

NETWORKING 101

WEST VIRGINIA NETWORK (WVNET)



The West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference (WVHETC) 2014 will be held October 27-28, 2014 at The Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown, West Virginia. *Senator Robert Plymale will serve as the keynote speaker on October 28 at noon.*



West Virginia Higher Education Technology Conference 2014 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. The WVHETC 2014 Call for Proposals offers presenters an opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise with colleagues throughout the state. Interested parties are invited to contribute to this year's theme "Innovate to Educate" by submitting a proposal for an engaging presentation designed to share your unique insights in navigating change, achieving greater transparency, and driving efficiencies. Show how those innovations engage institutions at all levels to advance education.

Although all presentation topics will be considered, the list below offers suggestions within broader topics. Please consider these suggestions for concurrent sessions or the poster session on Tuesday morning, October 28. You may submit multiple proposals on different topics. *(Poster sessions are not open to exhibitors.)*

- ◆ Big Data
- ◆ Career and Professional Development
- ◆ E-Learning/Distance Learning/Mobile Learning
- ◆ Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
- ◆ WVOASIS – Finance/Human Resources Project
- ◆ "Green" Computing Practices and Technology
- ◆ Innovative Technologies
- ◆ Posters
- ◆ Public Policy and Legislation
- ◆ Security/Network Management/Disaster Recovery
- ◆ Student Success
- ◆ Web Development

Presenters should plan for a session length of 40 minutes, with another 5 to 10 minutes to answer questions. To submit a proposal, use the [Call for Proposals Submission Form](http://wvconference.com/) at <http://wvconference.com/>. The conference program committee will review submissions and contact everyone who is selected to present a session.

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GATEKEEPER HELPS TRACK STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Teachers at Martinsburg High School will soon be able to know if a student is supposed to be absent from class by simply accessing a secured website.

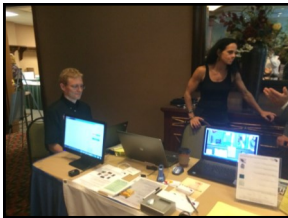
A recent collaboration between RESA 8, West Virginia Network (WVNET) and Berkeley County Schools evolved into a new application for Martinsburg High. Mike Karolchik from WVNET unveiled the new program at the high school and demonstrated its capabilities to the principal, vice-principal and attendance staff. Pictured (from left to right) are: Mike Karolchik (WVNET), Chris Reed (WVNET), Rosemary Lynch (Martinsburg High), Laurie Murphy (RESA 8), and Kay Devonshire (Martinsburg High). Front: Regina Sherman (Berkeley County Schools).



Students that check in to school late or leave early will be able to scan their fingerprint into a computer and have their attendance information uploaded to a website that only teachers and administrators can access throughout the day. The application is called Gatekeeper by WVNET. The program was written by WVNET, and RESA 8 assisted with the necessary interface into the West Virginia Information System that is used by the school system for record keeping.

"We have worked on other projects with WVNET in the past, and they have always been able to customize and generate what we need" stated Jill Woolcock, RESA 8 IT Manager. "When I was approached by Berkeley County with this idea, I thought that another partnership with WVNET could make this happen."

Berkeley County is testing the application at one school now, but hopes to expand to other high schools next school year. For more information on Gatekeeper, WVNET or RESA 8, please contact Mike Karolchik at WVNET (304-293-5192) or Jill Woolcock at RESA 8 (304-596-2659). **Guest article by Jill Woolcock, RESA 8 IT Manager.**



Editor's note: Since the Martinsburg High School test, Mike has demonstrated the Gatekeeper application at the West Virginia Association of School Business Officials (WVASBO) conference in Charleston, WV, on May 14, where attendees expressed interest in the capabilities it provides.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



It has been a long time coming. For me, it has been over 3 1/2 years. For WVNET, more than 38 1/2. In 1975, WVNET became a separate entity bringing the Internet and technology services to all K12 and higher education schools in West Virginia. We were the first statewide research and education network in the United States. We were located on 7 acres way out on the edge of things in Morgantown in a temporary building until the new data center could be built and we are still there. But now, it's the largest undeveloped piece of property in the hottest development area of the fastest growing county in West Virginia. It's across the street from WVU Hospital and very close to both the WVU Stadium and Coliseum.

