

eCommunity Strategies



July 2007

Welcome to the July 2007 edition of ConnectKentucky's eCommunity Strategies newsletter.

The state of Kentucky continues to make great strides in broadband deployment and technology advancement. We are now at 94 percent broadband availability across the Commonwealth.

This edition of the newsletter focuses on Kentucky's most important asset – its children. Kentucky's youth is perhaps the generation that will benefit the most from the rich broadband infrastructure that has been formed thanks to Kentucky's *Prescription for Innovation*. The future has never been brighter for children growing up in Kentucky. The benefits that will come from the strides that have been made in the last two years in technology growth will be enjoyed by the next generation for many years to come.

The central spotlight of the July edition reintroduces you to one of ConnectKentucky's most successful initiatives, the No Child Left Offline (NCLO) program. NCLO and Kentucky School for the Deaf were recently awarded \$10,000 from Kentucky's AT&T Pioneers for the purchase of new computers for the

school's dorms. To date, NCLO has distributed nearly 1,500 computers to the homes of disadvantaged youth in Kentucky.

The eastern and western spotlights highlight two groups of young Kentuckians who are taking advantage of technology and garnering success and recognition in the process. In the east, the Magoffin County Student Technology Leadership Program is being recognized statewide for the accomplishments of their students. And in the west region, the McLean County 4-H Group is bringing home some national recognition for their mapping work with ESRI GIS technology. These innovative thinkers and young minds are prime examples of what makes broadband Internet and technology expansion so important for our state.

Lastly, we would like to hear from you! If you have a unique example of how broadband Internet technology has changed your life, contact us. We want to know how having high-speed Internet has benefited and changed the lives of Kentuckians.

As always, thank you for your support and dedication to our mission. Please feel free to contact us at any time for more information.

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Over the last two years 14,500 technology jobs have been created in KY and the growth rate of IT jobs in the state was 31 times that of the national rate: 3.1% for KY versus 0.1% nationally.

Eastern Kentucky Spotlight



Tech-Savvy East Kentucky Students Earn State Recognition from STLP

Eastern Kentucky is home to some talented students when it comes to technology.

Magoffin County schools are leading the way in technology education by successfully implementing state-backed Student Technology Leadership Programs (STLP). STLP is a project-based learning program that teaches students in all grade levels how to utilize technology by giving students the knowledge and skills to excel in a tech-savvy society. Not only do Student Technology Leaders (STLs) in the program benefit on a personal level, but the school system and the rest of the community benefit, as well.

"We are so proud of our students," says Vicky Carpenter of the Magoffin County Board of Education. "They are taking on important leadership roles in both the school and the community. It is wonderful to see students get involved."

Magoffin County students have consistently earned state recognition since the program's inception. This year the state STLP song was written by Chase Lewis, a student at Magoffin County High School – evidence that

students are excelling with the knowledge garnered from the program. The STLP program operates with the notion that the best way to gain knowledge is through experience, offering students the chance to learn from interactive activities. Not only do the students enhance their "high-tech skills," but their social skills are allowed to grow through leadership opportunities. Through peer-to-peer collaborations, students learn the importance of mentoring and giving back to the community.

STLP provides an incredible growth opportunity for students while also providing a vital service to the school. Between keeping computer servers up and running, maintaining the district's websites and handling emergencies, technology coordinators in any school district are very busy people. STLP helps to alleviate some of the burden by giving students the opportunity to assist with certain technology needs. Students learn the ins and outs of programs like Microsoft Front Page and Excel and more advanced students learn how to repair hardware. These valuable skills give students an advantage in both school work and the job market.

In addition to serving the tech needs of schools, STLP often forms partnerships with community institutions, such as charities and other non-profit organizations, to provide real-life experience through volunteer work. "Our kids have worked throughout the community on such projects as creating organizational websites and training senior citizens on computer use. We appreciate our hard working

East Kentucky STLP State Winners

Top 3:

- Carr Creek Elementary School
- Knott County
- Community Service SuperSTARS!

