

WHAT'S NEW

NEWS ABOUT CURRENT PROJECTS AT
WV NETWORK

WINTER
2022-23



IN THIS ISSUE: **WVSTC** **Director's Note** **Career Opportunities** **Department Updates**



WVSTC 2023

The West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference (WVSTC) is scheduled for July 19-21, 2023 at the Morgantown Marriott & Event Center in Morgantown, WV. We are off and running! Some topics for discussion are K-12 Education, Higher Ed, eSports, Artificial Intelligence, and Emerging Technologies.

Presentation Topics

Designing An Effective Rubric to Evaluate your Teaching

Business of Email Compromise and Beyond: Solving the Email Security Problem in Education

The New Interactive Geologic Map of West Virginia

Delivering on the Key Promises of Smarter School Buildings While Spending Less

Considerations for an Enterprise HyFlex Implementation

Fairmont State University Geospatial Lab: Creating a Modern Geographic Information System Lab Amidst the Pandemic From Design to Implementation

Test Your Knowledge about Depth of Knowledge

Humanizing Online Course Experiences Through Quality Frameworks and Management

Teaching Bell to Bell: Technology Tools that Aid Instruction

The Future for Higher Ed IT

ChatGPT: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Dos and Don'ts to Outfitting Your Esports Program

Rev Up STEAM Learning with the Indi Robot

Journey Through The Online Student Experience Project

Financial Privacy -The Impact of Gramm-Leach-Bliley (GLBA) on Higher Education

Vocabulary to the Academic Rescue.... Through Quality and Interactive Technology

Fashion Design X Engineering: A Collaboration Built Through Innovative Classroom Pedagogy

Coping with Chemistry Labs - on Managing 2500 Students

Modern Technology Allows for Hands-on Lab Experiences in Online Classes

Bridging the Gap: Belongingness within Online Learning

HyFlex Pilot Experience at Marshall U

Use of GIS for Municipal Elections in Morgantown, WV

Negativity nightmares: Dealing with Difficult People

Are You Seeking Strategies to Engage Virtual Learners?

Argos – Birds of a Feather

CRM Recruit: From Discussion to Go Live

How I Became a Character Concept Artist at Riot Games

Student Use and Perception of Flexible Format Learning

How Design Skills and a Design Mindset Improves Learning with Less Cost

Transferable Skills for Gen Z in the Workplace

Mountain State Digital Literacy Program: Ensuring Equity in Digital Literacy and Computer Science

Online Learning in West Virginia

Explore Wild and Wonderful WV with Nearpod's Interactive Tools, Resources and Content

Digital Storytelling

100+
PRESENTATIONS

3
PANEL
DISCUSSIONS



CALL FOR
VENDOR
PRESENTATIONS

+
POSTER
PRESENTATION
UNDERWAY

Presentation Topics *continued*

Connecting WV to the World an Update from WVNET's Telecommunications Group

Topic: Ransomware Survival - Do NOT Pay

What are Digital Badges and How Can I Earn One?

AI: New Horizons in Academic Dishonesty

Engage Students with Creative and Collaborative Opportunities

Helping Students Remove Barriers of Accessibility & Affordability in West Virginia

Instructional Technology: Higher Education VS K-12 - Similarities & Differences

What's it Like to Earn a Master's Degree in Instructional Design & Technology

eSports Panel Discussion

Brightspace Birds of a Feather

IT Troubleshooting: Getting to the Best Solution As Soon as Possible.

Creating Your Professional Development/Teaching Portfolio

Bringing Context to Content in K12 Classroom

The Next Step Within Esports

Finding a Balance between Synchronous and Asynchronous Teaching Techniques

Quality Design when Quality Matters, That is a Wicked Course!

Engaging Students with Nearpod

Play Higher: Using Virtual Reality to Engage Students in Career Pipelines

Broken Financial Charts: Improving your Charting Skills

Technology - Innovation through Commercialization

Information Systems Management and the use of Cloud Computing in the classroom

Micro-Credentials: Rewarding MICRO Learning

Improving Student Engagement Through Course Design

Let me see everyone's plate!: Keeping Youth Engaged Through Virtual Cooking

Maximizing Student Engagement in Online Learning

Country Roads Coaches

Inbox Zero

Banner Birds of a Feather

Mountaineer Farm Talk: An Innovation in Research-Based Agriculture Information Delivery

Taming the Great and Powerful OZ

Using and Abusing ChatGPT in the Classroom

Teaching Database Skills using Google Cloud Services

7 Reasons to Love Wakelet

From a Distance: The Art of Managing a Remote Team

Building CS Foundations with LEGO Education

ChatGPT and AI

The Future of Technology in Higher Education

Working From Home While Having a Personal Life - Is It Possible?

