17, 2014 at The Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown, West Virginia. *Margo Day, Vice President, U.S. Education, Microsoft Corp., will serve as the opening session keynote speaker on July 15 at 1:00 pm.* Margo is responsible for the U.S. Education strategy and sales to K-12 and higher education customers across the U.S. and has been with Microsoft since 2001.

Illah Nourbakhsh will serve as the keynote breakfast speaker on July 17 at 7:30 am. He will speak on "Technology for Educational Empowerment." Mr. Nourbakhsh is Professor of Robotics, Director of the Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment (CREATE) Lab http://www.cmucreatelab.org and head of the Robotics Masters Program in The Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

The theme of this year's conference is *Full Steam Ahead!* We are anticipating over 500 attendees mostly from K12 with a mix from higher education and various state agencies. Participants may choose from a varied selection of 142 concurrent sessions and pre-conference sessions. Pre-conference sessions include: *Microsoft Innovative Educator Program; Microsoft O365 Training; Common Sense Media; Microsoft OneNote and Librarians as Information Superheroes.* Attendees may look forward to spending time with 50+ exhibiting vendors showcasing the latest in their product offerings. You may view the tentative schedule and register for the conference at https://conference.wvnet.edu in order to get the early attendee registration fee of $130.00 (before June 20). *Get a free t-shirt with paid early registration.*

Join us this year for the return of another spectacular social event —- *The Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise* on Tuesday, July 15, from 5:45-9:30 pm. *The Gateway Princess is a 120 feet long, 35 feet wide all-steel traditional paddlewheel style riverboat. With floor to ceiling windows, the Princess allows her passengers to have a superb view. The Princess, formerly known as the Keystone Belle, joined the* Gateway Clipper Fleet in 1999 after 15 *years of service in Moline, Illi-* nois, on the Mississippi River. The Prin- *cess will set sail from their docks* in Historic Station Square, Downtown *Pittsburgh, PA, and sail "up* river" to Morgantown, WV, on Tuesday, *July 15, for our WV Statewide* Technology Conference 2014 social *event. The conference will be* hosting a 3-hour private charter cruise, *including a sit down dinner and* an evening of entertainment. The vessel *is climate-controlled for a com-* fortable and relaxing trip. There is also *access to the outer decks so you may enjoy the view and the fresh air. The Princess will begin boarding attendees at the Morgantown dock (Walnut Street) at 5:45 pm and set sail at 6:30 pm for a 30-mile roundtrip cruise on the Monongahela River. If you would like to join us, please add the social event to your registration. Due to limited capacity, this social event must be paid at the time of registration. No on-site purchase will be available.*

Details pertaining to hotel information and discounted rates by specified dates at The Waterfront Place Hotel, Hilton Garden Inn, and Residence Inn Marriott may be found on the conference website. We happily accommodate dietary restrictions and special needs that require assistance during the conference, no worries. See you next month at the conference!!

WVVLN/ITFORUM ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Ralph Payne, New River CTC

The West Virginia Virtual Learning Network /ITForum (WVVLN/ITFORUM), co-chaired by Dr.'s David Ayersman from New River Community and Technical College and Roxann Humbert from the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), held their annual spring meeting on May 22 and 23 at the Days Inn in Flatwoods, West Virginia. Twenty-seven members representing eight colleges and universities, six community and technical colleges, the HEPC, and the West Virginia Network (WVNET) attended the meeting.

During the meeting, representatives from *Live Text*, *Proctor U*, and *Respondus Monitor* presented the group with information about their products. In addition, Dr. Gerry Hanley, Executive Director *MERLOT*'s Director, Division of Academic Technology California State University Chancellor's Office at Large conducted a webinar on "Affordable Learning Solutions."   CSU's Affordable Learning Solutions:

- Enables faculty to find quality free or low-cost course content that can substitute for more costly textbooks.

- Organizes tools for faculty to customize and author course content.

- Provides easy access to information about usability and accessibility of e-readers.

Dr. Mary Stewart, WVNET

States have the opportunity to partner with the California State University system to bring the same resources to their state.

In addition to the formal sessions, a representative from each school provided a brief update on their campus initiatives and shared learning management system plug-ins they have found beneficial. Dr. Mary Stewart from WVNET also briefed the group on Helix, WVNET's Streaming Server Solution.

STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA)

On Thursday, May 22, the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) sponsored a session on the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). SARA is an agreement among member states, districts and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. SARA is overseen by a national council and administered by the four regional education compacts, the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) of which West Virginia is a member state.

Marshall Hill

Mary Larson

Marshall Hill, Executive Director of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) provided background information on SARA as well as the national perspective. Mary Larson, Director of Student Access and Program Services and the Electronic Campus, from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) presented a regional overview. Mark Stotler, Director of Academic Programming, HEPC, talked about the progress the state has made towards possible participation in the agreement. Approximately, fifty Provosts, Chairs, and West Virginia Virtual Learning Network (WVVLN) members from public two- and four-year colleges as well as guests from several private institutions, including Alderson Broaddus College, Davis and Elkins College, Ohio Valley University, University of Charleston, American Public University, Martinsburg College, Valley College, Huntington Junior College, Future Generations Graduate School, Salem International University, and WV Junior College attended the presentation.

For more information about SARA, visit their website at: nc-sara.org. For information about West Virginia's participation, contact Mark Stotler at stotler@hepc.wvnet.edu.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As another school year comes to a close in West Virginia, we take the opportunity to say goodbye to two people who worked very hard to improve our education system. The first is Dr. Jim Phares who has served as our State School Superintendent. Dr. Phares made the hard decisions which are required by a leader to move K12 education forward. On his first day as Superintendent, he met with me for 45 minutes to make sure the WVNET efforts to do analytics for higher education went hand-in-hand with the analytics efforts at K12.