WVNET desperately needs a new data center and office building. But the state has hit tough budget times. So, WVNET has received permission to release an RFP to ask developers how many years of development rights to the front of the property they would need to have to build us our new facilities. This approach has been successfully used by Marshall and WVU to develop facilities as public/private partnership with the state retaining ownership of the property. This will allow my successor in the future to have an asset which becomes more valuable to generate the revenues needed to replace this new home when it finally wears out.

It is an exciting time and I will keep you in touch with how things develop. So, cross your fingers and wish us luck as we look toward the future!

NEW WVNET OFFICE BUILDING AND DATA CENTER

Recently, WVNET issued **Request for Proposal 01400 for the Financing and Development of the Design, Engineering, and Construction of an Administrative Building and Data Center at WVNET in Morgantown, West Virginia**. WVNET desires through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process to contract with a real estate development firm or contractor (the developer) that will be responsible for finance, design, and construction of a new WVNET office building and data center that will ultimately revert to WVNET/HEPC as part of an overall commercial subdivision project on seven (7) acres more or less of real estate owned by WVNET on



Chestnut Ridge Road in Morgantown, West Virginia. The initial phase of the project will involve the design and building of the WVNET administrative building and the data center. The developer will be responsible for all aspects of the project including the architectural/design work and construction of the facilities according to the specifications set by WVNET and for the financing of the project. In exchange for the developer's work, WVNET will convey all property developmental rights at 837 Chestnut Ridge Road, Morgantown, West Virginia, to the developer for a specified agreed upon period of time (e.g., 25 to 30 years) after which these facilities will transfer to the ownership of WVNET/HEPC.

A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference was held on May 7 at WVNET. The purpose of the Conference was to clarify the contents of this Request for Proposal in order to prevent any misunderstanding of WVNET's intention and desires, and/or to give prospective developers the opportunity to review the site of the work. Pictured above right, second from left, is WVNET Deputy Director Allen Daugherty who addressed concerns and answered questions during a tour of the WVNET facility. Over 20 interested parties attended the Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference. Sixty questions were proposed by vendors before the pre-bid conference and during the conference. Some questions could not be answered. All questions and answers will be listed in another addendum to the RFP. As a result of the Pre-Proposal Conference, the RFP opening time was changed to August 14, 2014, at 1:00 pm.

See information pertaining to RFP #01400 here: <http://www.wvnet.edu/purchasing/bids-display?xid=15>

DEPLOYING SUPER WI-FI TECHNOLOGY

Once again, WVNET received wide recognition in an article in *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* on April 24, 2014. In his article on "Deploying Super WI-FI Technology," Senior Contributing Editor Ronald Roach notes that the WVU TV white space pilot has local and state officials interested in making Super WI-FI a significant part of the broadband infrastructure for public agencies. WVNET Director Dan O'Hanlon is quoted in the article, saying "The state's experience of wiring some 1,068 'community anchor institutions' with high-speed fiber optic cables has convinced me that state leaders should consider an alternative to wired broadband. West Virginia is using much of a federal stimulus grant



to pay for a \$42 million 'last-mile' network that connects the Internet to Institutions, such as the state's K-12 schools, health clinics, public colleges, courthouses and other public facilities, with high-speed fiber. The entire state is mountainous and that brings enormous challenges with trying to bring broadband to [homes and organizations]. Additionally, the [state] population of 1.8 million people is very widely dispersed." O'Hanlon believes that "last-mile wireless in the end will be a large part of the solution to bringing broadband to places like West Virginia that are very rural." Notes O'Hanlon: "The universities will be the engines that help bring up (wireless connectivity) to West Virginia in a timely and economical manner, and they certainly have proven themselves so far."

