

## WVROCKS Courses Help Students Achieve Degree Goals

Posted: May 27, 2015 5:12 PM EDT  
 Updated: May 31, 2015 10:00 AM EDT  
 By: Jim Workman



Accessibility to a college degree has been an issue for many West Virginians, but the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, with assistance from WVNET, has developed a web portal to diminish that challenge. And that web portal really “rocks.”

The West Virginia Remote Online Collaborative Knowledge System, better known as WVROCKS, makes courses from institutions that offer regents bachelor of arts degrees available to online students.

Current participating institutions include: Bluefield State College, Concord University, Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, Marshall University and Shepherd University (Martinsburg campus).

The WVROCKS program started in fall of 2012 with three institutions participating, offering five classes to 55 students. By spring of 2015, 587 students participated in 22 classes. In the pilot summer session this year, 75 students are enrolled in 10 classes.

More institutions will be added to the program in the future, including a number of community and technical colleges, according to Roxann Humbert, statewide director of Higher Education eLearning for West Virginia HEPC.

“They have a board of governor’s degree, a two-year degree that can eventually feed into a regent’s degree,” Humbert said. “Upper level classes are offered (by WVROCKS) because they were designed for college completion; but by adding the community and technical colleges, we will be able to offer the first 100 and 200 level courses also.”

Faculty for the WVROCKS program is made up of professionals from each of the participating campuses, plus West Virginia University, West Virginia State University, West Liberty State University and WVU Parkersburg.

Taking courses online may be unique, but the rest of the student experience follows traditional enrollment and financial options. Each campus admits and registers students, processes financial aid, collects tuition, schedules classes and administers grades and degrees.

Then, WVROCKS provides students access to classes online and a secure website for data transfer.

“The beauty of this program is that students remain a student on their home campus, they register for classes on their home campus, they get their degree from their home campus and they get their grades from their home campus,” Humbert said. “Online classes are just a way to facilitate.”

Expanded opportunities for both students and institutions are the results.

“For example, if an individual college wanted to offer an entrepreneurial leadership course, they may only have 10 students enrolled,” said Humbert. “By putting (the class) on the portal, we could have enough students to fill a class.

“We could have five students from Marshall, four from Fairmont, seven from Concord, three from Shepherd ... the classes have a mixed enrollment.” [Continued on page two...](#)

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2015

WVROCKS Courses Help Students Achieve Degree Goals	1
WVNET Attends WVASBO Conference	2
WVVLN/ITFORUM Hold Annual Retreat at Stonewall Resort	2

Faculty from MU and St. Mary’s Hospital Partnership First Nationally to be Awarded	3
CEU’s for completing Applying Quality Matters Rubric Workshop	3
From the Director	3
WVSTC 2015 Early Registration Update	3
Applications Corner	4
Customer Satisfaction Survey Winner	5
Don’t Forget WWHETC 2015	5
Latest Buzz	5





(WVROCKS Continued from page one...)

Courses are offered in a compressed, eight-week format. Students can complete 12 hours of course credit per year by taking one course at a time.

WVROCKS has five start dates per academic year, and adult learners especially benefit from online options, Humbert said.

"It has grown much more quickly than we had anticipated," she said. "We piloted six courses, and now we're over 33 courses (offered). The need is out there.

"We have had students say that they could not have finished their degree and keep their job without this program. They were able to have classes that weren't available on their own campus."

WVROCKS also offers 11 courses in the criminal justice field for West Virginia State Police Troopers pursuing their regent's degrees.

Each participating campus has an onsite liaison for WVROCKS, who can help direct potential students to the program.

The WVROCKS portal can be accessed at [ilearn-wvrocks.wvnet.edu](http://ilearn-wvrocks.wvnet.edu). *(Reprinted with permission from The State Journal)*

### WVNET ATTENDS WVASBO CONFERENCE

WVNET attended the West Virginia Association for School Business Officials (WVASBO) conference in Charleston, WV. This was a great opportunity for us to connect with administrators and teachers from K-12 schools throughout the State. Many people were interested in our URcast initiative and our new FREE Web Hosting for K-12 schools. Others were happy to meet us and learn more about WVNET. We always enjoy a chance to meet face to face with West Virginia Educators!



### WVVLN/ITFORUM HOLD ANNUAL RETREAT AT STONEWALL RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

The West Virginia Virtual Learning Network /ITForum (WVVLN/ITFORUM), co-chaired by Drs. Monica Brooks from Marshall University and Roxann Humbert from the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), held their annual spring retreat on May 19th and 20th at the Stonewall Resort and Conference Center in Roanoke, West Virginia. Twenty-four representatives, alternates, and guests from seven colleges and universities, five community and technical colleges, the HEPC, and the West Virginia Network (WVNET) attended the meeting. In addition, two members joined the meeting remotely via Skype for Business.