Using Hiration and Handshake into Students Pathways!

Learning Inside and Outside the Brain

Generational Challenges and Opportunities: It's not only Gen Z

It's the Little Things: Practices that Make Your Text-Based Materials More Accessible

American Computer Science League: Helping K-12 Students Study Computer Science

Show What You Know - Assessing with Digital Projects and Products

Google Tools for in Person and Online Learning

4 Reasons to Integrate your Asset Management and Help Desk Software

Why WordPress?

Virtual Realilty in the Classroom: Going Beyond a Passive Experience

Making Computer Science Accessible for Students in 9th - 12th Grade

Technology is an Everchanging Adventure in the K12 World!

Empowering Young Leaders in the K12 Workplace

Wireless Deployment for Apple Devices

Teaching Technology to Littles: What are You Doing?

Centers for Special Education

Going Paperless with PowerAutomate

What's the deal with Minecraft?

AR Makr - A Great (FREE) Entry Option for Augmented Reality in the Classroom

What's new in Office 365

Digital Collaboration Ideas, Tips & Tricks

WV HS eSports League

Technology Hits & Misses the 2nd Inning: What is and isn't Working in the Classroom

Working with ADHD

Reimagining Your Required Reading: How Digital Makes a Difference

Growing eSports in WV (on a budget)

Graspable Math

PolyPad - The Ultimate Math Playground

From the Director!

Dr. Carl Powell, WVNET Director

The new year is starting off with a bang for WVNET. First, we have been awarded \$1.5 million in Congressionally Designated Spending (aka. Federal earmark funds) to allow us to upgrade our four network hubs to current generation systems as well as overhaul the power and cooling systems in our data center. This will provide a stable and reliable environment for our hosting systems, our colocation customers, and our telecommunication customers.

Next, we have started planning for the 2023 West Virginia Statewide Technology Conference (WVSTC) to take place in Morgantown from July 19-21. We are excited to be able to repeat the success we achieved in 2022 and bring you an even more vibrant conference this summer. You can find out more information about the conference, and join our mailing list, by visiting <https://wvstc.com/>.

Finally, my time as Director of WVNET has come to a close. I am so very proud of the people I have had a chance to work with and the dedication they have towards higher education and technology in this great state. I am honored to have been able to sit in this chair while they achieved so many successes and advancements in the past few years. I have enjoyed meeting many of you and I hope your successes continue at your agency or institution.

My best wishes to all of you in 2023 and beyond.



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Kain Lucente joined the Network Operations Center as a new Network Operator on January 3, 2023.

Kain graduated from Fairmont State University with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. Before joining WVNET, Kain worked as an insurance agent and a customer service worker, gaining valuable experience in client-facing roles. With his strong mathematical background and experience in customer service, Kain is already becoming a great asset to the WVNET NOC team.

Joshua Sankey joined the Network Operations Center as a new Network Operator on January 4, 2023.

Joshua has a Bachelors in Digital Media and a Masters in Information Systems. He spent many years working in the Higher Education sector as an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University and taught courses in web interactivity and programming. Most recently- he started, operated and sold his own successful small business before joining the WVNET team. Joshua is

a newcomer to West Virginia by way of Philadelphia, PA. The WVNET NOC team is already putting Joshua's knowledge and skills to great use.

Jenny Young joined Client Services as the new Banner Student Consultant on January 9, 2023.

Jenny Young lived in Morgantown, WV throughout grade school, where her chief accomplishment was learning to rock climb. She then moved to Pittsburgh and earned her bachelor's in Professional Writing and Global Studies from Carnegie Mellon University (forgetting all of her rock-climbing skills along the way). After college, she moved to Virginia, where she worked at George Mason University's Office of the Registrar where she managed various Banner student issues for many years. Finally, she returned to Morgantown (remotely) to bring her hands-on Banner experience to WVNET. In her spare time, Jenny enjoys cooking, TV, puzzles, and playing board games with her friends.

WE WANT TO
HEAR
from
YOU!

Your satisfaction is very important to us. WVNET has implemented a customer satisfaction survey link in our OZ ticketing system. When a help ticket is closed, the reporter will receive an email update with a link to allow customers to fill out the survey, and, if desired, request a call from a manager. To access the form in the OZ email, click on the link.

If you're not using OZ and you wish to take the survey, please feel free to complete the survey at <https://wvnet.edu/satisfaction-survey/>. We look forward to hearing from you. Have questions? Contact Harmony Garletts at hgarletts@staff.wvnet.edu.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

PROMOTIONS

Zackery Smith - LMS Assistant Administrator

In 2018, Zack joined WVNET as a Network Operator and is looking forward to starting his new role as LMS Assistant Administrator. In this new role, Zack will assist faculty and students with the Brightspace online learning platform. During his time in the NOC, he skillfully provided technical support to successfully resolve various issues for institutions, agencies, and organizations across West Virginia. Zack enjoys adopting early technology, listening to music, and playing music. He graduated with an Associate Degree in Information Technology from Pierpont Community & Technology and currently holds certifications in CompTIA A+ and HDI Customer Service Representative (HDI-CSR).

