

West Liberty University Implements Ellucian DegreeWorks

WLU
Implementation
Team with WVNET



West Liberty University is implementing Ellucian DegreeWorks to help foster student success and keep students on track to graduation. Ellucian Degree Works provides institutions with a comprehensive set of web-based academic advising and degree audit tools to help students and advisors negotiate an institution's graduation requirements. It is meant to create clear goals, doing the basic planning work so advisers can work more closely with students.

"Our investment in this solution will help us maintain our enrollment numbers while providing better advisement for our students," explains James Clark, Chief Information Officer. *"Purchase of this solution was driven in part because it is fully integrated with our existing Student ERP system - "Banner by Ellucian." This integration at a minimum, ensures accurate, consistent information, while enhancing each student's profile and history."*

West Liberty has assembled a very strong implementation team that includes their registrar, members of their enrollment services, student services, computer center and their student government. According to Jeffrey Tice, Vice President of Student Government Association and hall director with the Office of Housing and Student Life, *"Degree Works is going to be extremely beneficial to the students and faculty advisors. DegreeWorks supports the University's goal of being student centric and supporting students. It will give students the tool to get their education completed in the shortest time possible - even with multiple major changes."*

"This will be a valuable tool for students and advisors to use for years to come," added Scott Cook, Dean of Enrollment & Student Services/Registrar at WLU. *"Our students are balancing many different things while going to college. DegreeWorks will help them get all the information they need about their program of study and time to completion. It will help them map out their college program, graduate and enter the workforce as quickly as possible. And it will give our advisors valuable tools to guide students in their decision-making."*

Ellucian and WVNET consultants are working closely with West Liberty University to implement DegreeWorks for a Fall 2015 roll-out.

West Liberty University is a wonderful addition to the West Virginia DegreeWorks community.



DegreeWorks
Training Session
with WLU Team



WLU
Implementation
Team

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News

From
Bluefield State College

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BSC's Delano Sweeney Participates in Featured Presentations at "Ellucian Live Conference"

(Bluefield)—Bluefield State College Database Systems Manager Delano Sweeney was a featured presenter at the annual "Ellucian Live Conference" in New Orleans, LA. The conference attracted nearly 9000 registrants, addressing the changing landscape of higher education technology. The four-day event provided Ellucian customers with an opportunity to network, learn about solutions, and share ideas.

Sweeney was the sole presenter at two sessions, one of which was the largest attended session in the "Evisions" portion of the conference. He also served as one of two panelists at the Ellucian Banner Product Kickoff session, which attracted an audience of more than 5000, and he took part in two video interviews.

"It was a tremendous honor to be invited to present," Sweeney noted, shortly after returning to the BSC campus. "Since I began working in higher education, I've been involved in using Ellucian products that include Banner and DegreeWorks. Banner is evolving and has launched a new version, Banner XE, that is revitalizing the user experience."

At the Banner Product Kickoff, Sweeney spoke about his experience as the individual at BSC responsible for fully implementing Banner XE. "Bluefield State is one of the first institutions of higher education in the nation to go live with Banner XE Registration, other than the beta-test schools (those colleges and universities selected to test the product before it was formally brought to market)," Sweeney continued. He is currently assisting other colleges and universities in West Virginia, as well as WVNET, in their implementation of Banner XE.

"Because Ellucian serves more than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries, it was gratifying to see Bluefield State highlighted on such a large stage during the conference," observed Tom Cook, BSC Associate Dean of Information Technology Center and Interim Chief Technology/Information Officer. "To see Delano do such an excellent job when interviewed on stage in front of more than 5000 attendees is a tribute to his knowledge and ability. It displays a very positive image for Bluefield State College at the national level."

Bluefield State College Database Systems Manager Delano Sweeney was a featured presenter at the annual "Ellucian Live Conference" in New Orleans, LA. He is pictured (center) at the Banner Product Kickoff, flanked (left) by Jeff Hagins (Texas Tech) and Kari Branjord (right, Vice President/Strategy and Product Management, Student Services at Ellucian). The panel discussion attracted an audience of more than 5000, during the conference.

