

FAIRMONT STATE JOINS WVHTC FOUNDATION'S GLOBAL GRID EXCHANGE

FAIRMONT, WV - Fairmont State University (FSU) announced Thursday, Oct. 20, that it has joined the West Virginia High Technology Consortium (WVHTC) Foundation's Global Grid Exchange™ computing initiative, and is now the second largest provider of donated computing cycles behind only West Virginia University.

"The opportunity to aid West Virginia researchers in computational discovery is an opportunity we embrace here at Fairmont State," said Dr. Daniel J. Bradley, FSU president. "It's very exciting that we can support research and development simply by donating the idle computing cycles of our campus library and lab computers. We're thrilled to be part of this leading-edge initiative and look forward to exposing FSU students to the concept of grid computing."

An initiative of the WVHTC Foundation, the Global Grid Exchange is an online marketplace that delivers the spare processing power of countless Internet-connected computers to users involved in business, science and medical research. With access to hardware resources ranging from PCs to mainframes, the Global Grid Exchange can deliver computing power on demand to any desktop computer over the Internet, creating a cost-effective computation infrastructure able to drive innovation in the commercial, government and academic sectors around the world.

"The Global Grid Exchange is a critical part of West Virginia's efforts to strengthen and diversify its economic base because it can provide a new and unique pathway to the research and development dollars of tomorrow. More research and development leads to new product innovations, and companies form around new product innovations. That means jobs for West Virginia. By making this contribution of idle computing capacity, Fairmont State is going to play a significant role in the growth of our high-tech sector and have a measurable economic impact on the state. As always, we're absolutely thrilled to have the support of President Bradley and his team, and it is no surprise that they have stepped up in the truly responsive way that they have," said James Estep, WVHTC Foundation president and chief executive officer.

Ultimately, Global Grid Exchange providers enable the exciting discoveries made by researchers, scientists, engineers and businesses using the grid. All that is necessary for them to do so is that they be willing to share their computers' spare processing power. If they are, they simply download and install a compute engine from the grid web portal (www.globalgridexchange.com). Similar to a screen saver, the compute engine operates only when a provider's computer is not being used. It then processes tasks, smaller parts of an overall job, requested from the Global Grid Exchange server – all in a highly secure manner. Results can then be returned to the researcher in a fraction of the time that would normally be required.

The Global Grid Exchange is one of various components of an overall initiative by U.S. Rep. Alan B. Mollohan, D-W.Va., aimed at strengthening the competitiveness of West Virginia and U.S. companies by creating and utilizing high-tech processes.

"The power of the Global Grid Exchange is growing every day, thanks to the support of key partners such as Fairmont State University. Our goal of diversifying West Virginia's economy with a thriving technology sector is being achieved through innovations such as the Global Grid



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Exchange, and we welcome the important contributions of Fairmont State and its fellow academic institutions across the state," Molloyhan said.

About the Global Grid Exchange.

An initiative of the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation (www.wvhtf.org), the Global Grid Exchange is the world's largest open public Internet computing grid accessible by users directly from their desktops. Global Grid Exchange delivers unprecedented computing power – on demand – to any desktop computer over the Internet. Powered by Frontier® from Paragon® Computation, Inc., the Global Grid Exchange empowers users with an incomparable platform-independent grid computing environment for the easy development and deployment of distributed computing applications. For additional information about the Global Grid Exchange, visit www.globalgridexchange.com.

About Fairmont State.

Fairmont State, comprised of Fairmont State University and Fairmont State Community & Technical College, is located in Fairmont, W.Va. The institutions have a combined enrollment of more than 7,740. Fairmont State University, a comprehensive, multi-site, selective, four-year institution, offers a quality education in a diverse and supportive learning environment that fosters individual growth, professional and career development, lifelong learning, global understanding and a commitment to excellence in academic and community pursuits. FSU offers more than 90 baccalaureate and graduate degree programs. Fairmont State Community & Technical College enhances the quality of life for the people of North Central West Virginia through accessible, affordable, comprehensive, responsive, workforce-related training and quality higher education opportunities. In its 13-county region, FSC&TC offers more than 50 associate and certificate degree programs, as well as skill-set certificates, workforce education and community education. For more information about Fairmont State, visit www.fairmontstate.edu.

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