Dr. Jim Phares

The second person is Rob Anderson who served most recently as Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration at the WV Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC). Rob brought many unique talents to that job. But perhaps his most important was his ability to stay calm in the storm. He was well-liked and well-respected in both the legislature and the Governor's Office.

He was my direct report at the HEPC and always made the time to advise me in my role as Director of WVNET.

Both these men will be hard to replace and both will be missed. Thank you Rob and Jim for your many years of service to West Virginia. We are all better because of you!

Mr. Rob Anderson

BIG NERD RANCH BOOTCAMP

In May, Chris Reed, Justin Robinson, and Josh Friend went back to Georgia for another Big Nerd Ranch Bootcamp. This time it was a five-day course on HTML5 Apps with jQuery. The course started with an overview of core browser technologies and ended with a 4-hour hack session to showcase what was learned.

The bootcamp placed special emphasis on debugging, modular software design, and other best practices for the web. There was also focus on new web application technologies like node js, a server-side software platform that uses JavaScript.

The Media Services team returned home with many new ideas and is already implementing many of the new APIs, Frameworks, and technologies into both old and new applications.

WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Faculty and Staff Call for Proposals

West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference 2014 (WVHETC) being held October 27-28, 2014, at The Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown, West Virginia will bring together K12, higher education, and State agencies for a common purpose: to embrace new ideas, develop new insights, and design new approaches to help move education forward in the state. This **WVHETC 2014 Faculty and Staff Call for Proposals** is intended to reach out to faculty and staff in K-12 and higher education to offer them an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise with colleagues throughout the state.

We invite faculty and staff to contribute to this year's theme "Innovate to Educate" by submitting a proposal for an engaging presentation designed to share their unique insights on the ways in which innovation facilitates the delivery of student services, the alignment of course content with departmental and institutional goals, as well as adapting pedagogies to target specific student demographics, for example.

New for 2014! Pedagogy Forum/Idea Exchange

Have an idea that worked for you online or offline? Want to share? Submit a 1-2 page pdf with a description of the activity, the target student demographic, goals/outcomes, required skill set, required materials (if any), assessments/rubrics, etc., and any comments as to the effectiveness of the activity and/or student feedback. These documents will be available for exchange next to the Innovator's Lab in the Exhibitor Area throughout the conference. Conference participants need only scan the QR Codes of the documents of their choice to download a pdf using their mobile device. Email your pdf file to: ksaffron@mail.wvnet.edu. Be sure to include WVHETC Pedagogy Forum in the subject line.

Suggested Topics for Proposals

Although all presentation topics will be considered, the list below offers suggestions within broader topics. Participants may submit multiple proposals on different topics.

Innovative Online Pedagogies that engage...

Developmental Students
Differently-Abled Students
International Students
Non-Traditional Students
Traditional Students

Student Success

Accessibility
Advising and Mentoring
Assessment
Retention
Strategic Planning

Innovative Technologies for Teaching

Gaming
Robotics
Wireless / Mobile devices

To submit a proposal, use the Call for Proposals Submission Form at: http://www.wvconference.com/
All proposals for this Additional Call must be submitted no later than August 25, 2014. The conference program committee will review all submissions and will contact individuals who are selected to present a session. If selected, please plan for a session length of 40 minutes, with another 5-10 minutes to answer questions.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference and invite you to submit your proposals now! We are building a fantastic program that covers a broad spectrum of topics that will help push higher education in West Virginia into the horizon of tomorrow!

PERSONNEL UPDATE :)

Welcome Heather Summers! Heather Summers has joined the WVNET team. She comes to us from Marion County Schools where she taught math at the high school level while also teaching math courses at WVU. Heather holds undergraduate degrees in Mathematics and Secondary Education as well as a Master's Degree in Digital Media, New Literacy and Learning. She is currently working on a Master's Degree in Pure Mathematics from WVU. These skills will be invaluable as WVNET continues to make strides into the analytics field,

Goodbye Aaron Daniels. Sadly, Aaron Daniels has left WVNET employment. He has accepted another position which is a considerable promotion within the private sector. Although we hate to see Aaron go, we are thrilled that he is bettering himself and moving his career in a positive fashion. We'll miss you, Aaron, however we are thrilled at the opportunity that you have in front of you. We have no doubt that you will have a long and prosperous career. It was an honor for WVNET that you started that career at WVNET. Best wishes, good friend!
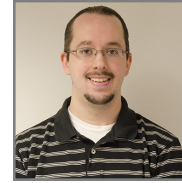
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Society names top scorers on Golden Horseshoe test...*Abbyrose Sisler, daughter to WVNET's very own Dianne Sisler,* has been named one of ten students inducted into the Order of Rhododendron by virtue of having been one of the students scoring the highest in Preston County on the state Golden Horseshoe test. The McGrew Society is planning for its annual September celebration which honors James Clark McGrew, Preston County students and teachers of West Virginia Studies. The September 6 event will be held at the McGrew House in Kingwood. *Congratulations Abbyrose!!*

"Outstanding in Our Field" Scholarship Fundraiser...WVNET Director Dan O'Hanlon receives a hug *(pictured at right)* from sweet wife Kathy O'Hanlon as Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine conducts, "Outstanding in our Field" a medical school scholarship fundraiser on Saturday, June 7, 2014, in Proctorville. Kathy O'Hanlon is a Doctor of Internal Medicine at the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.

Pictured at left, Dan shares a laugh with Dean Joseph Shapiro of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine during the same medical school scholarship fundraiser.
(Pictures reprinted with permission from Herald Dispatch)