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CTO Updates - 02/2017

Office of Information Technology

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CTO Updates February 2017

Attention supervisors of student employees: To comply with state and federal regulations, the Office of Information Technology is asking all supervisors of students who use computers in their WMU job and/or access electronic or paper University data, to require these students to complete the online IT security education courses in Elearning. If they have previously completed this training, they do not have to do it again. Upon completion, they will receive an email with a link to their completion certificate. This certificate can be presented to the supervisor as proof of completion. More information. Questions should be referred to nancy.kroes@wmich.edu

Survey policy: Have you ever had an interest in surveying a segment of the WMU community? WMU has a policy for collecting data via surveys. The purpose of this policy is to ensure efficiency, accuracy, accountability, and consistency in the administration of surveys. It is also intended to eliminate duplicate surveys, thus reducing survey fatigue, improve response rates, alert surveyors to pre-existing data, ensure the validity and security of data, ensure both privacy and confidentiality and promote effective use of University resources. See the policy.

Online computer training update: Did you know that as a current WMU employee you can request a lynda.com (WMU's chosen provider for online computer training) account? At lynda.com you find a myriad of technical topics, including numerous online training courses that explain in great detail some of the more complex features of our new Office 365 email and collaboration environment (W-Exchange). lynda.com is also an excellent resource for obtaining ideas about how to put together professional looking online presentations. We recently increased the number of licenses available and added the ability to request an account online. See online training.

Two IT staff members retire: Fawn Callen, our Assistant Director of Network Architecture retired, marking the end of a technology career that spanned more than three decades. This included 21 years with Pfizer (formerly Pharmacia, Pharmacia-Upjohn, Upjohn) and 11 years at WMU running WMU's network architecture team. During her 11 years at WMU, Fawn was a strong supporter of governance, participating in a wide range of collaboration focused committees. Under Fawn's direction our network architecture team brought a wide range of new technology services to WMU including WMU Secure, WMU Guest, WMU Open, eduroam, Bradford and Palo Alto. Fawn also brought health and humor as our first ever wellness champion.

Matt Tomczak completed an extremely distinguished 29 year career at WMU when he retired on February 28, 2017. Matt's dedication, work ethic, can do attitude and humor will be greatly missed. The majority of Matt's career was spent directing our systems team. Under Matt's leadership the first PeopleSoft and Banner systems were installed. During the 2000's Matt's teams successfully transitioned WMU's computer center from a mainframe based environment to a VMWare shop with nearly 1,000 virtual servers. Matt also designed and implemented WMU's first disaster recovery site in the recently renamed Elson Floyd Hall.

For nearly 10 years of his career, Matt split time between the Office of Information Technology and the W. E. Upjohn Center for the Study of Geographical Change, often times working nearly full time for both organizations. Matt was also a key contributor during the successful launch of the WMU Homer Stryker School of Medicine. Thank you Matt for your many years of going above and beyond to make WMU a place we can all be proud of!

Homepages update: A letter and support document were distributed to the Faculty Senate on March 2, explaining next steps in the homepages deprecation project. As the project progresses, updates will be posted in the CTO Updates newsletter, in WMU Today email and on the homepages deprecation web page.

Did you know? WMU's RAVE emergency alert system has been customized to that it can also provide emergency alert services to the WMU regional campuses. If you wish to be added to the alert network, you may do so in the WMU Alert Registration portlet in GoWMU.