

WVNET's Blackboard Training Instance Makeover



WVNET's instance of Blackboard Learn 9, training.wvnet.edu, provides online, on demand, faculty and staff training for twelve hosted institutions. The training instance also provides in-house personnel training, URcast training for public school teachers and staff, Word Press tutorials for web hosting, and more. By sharing these online training resources across departments and institutions, WVNET has realized both travel and human resource cost savings and our hosted clients continue to receive excellent customer service as well as access to an ever growing knowledge base of information which they can access on demand. In fact, it has worked so well, that we have re-envisioned it as a Portal for Education, Achievement, and Knowledge (PEAK) and opened participation to other West Virginia state agencies and divisions. PEAK will continue to deliver the online training materials currently deployed for our institutions of higher education, as well.

Engage, a project funded by the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, the Bureau for Public Health, the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health; Bureau for Children and Families, the Division of Early Care and Education; and the WV Head Start will use PEAK to deliver training and professional development. Natalie Snider, Distance Learning Consultant for the WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, explains that the goal of *Engage* is "...for all early childhood professionals, regardless of setting or sector, to have access to comprehensive, high quality, and collaborative professional development opportunities." Dr. Mary Stewart, WVNET's Director of Distance Learning & Educational Services, states that "*Engage embodies the spirit of an inter-departmental/agency collaboration that maximizes limited state resources for the greater good. In these times of ever diminishing budgets, we must work together and continue to leverage resources to maintain the economies of scale to deliver enterprise level services—a practice for which WVNET is well known.*"

For more information on PEAK, contact Dr. Mary Stewart, mstewart@mail.wvnet.edu, 304-293-5192 x231.

Developing the new PEAK logo...

WVNET's training.wvnet.edu brand makeover includes a new logo designed by our high school student intern Abby Rose Sisler, with an assist from Uriah Sypolt, Media Services Web Developer, and Cory Morrison, Media Services Instructional Designer. When asked to describe the experience from an intern's point of view, Abby commented that "At first, I thought it would be really easy. Turns out, I was wrong. It all came down to trying to satisfy the customer, and neither of us knew exactly what we wanted. The first design was a little too touristy, with mountains in the background. The next didn't have enough context for the viewer to realize what PEAK (Portal for Education Achievement and Knowledge) was really all about. (I also spelled "knowledge" wrong on one of my drafts.) After much trial and error and many suggestions and puns, the official PEAK logo was born. I was rather relieved at this point because I'd gone through 12 different copies and ideas. I now know that logo-making is like any other creative process; it takes time, patience, and teamwork to get it right. That being said, this is the criteria of any artist's job: to work with others to visualize verbal ideas." (Guest article by WVNET high school student intern Abby Rose Sisler)

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dan O'Hanlon, Director

By the time you read this, we will probably know if the Legislature and the Governor came to an agreement and passed a budget...or not. There has been a good bit of anxiety about this as the day draws closer.

Matt Turner met with the WVNET staff by video last week to give his best assessment of the probabilities and the contingency plans. We all appreciated hearing his best thoughts on the matter.

The good news is that, thanks to Matt's hard work and especially too the hard work of our Senators and Delegates, the Governor has put WVNET's entire state appropriation back into his budget. So, we are hoping it soon passes the House and Senate.

Please wish us good luck with this — thank you!

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY WINNER

I've been out of work for the last several weeks due to having a surgical procedure to correct some bones in my foot. It has created a long recovery time, but within that I've been working with a great Physical Therapy staff helping me on the road to the recovery. I met a young therapist intern there who goes to school at Pierpont Community and Technical College, and in the course of our conversations asked if she had ever taken any online courses from the College, to which she applied absolutely. I then explained to her that those were hosted in the WVNET Data Center, and she was amazed that it wasn't on their campus because of how fast she had access to it and the ease in which the technology worked. It's that unawareness of everything that WVNET does that we try to change person by person every day. She has a new appreciation for what WVNET does for her, and I enjoyed being able to share that knowledge. Hopefully, we can continue to spread the good word.



Booker Walton, III

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

This month we'd like to congratulate our winner, *Mitchell Moon from West Liberty University*. Mr. Moon, who works within the Registrar's Office, reached out to WVNET Applications Group staff member George Tilko about an issue within their BANNER instance. George worked with Mr. Moon, responding to his needs until his problems were resolved.

Mitchell was pleased with George's assistance, commenting, "*George Tilko and WVNET help desk have always been willing to help and have always fixed our problems at WLU in a timely manner.*" Thank you for the compliments, Mr. Moon. George has long been a valued member of our staff at WVNET, and we cherish his knowledge and helpful demeanor, not just within the office, but outside to our clients daily. There is never a day that goes by where George doesn't have something nice to say. I know I appreciate that very much and, as you've heard here, others do as well.

