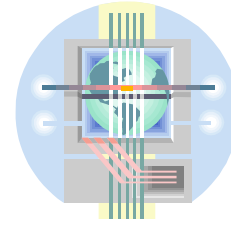


SVETN Fiber Wire

**SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA EDUCATION
AND TRAINING NETWORK**



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Technology Innovation Challenge Grant

Installation of H.323 equipment in several SVETN classrooms is complete. This type of equipment was chosen by the TIC Grant's Technology Task Force to install and evaluate. SVETN members were asked to submit an application for the equipment. The sites for installation of H.323 equipment were chosen based on criteria ranking. The selected sites are Southwest Virginia Community College, Wytheville Community College, Mountain Empire Community College, Pocahontas High School, Grayson County High School, Mt. Rogers Combined School, J.I. Burton High School, Carroll County High School, Gate City High School, Grundy High School, Haysi High School, Patrick Henry High School, and Appalachia High School. Five other locations were accepted provisionally. Development of these locations as H.323 sites will depend on sufficient grant funds and their decision to share expenses. H.323 equipped sites are becoming numerous throughout the state according to the VDOE. The equipment allows SVETN sites to connect outside the area.



Bluefield College Class

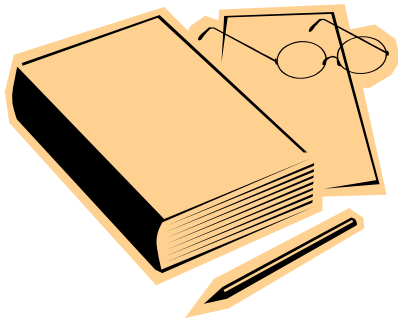
Bluefield College is pioneering a course with SVETN. Introductions to Learning Disabilities taught by Dr. Betsy Steenken meets on Mondays beginning January 20, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dr. Steenken uses Graham High as the point of origination and the class is broadcast to Tazewell and Richlands, and Pocahontas High Schools. Last fall Debbie Colley, SVETN's Program Development Coordinator, along with Steve Peery and Lynn Campbell from Tazewell County Public Schools helped Dr. Steenken become acquainted with using a SVETN classroom. We hope this is the beginning of many BC classes!

Name the Newsletter Contest

Congratulations to David Andrew Gladson, our "Name the Newsletter" contest winner! David is a student of Ms. Sherry Allen at Castlewood High School in Russell County. The contest was a class assignment for Ms. Allen's students. As a result, the \$150.00 prize for the winning entry was presented to Ms. Allen on behalf of David. A total of eighty-eight designs were submitted from students across the network. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to design and submit an entry. Thank you, David, for our new name and masthead!



Ms. Allen, David Gladson
and Bruce Mathews



Web-based Course Creation

With the help of the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant, SVETN will help expand and improve the teaching/learning options in our region. Danny Dixon, Director of Instruction in Scott County, has led the Asynchronous Task Force to determine how schools might collaborate to begin to create web-based courses for secondary students with advanced capabilities. The task force selected a software package from Cyberlearning Labs called "Angel" as the platform on which to create asynchronous high school courses to offer our students beginning with the 2003-2004 school year. After suggestions from survey participants, principals and others the following four courses were chosen for development:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
English	<i>Journalism (emphasizing a Foxfire approach)</i>
Math	<i>Advanced Geometry</i>
Science	<i>The Unique Ecology of Southwest Virginia</i>
History	<i>AP Human Geography</i>



Each course development team will be made up of Angel-Trained Technical Specialists and Content Specialists from fifteen participating divisions.

Watch the website and future newsletters for more information on these courses.



Spring 2003 College Schedule

Monday	WCC-US History	9:00-9:50 a.m.	WCC to Carroll Co.
	BC-Introduction to Learning Disabilities	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Graham to Tazewell, Richlands, Pocahontas
	WCC-Orientation	4:45-6:25 p.m.	WCC to Carroll, Grayson, Marion
	UVAW-Foundations American Education	6:00-8:45 p.m.	UVAW to SVHEC, Honaker
Tuesday	WCC-Human Relations	6:30-9:10 p.m.	WCC to Carroll, Grayson, Marion
	WCC-Language Arts for Young Children	4:00-5:45 p.m. Tues/Thurs	WCC to Carroll, Grayson, Marion
	UVAW-Classroom Management	5:00-7:45 p.m.	UVAW-SVHEC, Honaker
	SVCC-Accounting	6:00-10:30 p.m.	SVCC to Tazewell
Wednesday	WCC-Communication Processes	6:30-9:10 p.m.	WCC to Carroll, Grayson, Marion
	WCC-Art History	4:10-6:50 p.m.	WCC to Carroll, Grayson, Marion
	MECC-Applied Management Principles	6:00-8:45 p.m.	MECC to Lee, Clintwood, Gate City
Thursday	WCC-Mathematics	7:00-9:10 p.m.	WCC to Carroll, Grayson, Marion
	UVAW-Library Administration	5:30-8:15 p.m.	SVHEC to UVAW, Tazewell Career
Friday	WCC-Cultural Geography	6:30-9:10 p.m.	WCC to Carroll, Grayson, Marion
	UVA-Models & Strategies for Gifted	4:00-9:00 p.m.	SVHEC to Wise Ed, Tazewell, Richlands
Saturday	UVA-Models & Strategies for Gifted	8:00a.m-5:00p.m.	SVHEC to Wise Ed, Tazewell, Richlands
	UVA-Children and Poetry K-8	8:00a.m-5:00p.m.	SVHEC to Wise Ed

Please check with individual schools for dates of classes

It's Basic

Not too long ago one of our new Board members, who isn't a superintendent or college president himself, and who was being pressed just a bit by his CEO, asked "exactly what is it we get for our annual payment to SVETN?" At \$25,000 per site, per year, I believe he was expecting to see a long list of advantages. But the answer is so basic that it startled both of us.

SVETN provides each ITV classroom with 24/7 connectivity to 50 other similar classrooms 365 days a year. Of course, those 8,760 hours per year represent potential energy, not kinetic. The value of SVETN comes from how, and how many of those hours are used. Yes, a small part of the SVTEN membership fee pays for writing proposals to win grant money to expand services, for scheduling assistance, teacher training, maintaining equipment, and even replacing some obsolete gear. But most of the dollars collected for each site pay for the telecommunications links.

Just the other day I was reading Malcolm Gladwell's thought provoking little book *The Tipping Point*. Gladwell calls up an idea put forth by Kevin Kelly, whom he identifies as one of the gurus of the New Economy. Kelly's idea is the "fax effect" and it goes like this. The first fax machine ever made was probably the result of millions of dollars of R&D and likely cost several thousand dollars at retail. But it was worth nothing at first, because there was no other fax machine for it to communicate with. The second fax machine made the first fax more valuable, the third made the first two more valuable, and so on. According to Kelly, "because fax machines are linked into a network, each additional fax machine that is shipped, increases the value of all fax machines" that were around before it. "When you buy a fax machine, you are really buying access to the entire fax network—which is infinitely more valuable than the machine itself."

The parallel between SVETN and the "fax effect" is strong. Fundamentally, SVETN becomes more valuable to each partner as the network expands. That is why the addition of H.323 capability is so important for our future. The added equipment will provide alternate paths for links within SVETN, new opportunities for connectivity around the globe, and more total hours available for unfettered service.

At a time when money is tight, networking by SVETN can expand delivery capabilities with no increase in cost. Using it more will cost you less.

Bruce Mathews

January 2003

**The SVETN *Fiber Wire* is available on-line only.
Feel free to share it with your friends and colleagues.**

