THE HUB

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

ASA appoints the first Chief Technology Officer

ASA is pleased to announce the appointment of Rick Bagwell as our Chief Technology Officer. Rick was chosen as our CTO based on his exceptional qualifications. Many may recognize Rick from his extensive twenty-three year tenure as the Senior Network Engineer with GDIT, contributing significantly to the ASA program. His expertise spans Network Design, Cybersecurity, Systems Administration, and High Performance Computing. Rick will be based at the Supercomputer Center in Huntsville. Congrats Rick!

1000 SITES!!!!

We are excited to announce that currently we provide services for over 1000 sites all over the State of Alabama! These sites include K12 Schools, Libraries, Community Colleges, Universities and State Agencies. We will continue to advance Alabama through technology!

This issue:

E-RATE UPDATE BY NICHOLE GIPSON
CLIENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Funding Year 2024 E-rate application filing window closed on March 27, 2024. ASA was successful in filing applications for our K12 school districts and public library Consortium members. A total of 261 applications were filed for Category One Managed Internet Access and Managed WAN Services. Beginning July 1, 2024, these services will be provided to 968 K12 schools and public library sites throughout the state of Alabama. The FY24 E-rate filing will save the state over $23M. Thank you to all school districts and libraries for being cooperative in assisting ASA with our filing.

ASA'S EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2023: NICHOLE GIPSON

A Message from the CEO - Debra Wallace

Supporting ACCESS Distance Learning

ASA is closely monitoring the utilization of Artificial Intelligence within state government. One organization, NAIRR (National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource) is a federal government initiative that could eventually be a very large source of funding to provide infrastructure to researchers. It currently has a wide range of goals, including working with state agencies.

NAIRR is led by the National Science Foundation (NSF) with a half dozen other federal agencies involved. NAIRR is currently at the pilot project stage. This is envisioned to eventually be a $ 2.6 billion funding initiative, pending congressional approval. This pilot will not fund end-user research but could enhance ASA's supercomputer and other AI initiatives.

2024 Conference SEASON

- State Superintendents of Alabama (SSA)
  June 16-19, 2024 in Point Clear, AL
- Alabama Educational Technology Conference (AETC)
  June 19-21, 2024 in Mobile, AL
- Alabama Department of Education MEGA Conference
  July 8-12, 2024 in Mobile, AL
- Alabama Leaders in Educational Technology (ALET)
  September 22-25, 2024 in Orange Beach, AL
- Supercomputer Conference
  November 17-22, 2024 in Atlanta, GA