During the meeting, vendors gave presentations on Blackboard's Alternative to Collaborate and their new "Customer Service Advocate" positions, Proctor U's proctoring and card technologies, and Ellucian's Competency Based Learning Management System. Blackboard's "Customer Success Advocate" positions are held by former faculty members, administrators, and instructional designers who have worked in higher education distance learning programs. Also in attendance was Chris Dufour, from the Online Learning Consortium (formerly the Sloan Consortium), who briefed the group on the benefits of membership in the consortium.

In addition to the venter sessions, a representative from each school provided a brief update on their campus initiatives. Dr. Monica Brooks from Marshall demonstrated the CLIO application they developed. CLIO is a website and mobile application for the study of history. Named after the ancient muse of history, CLIO can be found online at [www.theclio.com](http://www.theclio.com). CLIO picks up a user's location anywhere in the United States and tells them about the history and culture that surrounds them. Information for Clio comes from a growing database that includes data from nearly 4,000 museums, art galleries, monuments, sculptures and historical sites. Contributors across the nation are adding hundreds of sites to the database each month.

The group's focus for the coming year is finding a vendor for proctoring and student authentication. They are currently working on an RFI/RFP for a statewide solution.

FACULTY FROM MARSHALL UNIVERSITY AND ST. MARY'S  
HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP FIRST NATIONALLY TO BE AWARDED  
CEU'S FOR COMPLETING THE APPLYING THE QUALITY MATTERS  
RUBRIC WORKSHOP



On Friday, May 15, Nursing, Respiratory Care and Medical Imaging faculty who are part of the Marshall University/St. Mary's Hospital Partnership attended the Applying the Quality Matters Rubric (APPQMR) workshop conducted by Dr. Roxann Humbert, Statewide Director of Higher Education eLearning. The workshop, designed for faculty who teach online or blended courses, is QM's flagship workshop on the QM Rubric and the process of using the QM Rubric to review online courses. It is intended for faculty, instructional designers, administrators, and adjunct instructors who wish to understand more about the QM Rubric and process of course review.

Dr. Humbert worked with the Quality Matters staff and the CEU director at St. Mary's Hospital to complete the paperwork necessary for the faculty to obtain Continuing Education Units. The faculty, who earned 6.75 CEUs, were the first in West Virginia and nationally to receive continuing education units for this workshop.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of the most exciting initiatives going on at WVNET these days is URCast. It is a partnership with K12 to help them eliminate the waste of snow days when schools have to close due to bad weather and students lose an instructional day. These are disruptive and costly to both schools and their students. URCast places a content server inside the school's Wi-Fi network. When students log into their school network, URCast knows which classes they are in and which teachers they have. Their teachers have uploaded any content they want them to have for upcoming lessons. URCast downloads those videos and articles to whatever devices they have, iPhones, iPads, laptops, or a device borrowed from the school.



If the student is suddenly at home on a snow day, they already have the lectures from a flipped classroom, video lessons and articles to read just like they were present at school. This helps bridge the digital divide when many of our students go home and don't have adequate internet access to do these downloads or maybe have no internet access at all.

Booker Walton has been leading this wonderful effort for WVNET and he has been assisted by Randy Long, Moises Cardenas and many others. To see a delightful short video of URCast in action for the children at Mt. Vernon Elementary School, click [https://youtu.be/82H7\\_2cEMW4](https://youtu.be/82H7_2cEMW4)

**WVSTC**  
2015



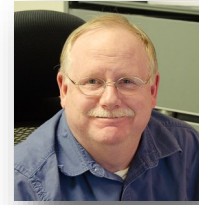
*The eleventh annual West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference will be held July 21-23, 2015 at The Waterfront Place Hotel and Morgantown Event Center in Morgantown, WV. Early Registration is open for attendees and exhibitors and ends on June 22, 2015. Receive a complimentary power bank for*

**registering early.** A few slots remain for proposals however please submit proposals now. **New this year at conference kick-off on Tuesday, July 21, at 11:30am with the opening of the Exhibitor Area is lunch being provided for ALL registered attendees!!** Opening keynote is Travis Allen from iSchool on Tuesday, July 21, at 1:00pm. The Social Event is Tuesday, July 21, from 5:30-10:30pm with a *WV Black Bears Baseball Game at the new Monongalia County Ballpark.* Closing keynote is Hall Davidson from Discovery Ed on Thursday, July 23 at 11:30am. *WVSTC 2015 pre-conference sessions on July 20 and 21 are filling up quickly.* **To register, view sessions and times, please visit the conference website at: [wvstc.com](http://wvstc.com)**

## 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.



This month we will focus on the WVNET Functional Support of Ellucian's Banner program. The WVNET Functional Support Group (FSG) is comprised of experienced professionals in the areas of Financial Aid, Accounts Receivable, Student, DegreeWorks and Finance. This group has combined experience of over 150 years. They research questions about Banner processes and procedures to help institutions use Banner effectively, regularly present workshops about different areas of Banner, and travel to institutions where they provide on-site assistance.