JOIN OUR TEAM!

WVNET offers an excellent State of WV Employee benefits package: health insurance, dental, vision, hearing, Health Savings Accounts / Flexible Spending Accounts, retirement investing, life insurance plans, short-term/long-term disability insurance. We also offer generous amounts of vacation days, sick days, state & federal holidays, and professional development opportunities. To view full job details, check our website: <https://wvnet.edu/about/careers/> and submit resume to careers@staff.wvnet.edu.

EOE/AA/ADA Employer.

- NETWORK OPERATOR to provide basic (Tier I) assistance to WVNET customers. Salary \$38K + eligible for overtime.
- TELECOM NETWORK SPECIALIST 3 to troubleshoot/design LAN, WAN, Campus networks, wireless infrastructure, VOIP solutions, and ongoing maintenance/updating of hardware and software, etc. Salary \$70K - \$80K.
- INFORMATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST to provide support for virtual servers, infrastructure, and external cloud service providers with Salary: \$45K - \$55K.



New Schedule of Rates

Effective July 2023, WVNET has a new schedule of rates.

Visit <https://wvnet.edu/resources/schedule-of-rates/> to find out more.



DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Client Services Update - Brightspace Faculty Training

On January 31, during the Brightspace User Group meeting, Sarah Wright from D2L presented an introductory training for faculty using Brightspace. The training was recorded. The slide deck can be accessed here <https://wvnet.edu/best-practices-with-assessment-wvnet-session-brightspace-user-group-1/>, and the session recording here: <https://youtu.be/xozhvy44ulg>.

On March 31, an intermediate Brightspace faculty training session will be held at 2pm. Be on the lookout for the invite! If you would like to be included in the Brightspace User Group, please contact us at brightspace@staff.wvnet.edu or clientservices@staff.wvnet.edu.

Development Team Update

Did you know that a large part of a web developer's job is not in creating new websites or applications? The biggest portion of most web developers' day-to-day is consulting and support services. One of the services the Development Team offers is website support. This service is one of the most useful for customers who need to have an experienced support team on-hand to help them manage their website. We can help by adding a new layout or feature, researching, purchasing and configuring a new plugin, or just be there to call or email when something isn't working. We offer hourly and annual support service agreements. With a combined 30+ years of experience in web development and an in-depth knowledge of WordPress in particular, WVNET's web support services are unique and valuable to our customers.

To discuss web development projects or if you are looking for support for your current website, send an email to wvnet-support@staff.wvnet.edu to schedule a meeting and review your project requirements.

Systems Update – Keeping Safe Online with Strong Passwords

It is no secret that password security is important in our everyday online interactions. We know we should keep a unique password for every account we have, but this can be a challenge given the large number of various accounts a single user can have. If you find yourself in this situation, password managers can be utilized to provide a solution. These software utilities keep track of and can even generate unique passwords for every account. However, these applications are not foolproof and have their own limitations, as evidenced in the recent breaches that were announced by one of the top providers, LastPass. While the encryption in LastPass should keep your account secure, it comes down to the strength of your master password and making sure good practices are followed.

Most of us have been told to use the common technique of using a combination of uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Passwords such as this “eHzJq^65ju\$Nah” that are randomly generated are strong but remembering it without assistance is nearly impossible. This is where the utilization of passphrases can be extremely helpful. This generated password “Partition3-Clasp-Antiviral” would take centuries to break just as the one created with a mixture of the random characters.

The key element to take away from recent breaches is to make sure you use good password policies:

- Do make a password that is long (12 characters minimum, 14 or more recommended)
- Do not reuse a password for multiple sites
- Do not perform simple substitution to meet complexity requirement. Even though it may look complex, for those that specialize in cracking passwords, it is not. An example could be “MyP@s\$w0rd” which meets all the requirements but could be cracked in seconds.
- Do use passphrases that are long and consist of multiple random words. Using a simple phrase that is commonly known would significantly reduce complexity.

If you want to test how secure your password is, you can use this strength analyzer from one of the most popular password managers, Bitwarden: <https://bitwarden.com/password-strength/>.

They also provide a generator that can be used to create both password and passphrase based entries <https://bitwarden.com/password-generator/>.

In the end, it is up to each of us to make sure we do everything we can to securely protect our online assets, and it all starts with using good passwords.