EDUCAUSE award

Erv Blythe will be presented with an EDUCAUSE Leadership Award for 2012 at the November EDUCAUSE annual conference. The award recognizes “advancing the interlocking systems of technical, financial, professional, social, and political processes that brought about fundamental and disruptive change.”

The announcement notes that “Blythe has served as a mentor and a trusted advisor to many of his colleagues at Virginia Tech. He fully recognizes the need for hands-on experience and mentoring to develop future generations of IT leaders. His passion for the university and people has generated tremendous enthusiasm, optimism, and trust in the IT organization across Virginia Tech.” The nomination was put forward by a team of his managers and directors.

The full text of the announcement may be viewed at http://www.educause.edu/careers/awards-program/educause-leadership-award/leadership-award-recipients/2012-award-recipients.

TelePresence

4VA TelePresence received publicity in the EdTech Magazine. (http://www.edtechmagazine.com/higher/article/2012/10/how-4-virginia-universities-embrace-telepresence). A photo of Ludwig Gantner (Video/Broadcast Services) and Anne Moore (Learning Technologies) graces the cover. The interoperability project to extend the scope of the TelePresence technology is covered in an additional article. (http://www.edtechmagazine.com/higher/article/2012/10/how-telepresence-brings-new-energy-education).

UC status update

Behind-the-scenes work in the Unified Communications program includes building new facilities to house equipment. To-date, space has been identified and acquired in 6 buildings for new equipment rooms. Construction has begun in Smyth and Randolph.

Many buildings also require new cabling. Cable plant work has been completed in 13 of the 25 buildings identified as needing cabling upgrades and additions. The IP network has seen work done upgrading 50+ buildings since January. Finally, the core infrastructure for the Unified Communications applications is about 80% completed.
Going Google

Network Infrastructure and Services has announced the deadline for eligible members of the university community to establish their VT Google Apps accounts—November 11, 2012. Beginning November 12, accounts will be created for remaining eligible people.

Who? Eligible people include current students, students enrolled during the past year (four terms), current employees, retirees, alumni, and individuals who have been sponsored by a department for a PID.

Please help spread the word! Encourage your friends and colleagues to create their VT Google Apps account before the deadline. Action now puts each individual in control of the timing. After the deadline, accounts will be created for eligible individuals, but they will need to create their Google Services password before accessing mail.

There are also people whose email accounts have “lingered” over the years. Please help get the word out that only those eligible relationships listed above will be provided with a VT Google Apps account, and that ineligible individuals need to find alternate services.

Why? Two years ago, the email system hardware neared the end of its useful life and needed to be replaced. Estimates put replacement costs at over a million dollars. The decision was made to contract for email services rather than provide them locally. The university entered a procurement process, ending with the selection of Google. During the procurement and contract processes, no reinvestments were made in the on-site system. Now, some hardware has failed, and it is uncertain how much longer the email system hardware will continue to function—another reason to transition soon!

For more information, see Going.Google.vt.edu.

Information Security Awareness Student Video & Poster Contest

Win cash, gain experience, and earn international recognition with one short video or a poster!

The EDUCAUSE & Internet2 Higher Education Information Security Council (HEISC) is conducting a contest in search of short information security awareness videos and posters developed by college students for college students. The contest seeks creative, topical, and effective videos (two minutes or less) and posters that focus attention on information security problems and how best to handle them.

Winners will receive cash prizes, and their videos and posters will be featured on the HEISC website (www.educause.edu/security). The winning videos and posters may be used in campus security awareness campaigns.

A gold, silver, and bronze prize will be awarded in three categories—training films of two minutes or less, 30-second public service announcements (PSAs), and posters—for a total of nine cash prizes. Honorable mention prizes will also be awarded.

For more information, visit http://www.educause.edu/SecurityVideoContest.