Ellucian regularly releases updates to its products and the FSG reviews all of the release guides as they come out. They monitor the Ellucian e-Communities and listservs to anticipate new solutions and problem fixes, and share with the West Virginia users the relevance of Ellucian releases and upgrades. The group hosts a Banner Users Group (BUG) conference call on the third Thursday of each month at 2pm, providing opportunities for users to meet and share details about current and upcoming activities.

The FSG often bridges the gap between the functional and technical needs of Banner users. Along with being area experts the FSG go beyond the basic functional processes of Banner, looking "under the hood", running SQL queries and providing detailed data analysis of the information held in the Oracle databases. For example, they addressed the needs of the WV Oasis project where the WVNET staff rewrote the process to allow Oasis to connect with Banner Finance. This on-going effort transforms data from Banner Finance into a form that can be shared with WV Oasis, and receives data from WV Oasis to populate Banner.

The Accounts Receivable module of Banner serves both the Student and Finance systems. In the Student system it provides the bridge between student enrollment, financial aid and billing/collections. If application of payment fails it presents a major challenge to the institution and may delay processing of money to students, creating an urgent need for correction. The experts at WVNET have experience in addressing many different problems that may cause this behavior, and they can provide a detailed step-by-step procedure to correct the error and salvage as much of the data as possible.

Financial Aid is a very complicated and ever-changing process. The FSG monitors federal government financial aid rules and procedures along with solutions provided by Ellucian, and they constantly evaluate the operational methods and uniqueness of each institution to properly meet the Financial Aid requirements. Combining all of this knowledge, the FSG communicates with each institution in the state to balance their operation with federal requirements and Ellucian solutions.

Student functional support is a most challenging area because methods of operation vary between institutions. The many ways students can apply, be accepted, obtain financial aid, enroll in classes, and make payments to an institution exercise the strength of Banner and require a high level of experience. Using a team approach the FSG works to provide a solution while also focusing on questions and problems.

The WVNET Functional Support Group exists to help the institutions meet their immediate data needs or complete long-term projects. WVNET considers our staff to be an extension of the higher education institutions in the state. We are here to support the processes and insure the success of your students and your institution by using Technology to Enhance Education.



Dan O'Hanlon, Director  
 837 Chestnut Ridge Road  
 Morgantown, WV 26505  
 304.522.7303  
[dohanlon@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:dohanlon@mail.wvnet.edu)



Fran Barnes, Editorial Assistant  
[fran@mail.wvnet.edu](mailto:fran@mail.wvnet.edu)

Also edited by:  
 Mike Karolchik, Manager  
 WVNET Media Services  
[mike@wvnet.edu](mailto:mike@wvnet.edu)



[Follow @ wvnet](#)



Newsletter Archives Here  
[www.wvnet.edu](http://www.wvnet.edu)

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

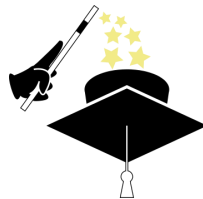


School's out for the summer, or at least close to it. WVNET knows that administrators, professors, and teachers' jobs at all levels are never done. Once the school year is over, the next one is being prepared for. WVNET is here 24/7/365 to support the activities that you are performing. We are happy to have you as customers!

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 few minutes to give us advice, kudos, or criticisms that can improve our service. This month we would like to congratulate our winner, *Cherry Weikle, Special Education Teacher and Site-Based Manager at Hannah Junior/Senior High School in Ashton, WV*. Cherry is working with our Media Services team to have their school website redesigned. In particular, she has been communicating with Uriah Sypolt for the design and content to be placed on their site. In speaking about the service she received, she remarked "All emails were prompt and everyone was very polite." We are glad to be of service, Cherry, and hope that the word spreads about this program.

What program you may ask? WVNET has teamed up with the Department of Education to provide free website migration and hosting for all counties and school districts in the State of West Virginia! This is being spearheaded by our Media Services group and is just one of the many services they provide. Please contact Mike Karolchik [mike@wvnet.edu](mailto:mike@wvnet.edu) for more information about these services.

As always, at the end of each 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 Cherry, and thanks again to all our customers who continue to shape and improve WVNET. *(Guest article by Booker Walton, III, Customer Resource Specialist, pictured.)*



**WVHETC  
 2015**

West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference 2015 "Technology in Education: Revealing the Magic" will be held at The Waterfront Place Hotel and Morgantown Event Center in Morgantown, West Virginia, on October 26-27, 2015. Registration opens on August 3, 2015. Please visit: [wvhetc.com](http://wvhetc.com) for conference updates.

## LATEST BUZZ

After 12 years (and 70 issues) as newsletter editor for the Cabell-Wayne Beekeepers Association, Dan O'Hanlon has stepped down as the writer of the newsletter. Volume 71 was his last issue. President Gabe Blatt has also stepped down after 25 years as President of the Club (150 meetings). The buzz around the hive is that hopefully someone will step up and fill the shoes of these passionate lifetime beekeepers in terms of their service to the Cabell-Wayne Beekeepers Association. Great job guys!!

