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Wesleyan University
Information Technology Services

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the start of 2024, a new semester, and a new edition of *News from the CIO*, featuring:

- New Teaching and Learning Spaces in Frank Center for Public Affairs
- Workday Project Picks up Steam
- The Future of WesPortal in a Workday World
- 83% of Staff Complete Security Training (*an increase of 31% over last year!*)
- Spring 2024 ITS Training and Instructional Opportunities
- Professional Development

Off we go...

New Classroom Technology in Frank Center for Public Affairs

After years of migration, disruption, and construction, the new and improved PAC is open for business! And didn't Facilities do an amazing job? It's beautiful! But PAC isn't just a pretty building. No, it's also a very functional building as well! There are fourteen new classrooms, including a PC computer lab. Out of these classrooms, nine are equipped with [Zoom Room technology](#). In addition, all of the five meeting rooms are equipped with A/V, including webcams. Finally, there is a large, airy event space with the Forum, which also provides a beautiful view of Andrus Field for any important events that may take place there in the spring. All of these spaces, except the Forum, are bookable through EMS. We're looking forward to all the events, performances, and classes to



Workday Project Picks up Steam

The "winter break" has been a busy one for the Wesleyan and Accenture teams, as they continue to build and test functionality in Wesleyan's Workday instance. A quick check of the [project timeline](#) shows that the project is on track as we transition from building functionality to testing and refinement. Last week, Wesleyan's functional leads in Finance, Payroll, HR, and Academic Affairs previewed their workflows for a wider audience. I attended many of these demonstrations and the promise of new capabilities is evident throughout the platform. Once "end to end" testing is complete at the end of March, we'll be rolling out training for various user groups.

The Future of WesPortal in a Workday World

"Is WesPortal going away with Workday?" This is a question ITS gets often. In the short term, WesPortal will continue to exist but the number of links within the portal will go down over time. WesPortal has helped our community navigate the maze of PeopleSoft, individual applications, and vendor provided software that we use on a daily basis. As of July 1, WesPortal links to services involving HR and Finance will no longer be available and these will be replaced by the Workday interface. For student and academic services, however, WesPortal will continue for a few years until we complete the student implementation. For faculty and staff, there will be a very prominent link to Workday from WesPortal, so even if you continue to start your day in WesPortal you will be able to

83% of Staff Complete Security Training

We are now most of the way through our information security awareness efforts for this academic year. The staff deadline has passed, and we had 83% of staff complete the training. This is a great improvement from the 52% completion rate from last year! The training is still open for any staff who haven't had a chance to get to it yet. The faculty deadline of February 2nd is coming up soon, and faculty started seeing the reminder messages in their inbox starting on January 19th. In case you were wondering why we have two different deadlines, the faculty deadline is 2 months after the staff deadline so we don't create any additional stress for faculty while they are wrapping up grades for their Fall courses. And speaking of training...

Spring 2024 ITS Training and Instructional Opportunities

This semester we are excited to offer several opportunities to faculty and staff that may help you to make the most of your experiences with ITS delivered services.

Please join us for one of the following upcoming session offerings:

- "ITS Orientation – Engaging Effectively with ITS Services and Resources"
- "Microsoft 365 Cloud Storage: Introducing OneDrive and SharePoint"
- "Microsoft 365 Effective File Management using OneDrive and SharePoint"
- "Microsoft 365 Teams for Effective Communication and Collaboration"

Registration to attend these sessions will be offered through [Success at Wes](#) . Please keep an eye open for Human Resource's Success at Wes offering announcements for upcoming course dates and times!

Professional Development

Higher Ed Information Technology enjoys a robust professional network that extends across the country and internationally. Because technology forms the foundation of nearly every process at an institution, professional development offerings are increasingly broad in their scope, focusing less on the technology stack and more on how to integrate and lead in times of constant change. In addition to the numerous user groups for specific systems, there are two premier associations, EDUCAUSE and NERCOMP, and Wesleyan is an active institutional member of both. This means you can be too - see below!

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conference in Providence, RI, every March is a community gathering. [EDUCAUSE](#) is much bigger (over 2100 member organizations) and has international members. They have a large annual conference and offer a variety of professional development options. Among them are leadership development programs that focus on building leadership skills to support engagement across the institution. These programs are not technical in nature but rather seek to produce higher education leaders who can influence strategy and engage with all stakeholders.

These programs are available to anyone at Wesleyan. [EDUCAUSE](#) is connected via single sign-on for easy login using Wesleyan credentials. These organizations are increasingly collaborative with other professional associations in higher education as these groups seek to develop a supportive matrix for those who pursue ongoing learning opportunities. Check them out!

Finally, as a reward for reading this far, here is your Random Seasonal Lyric... In 1986, I saw Arlo Guthrie in concert at the University of Maine, where he sang "[Darkest Hour](#)" from his 1976 album "Amigo". Here is an excerpt:

*It's the tenth of January and I still ain't had no sleep
She comes waltzing in the nighttime, made of wings
She is dressed up like a bandit with a hundred sparkling rings
Looking for my company to keep
Coming closer to me, she doesn't say a word
In the shadow of the carved rock tower
Where the sounds of the night were the only things we heard
In my darkest hour*

Until next time, please be in touch if you want more information on any of the above or if you have suggestions for future topics, and thanks for reading!

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