

## **West Liberty State College Joins Global Grid Exchange, World's Largest Public Supercomputer**

FAIRMONT, WV - West Liberty State College (WLSC) recently established a partnership with the West Virginia High Technology Consortium (WVHTC) Foundation, becoming the first higher education member in the Northern Panhandle of the Global Grid Exchange supercomputer in the State of West Virginia.

"We are very excited to take part in this cutting-edge program, as it will help a number of research entities and businesses in West Virginia and around the world. It also provides West Liberty with the unique opportunity to further our 'CyberneticCampus' technology master plan through which we offer high-tech educational benefits in the form of combined audiovisual and networking systems, allowing limitless educational boundaries and enhancing research opportunities for our students," said Richard H. Owens, Ph.D., president of West Liberty State College.

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 for business, science and medical research. With access to such resources 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. In addition to the research availability the Exchange provides, it also allows users to work in a safe and secure environment directly from their desktops. Such open access allows users to submit applications and retrieve results without working through a third party.

"The Global Grid Exchange is a great service that's getting even better as we add partners such as West Liberty, among the first higher education institutions to implement the software client system-wide. In its forward-thinking action, the college's leadership will help the research community, business and industry," said James Estep, WVHTC Foundation president and chief executive officer.

"Dr. Owens and Jack Carpenter, our Technology Services Group vice president in Wheeling, worked hard to forge this partnership. It provides business and industry a more efficient and productive use of computer power that translates into jobs, new technologies and better products."

Computer users, such as WLSC, who become Global Grid Exchange providers are able to take some of the credit for the exciting discoveries made by today's researchers, scientists, engineers and businesses. Providers share their computers' spare processing power by downloading and installing – for free – Frontier, Parabon Computation's grid computing solution. Similar to a screen saver, the Frontier compute engine operates only

when a provider's computer is not being used. It then processes tasks, or programs, requested from the Global Grid Exchange server – all in a highly secure manner.

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 Global Grid Exchange is the kind of technology innovation that will help to generate new knowledge and economic activity all across our state. I am pleased that West Liberty State College is so quick to recognize the vast potential of this project, and will support it in a very tangible way: by lending spare computing power to the network," Mollohan said. "It is through such support that the Exchange will grow and become a powerful resource for our West Virginia technology community."

When Global Grid Exchange was launched by the WVHTC Foundation, Mollohan said that the "availability of such a unique innovation ... enhances the competitive advantage of West Virginia companies, allowing them to compete more effectively in the global marketplace. I am proud that West Virginia government, industry and academics could come together as they have on this program. I have no doubt the Grid will become a critical component of our state's vibrant high-tech business environment."

***About the Global Grid Exchange.***

An initiative of the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation ([www.wvhtf.org](http://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 Parabon® 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](http://www.globalgridexchange.com).

***About West Liberty State College.***

WLSC, established in 1837, is the oldest higher education institution in West Virginia. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, WLSC offers a variety of bachelor's degree programs through the School of Liberal Arts, School of Sciences, School of Education and School of Business Administration.