April 23, 2015
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

This month, HEPC Chancellor Paul Hill held a Senior Staff Retreat to discuss the current and future situation of Higher Education in West Virginia. It was very informative to hear various leaders discussing the problems and solutions for our issues. I was pleased to do the same for technology. The Chancellor is a strong believer in the power of technology to assist our schools and students in realizing their goals faster and at a lower cost. I share that view. One of the things we are both working on is an extension to DegreeWorks which lets our schools put in their equivalency agreements to allow students to see what classes at other schools would count towards their degree requirements.



Often, students will return home over the summer and take a class at the local college in their home town. This new technology will let them know in advance that the class will count towards their degree.

WVNET is proud to be contributing to the efforts of the HEPC to make college more affordable and the path to a degree more visible. It's what we all work for every day!

WVSTC
2015



The WVSTC 2015 Conference Committee announces *Hall Davidson—Discovery Education* will serve as the Closing Keynote at this year's conference on Thursday, July 23, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Hall Davidson has worked from think tanks in Turkey to classrooms in Tennessee. He has collaborated with thought leaders including teachers, superintendents, and departments of education. A former K-12 bilingual math teacher and college faculty member, he left the classroom to become part of an Emmy-winning team, creating math and technology integration programs. For forty years, he has been an educational innovator in important waves of change, first in broadcasting, then computers, and now digital learning. His talks blend humor, deep insight, and data from both education and industry and illustrate the big picture with nuts and bolts examples. He has worked with transformational industry groups, education ministries, and with thousands of students through guidance of the nation's oldest student media festival. Across four decades of work with education, he identifies right now as the most transformative and important time for teaching and learning.

The eleventh annual West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference will be held July 21-23, 2015 at The Waterfront Place Hotel and Morgantown Event Center in Morgantown, WV. Early Registration is open for attendees and exhibitors. Please visit the conference website at: conference.wvnet.edu



*Hall Davidson—
Discovery Education*

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APPLICATIONS CORNER

By Dana Keith

Welcome to "Applications Corner." This monthly article will provide focus on new topics each month where the WVNET Applications Group is working to *enhance education through technology*.



The feature this month is the WVNET Database Administrator (DBA). The WVNET DBAs work mostly with Oracle databases which support many applications within West Virginia education. Databases are systems that physically store data, and they must be operational and accessible at all times. Without databases there is no information to retrieve, report or update. An Oracle database is resilient and powerful because of its sizing and configuration options. This is a value to our customers, and it keeps our DBAs very busy.

In today's applications like Banner and Blackboard Learn the database is the central repository of information. These databases take up terabytes of space and require constant updates to maintain security and performance. WVNET's DBAs regularly evaluate and maintain the database software. This process is done over time to insure that each database is upgraded with the least impact on users.

Oracle databases use sets of files called tablespaces to store data, and these are backed up on a rolling cycle such that any database can be recovered from a version up to 30 days old. This requires a large amount of resources and technology. If it is discovered that data is missing from a database, the DBAs determine when the data was last known to exist and restore it to the current database. This is an exacting process since it is always required to keep the current database operational while restoring specific data.

WVNET DBAs regularly assess who can access data and how much access is being provided. They protect databases by limiting access to the applications that read them, monitoring the users who access them, and encrypting the data at rest. These efforts help to provide information to users who need it while protecting the systems from unauthorized access. Every day the WVNET DBAs ensure that our monitoring software is working, our data encryption software is operational, and our operating systems and databases are patched with the current security updates.

DBAs are a valuable team who take care of many details so that our application users can have smooth and secure data access. While their efforts are mostly behind the scenes, you can work more confidently knowing that the DBAs are doing their job.

WV Bar Foundation Reception and Dinner



You might call him "Dapper Dan." The WV Bar Foundation Board of Directors' 17th class of Bar Foundation Fellows included Judge Dan O'Hanlon-Huntington, pictured at left with his lovely wife Dr. Kathy O'Hanlon. The Annual Reception and Dinner to honor the 2015 class was held on April 23 at the Marriott Hotel in Charleston. The criteria for the Fellows is: "those judges and lawyers whose professional, public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and honorable service to the legal profession with the individuals selected reflecting the diverse nature of the legal profession in West Virginia." Congratulations, Judge Dan O'Hanlon!