Best in Showcase:

- Millard Hensley Elementary School, Magoffin County - The "Reel" Connection
- Oakview Elementary School, Ashland Independent - Printing Services
- Salyersville Grade School, Magoffin County - S.G.S. Celebrates Hometown Heroes

Presenters:

- 1st Place - Runyon Elementary School, Alix Young, How to Care for a Laptop
- 2nd Place - Johns Creek Elementary School, Taryn Cantrell and Haley Wagner, Getting Digi' With It!
- 1st Place - Pike County Central High School, Jessica Ratliff and Jordan Maynard, Creating Class/Home Projects with Windows Movie Maker

STLP Outstanding Students:

- Jade Morgan, Carr Creek Elementary, Knott County
- Mikayla Collins, Charles Russell Elementary, Ashland Independent
- Alysha Skaggs, Charles Russell Elementary, Ashland Independent

teachers and community partners who come together to make this program really work," says Carpenter. These partnerships give community organizations the opportunity to become more high-tech and also demonstrate to students how rewarding it can be to give back to the community.

By giving students an edge in the vocational world, the Magoffin County STLP program is helping students become future leaders. Students learn a sense of responsibility while gaining vital high-tech skills that will benefit them for many years to come. ●

Has Broadband Changed Your Life?

- * Are you a working parent who was able to finish up your degree thanks to online classes?
- * Are you a small business owner whose business has flourished with the help of broadband?
- * Are you now able to telework thanks to the advantages of having a high-speed broadband Internet connection at home?
- * Are your children making better grades since gaining the ability to surf the worldwide web with a fast connection instead of settling for dial-up?

It's no secret that ConnectKentucky has been instrumental in helping the Commonwealth reach an unprecedented level in broadband penetration. Kentuckians are enjoying a broadband infrastructure unlike any other in the nation, allowing for both a higher quality of life and greater opportunity to compete in the global economy.

Now, we want to hear from you. How has broadband positively impacted your life, both personally and professionally? Your story can help us demonstrate to other Kentuckians the ways they can use broadband and related technology to benefit them in their day-to-day lives. If you would like to share your story about how gaining a broadband connection has forever changed your life, please contact us at broadbandstories@connectky.org.

Western Kentucky Spotlight

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McLean County 4-H Club Putting GIS Technology to Good Use

The 4-H GIS Club in McLean County, Kentucky, a rural farming community with a population of just under 10,000 people, is getting some much-deserved recognition for the work they have been doing with GIS technology. The McLean County Community Atlas was chosen as an example for the 2006-2007 year, and soon their website will be linked from the community atlas page of ESRI.

Greg Henson, McLean County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources said, "Basically, the model atlases are used as illustrations for new groups, so they have direction on what to do. We're the first 4-H and first-year group to be selected as a model atlas."

With a grant received from ESRI, the world's leading geographic information system (GIS) technology, the McLean County 4-H GIS Club has created maps for their community. The grant received provided them with 25 ArcGIS site licenses.

"The best example of what we're doing comes from our efforts to develop Myer Creek Park into an environmental learning center and expand



Trenton Ayer, member of the McLean County 4-H GIS Club, is using a GPS device to log tree locations. The club did an assessment of the biodiversity and condition of the landscape trees at Myer Creek Park.

recreational opportunities in the county," said Henson. The group has mapped targeted areas of McLean County, and all their maps can be found at: www.trailsrus.com/mcleancounty. "In some fashion, most all the maps and information on that site have had the hands of our 4-Hers on them," said Henson. Visitors of the website can find area churches, tourism sites, waterways and communities mapped out for them with GIS technology.

The Area 3 Fire and Rescue Training Center offered the use of their meeting room, and purchased laptops for the students to use with homeland security funds. "That, in effect, created a GIS learning center for us," Henson said. It helped, too, that over half the students already had their own lap

tops. Through the ESRI grant, the students received the ArcGIS suite with Arcmap and support software.

Last Christmas, the kids were also able to have a little fun using the software. "Looking at the housing concentration in McLean County, they were able to create a possible route map for Santa," said Henson. The project is still going strong, with future plans to work on a City Green project, as well as some possible analysis based on fly-over data provided by the county.

Henson said this project has been successful thanks in large part to the adult leaders helping out. "They allow us to let the kids each determine their own direction with the appropriate support and guidance. That truly makes this learning by doing... which is what 4-H is all about." ●