As always, at the end of every month, we will draw a winner, contact them by email, and 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 *Mitchell*, and thanks again to all customers who continue to shape and improve WVNET.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Booker Walton, III)



West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference 2017 will be held at the Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place and the Morgantown Event Center in Morgantown, West Virginia, on July 18-20, 2017. Visit the conference website for additional information: wvstc.com

Vendor and attendee registration details available here:

<http://mgr.wvstc.com/register/vendor> and <http://mgr.wvstc.com/register/attendee>

WVSTC 2017 Call for Proposals may be viewed here:

<http://mgr.wvstc.com/conferencesoftware/call-for-prop/#/form/introduction>

The WVSTC 2017 conference committee welcomed proposals for presentations on a wide range of topics including those of interest to K-12 education, higher education, and state agency personnel, comprising over 120 concurrent sessions. Presenters plan for 40 minute presentations with an additional 5-10 minutes of questions and answers. *Conference presenters may attend WVSTC 2017 for a discount if the proposal you submit is accepted by the Conference Committee. Pre-conference fees are not discounted. Presenters receive an email notice if their proposal is accepted (limit one discounted admission per presentation).*



Shannon McClintock Miller

Opening Keynote on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 1:00pm is Shannon McClintock Miller whose topic of discussion is *"Let Them Be Heard, Giving Our Students a Voice."*

Closing Keynote on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 11:30am is Robbie Melton, PhD, whose topic of discussion is *"The Emergence of The Internet of Everything (IoE) Smart Connected Devices and EduGadgets for Real Time On-Demand Transformation of Education."*



Robbie K. Melton, Ph.D.

This year's conference offers twelve pre-conference sessions to choose from on Monday (all day), Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning: <http://wvstc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Pre-conference-Descriptions-2.pdf> Seats are still available for some pre-conference sessions.

You may view the tentative program schedule here:

<http://wvstc.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/WVSTC-2017-TENTATIVE-Program-Schedule.pdf>

For questions or assistance regarding this conference, contact Karen Saffron, 304-293-5192 x249, or ksaffron@mail.wvnet.edu

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)

WHALE OF AN AWARD

Telecommunications staff member Chris Freeman is once again the recipient of WVNET's Moby award. The Moby is presented from one staff member to another for "doing a whale of a good job."

In passing the whale on to Chris (Chris on left; Tony Masi, Network Operations Center, on right) Tony remarked, "Chris is always here ready to help anyone at anytime with anything." Congratulations, Chris!

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)



WVNET POWER SYSTEM UPGRADES



May was a busy month for WVNET as we continued to make improvements to our data center infrastructure. We added three manual transfer switches to our power system that will allow us to perform regular maintenance on our Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) with decreased possibility of unexpected failures. The ATS switches power to our UPS/generator in the case of a utility power outage.

Prior to this update, ATS maintenance required a contractor to re-cable our power generator with a procedure that had to be completed in 20 minutes to avoid a complete power shutdown. Our new setup gives the flexibility to route power either through or around the ATS in a variety of ways, greatly improving our ability to maintain our power system with less possibility of an outage.

This is the second of several improvements that will be coming over the course of the summer to our data center. We will chronicle the changes within the newsletter. (Guest article by WVNET staff member Mike McDonald)



Save the date!

WVHETC 2017 — October 2-3, 2017

Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place and
Morgantown Event Center, Morgantown, WV

Attendee 'Early Bird' and Vendor Registration are now open!

Deadline for Concurrent Session Proposals—August 28

More info: wvhetc.com

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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE — POWERFUL EXERCISE FOR EVERYONE!

The Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days annual walk began on April 17 and ends on July 25. New this year is 'The Ultimate Challenge!' This means that walkers can turn in unlimited miles per day and per week.



WVNET has 7 participants (6 staff members and 1 spouse) who, to date, have walked a whopping 1057.4 miles! Walkers are currently in Week 8 of the walk. The 7 participants together average 132 miles per week.

The goal of Walk 100 Miles in 100 Days is to get participants excited about exercise and to walk at least 1 mile (about 2000 steps) every day for the next 100 days. Walking is a great form of exercise that is easy to do and can be done almost anywhere.

According to the Mayo Clinic, for most healthy adults, the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines recommend at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity, 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity, or an equivalent combination of moderate and vigorous aerobic activity a week. Physical activity can be spread throughout the week. The guidelines also recommend strength training exercises of all the major muscle groups at least twice a week. As a general goal, aim for at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day. If you can't set aside that much time, try several 10-minute sessions throughout the day.

(Guest article by WVNET staff member Fran Barnes)

'MOOVIN RIGHT ALONG...



Just another day in the life of a high school intern...

Each spring calving season since I was small, I'd always secretly wanted a calf of my own to take care of. I would hope that one of the cows would have twins (which happens more often than you might think) and need assistance in caring for one. My brother once had a calf when he was about my age, a bull calf named "Reject" due to being a re-do of his father, "Eject." My wish came true this year, in a little bit harsher way than I had expected. After a few suggestions from my mother of buying a calf at the sale, we ended up with a cow unexpectedly deciding

that, despite going through the entire process of calving in the first place at ten o'clock at night, she was just going to let the baby plop out on the ground and abandon her. Thus, after a short period of waiting to see if she would come back and a four-wheeler ride to the barn, *Chewvacca*, a 79 pound Hereford heifer became my dependent child. Now, at three weeks old, *Vacca* is 100 pounds and gains another pound each day. She plays and eats just as any other calf would, with just a little bit more spoiling being done. I think it's amazing how she grows so fast, but I still can't wait for weaning time when I get my *Sleep-in-Saturdays* back. *(Guest article by WVNET high school student intern Abby Rose Sisler) :-)*