VETERANS CAN CHOOSE TO GET A NEW START WITH BEEKEEPING



As reported in the Times West Virginian (Fairmont) on April 6, 2014, because of a law passed this legislative session, some West Virginia veterans could be getting a new start doing something a little different, beekeeping.

SB 469 creates a *Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program* which will give veterans the opportunity to train as beekeepers, get equipment and start apiaries (a collection of beehives) on coal reclaimed land. Dan O'Hanlon, president of the West Virginia Queen Producers and government relations chair for the West Virginia Beekeepers (pictured), said that he thought the new law will provide an important resource for veterans. *"We know from studies that have been done about returning veterans that they tend to do*

better if they're put in a natural, agricultural environment rather than an industrial environment, where there are a lot of sharp noises," O'Hanlon said. *"They heal faster if they're in an agricultural pursuit."*

The idea for the law came from Wade Stiltner, apiary specialist with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, and West Virginia veteran James McCormick. Stiltner said that the law will benefit many. *"It's helping the coal companies, but it's also helping our veterans,"* Stiltner said. *"And it also helps the environment, because you're helping the coal companies with reclamation with the seeds being passed down through pollination. You're also feeding wildlife because these pollinators are helping make nuts and berries for the animals."*

Stiltner has been training the first group of veterans to go through the program. *"I've been training Korean veterans and veterans from Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan,"* Stiltner said. *"It's great to see the excitement in their eyes."* He said this is also a way he can give back. *"I'm not a military person. I have an opportunity to give back to those who signed their lives away,"* Stiltner said. *"That I've been able to enjoy the things I've had for 60 years in this country, the freedom, and they risk it all. I have a chance to help them back. It's a wonderful program."*

"The beekeepers are in training now, and they should be certified in time for this season," O'Hanlon said. *"We're getting them all of their equipment with federal dollars, and the law has now been passed, and we're in the process of signing our first agreement with Penn-Virginia Coal, so we're very excited."* O'Hanlon said there are around 20 veterans in this first group. O'Hanlon told fellow West Virginia Beekeepers Association members about the law at the 2014 WVBA Spring Conference at the Trinity Assembly of God in Fairmont on Saturday, April 5. Over 150 were in attendance.

"It's a bipartisan effort. It was supported by Republications and Democrats alike," O'Hanlon said. O'Hanlon said that West Virginia had taken the lead with this bill, and that he has since been to four different states, where others expressed interest in passing similar legislation. The veterans program is part of a bigger effort to work with coal companies on land reclamation for pollinators and beekeepers. *"Every coal company in the state, from the largest to the smallest, has contacted me and asked me when they can start doing coal reclamation for pollinators, for beekeepers,"* O'Hanlon said.



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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT — CLARENCE PEARSON :)



Meet team member Clarence Pearson, Applications Programmer, and one of the members of the WVNET OASIS Interface team. Clarence lives in Fairmont, WV, (Marion County) and has worked for WVNET for 3 months and the State of West Virginia for 3 years. Clarence has a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from Fairmont State University. Clarence's position at WVNET involves developing, testing, and deploying an interface for Banner to the wvOASIS ERP System. Together with team members, Donna Meadowcroft, Roman Chuby and Yvonne Howdershelt, he is helping WVNET-supported institutions manage the State's migration from FIMS to wvOASIS. Clarence is able to apply his experience developing solutions for Ellucian Banner to document, build, and deploy the necessary code changes to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Clarence's goals at WVNET are to ensure the success of the OASIS rollout and help support the institutions to the best of his ability. His hobbies include sports (WVU fan), politics, music, and technology. His favorite TV shows are Cosmos with Neil de Grasse Tyson and The Daily Show. Clarence has lived in the Fairmont-Morgantown area for almost 10 years now, attended West Virginia University, graduated from Fairmont State University and worked in higher education ever since.



Memorial Day 2014