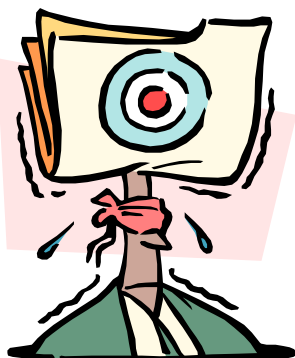




Distance Education Update



Did you know that WCC is at the ‘bleeding edge’ of compressed video technology in distance education? We are pleased to announce, that after some initial glitches, we have worked out most of the technical aspects of this process, and that our implementation of distance education techniques is a showcase in the VCCS.

All eyes are on WCC, as our faculty refine this new method of content delivery and work toward our goal of delivering appropriate education to as many people as possible in our service area.

Last week we converted the historical course data from the old Student Information System, also known as the “Legacy Database”, to the new PeopleSoft SIS. The data consisted of almost 8,000 courses, going back to all the way to 1964!!!

So, what’s up with the SIS ?

The Business Office has made considerable progress in developing the Student Financials modules, and we soon expect to have Financial Aid start on their part of the process.

WCC is shooting for a March 2002 “GO LIVE” date, and more details will be forthcoming as we keep working on the Development phase of the conversion.

What the heck is Abilene ?

Abilene is the code name of Internet2, an alternate, ultra high speed network that is being set up exclusively for the use of a group of research and academic institutions. The main advantage of being on this network is that it will not carry any commercial traffic, which has been clogging the present Internet and slowing down movement of data between points on the network. Of course traffic to destinations that are not in this network will

still be subjected to the usual delays seen now, as they will have to get off the HOV lanes, so to speak, and travel on the old network.



WCC is connected to this network *via* the new Network Virginia Next Generation (NWVng) network. The WCC main campus completed the conversion to the NWVng network last month, and the VCCS as a whole switched over on “Flag Day” on October 5th, 2001. We should see faster access times within the VCCS, and a more stable connection to sites outside the VCCS due to multiple connections to the internet.

We get IT done

Helpful Hint : When you email a request to the HelpDesk, remember to put your room number (eg. 217T or 228C) in the subject line. This shows up on our pagers and ensures that the person closest to you at that time will assist you.

Another first for WCC: Our Smyth and Galax Education centers were the first locations in the VCCS to connect to the NWVng back in the last week of July when we set up the DS1 ATM links for the distance learning project.