



# THE HUB

*The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter*

## **ASA SPOTLIGHT: PIEDMONT CITY SCHOOLS**



ASA would like to spotlight Piedmont City Schools in this month's Newsletter, with the article below, written by Matt Glover, Piedmont City Schools' Technology Coordinator. They are members of ASA's AREN Consortium and we are elated to provide support to them with the great work they are doing in their school district.

Piedmont City School District's technology innovation began nearly 15 years ago when the

district launched one of Alabama's first 1:1 initiative. Piedmont City School District is a rural system in northeast Alabama with three schools and one Career Tech Center. Our district is made up of approximately 1200 students that include one elementary, one middle, and one high school. Our technology department is led by our Technology Director and one technician. PCSD manages and supports over 1320 users, including faculty and staff, with devices including iMacs, iPads, MacBook Airs, printers, switches, servers, access points, cameras, and access control. With limited staff and funds, it would be difficult to operate without the support of ASA.

Administrators, teachers and students in the school district use technology to enhance the classroom experience. ASA's on-demand access allows for accelerated and individualized learning, which has proven to be instrumental in promoting student success. From performing research and collaborating on group projects to playing educational games and watching instructional videos, digital technology is empowering PCSD students to be active learners. In addition to higher test scores, increased attendance, and improved graduation rates, PCSD teachers and staff have seen a boost in meaningful student involvement.

(continued page 2)

### IN THIS ISSUE

**ASA SPOTLIGHT:  
PIEDMONT CITY  
SCHOOLS**

**ASA WELCOMES  
ASCTE INTERN**

# ASA SPOTLIGHT: PIEDMONT CITY SCHOOLS (CONT'D)

The devices paired with ASA Internet and WAN services, enable students to supplement classroom instruction by independently exploring and sharing content. To maintain uptime and service while students are online, PCSD utilizes ASA's firewall services. ASA's Palo Alto hosted firewall service protects the district's infrastructure against unwanted threats and attacks. PCSD's blended and student-centered instruction requires high-speed, high-capacity broadband service and ample bandwidth. The district relies on ASA's fully managed Internet access and WAN services to ensure students, teachers, and staff are supported by a resilient and dependable network. PCSD participates in the AREN Consortium for the procurement of these E-rate eligible services. We are also very appreciative of ASA's 24-hour maintenance of any services that are needed.



**If you are a member of ASA's AREN Consortium, please send us pictures of your schools or libraries to be used in a future ASA project. Pictures may be emailed to [asamedia@asc.edu](mailto:asamedia@asc.edu).**



Exciting times ahead at AETC as ASA will provide tours of our Center in Huntsville! Please complete your registration and join us for an informative tour of our SOC, NOC and Datacenter. The tour will count for CE credit and hours as part of the conference. Transportation will be provided with more details available when the final schedule is published by the AETC committee. Refreshments and an ASA limited edition T-shirt will be provided!

# ASA Welcomes Intern Josh Ledlow from ASCTE



In the Spring of 2023, ASA partnered with The Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering (ASCTE) to offer a student internship. This student internship was offered to a Senior at ASCTE to bridge the gap between classroom knowledge and professional experience. The internship was six weeks long and gave the intern an opportunity to work closely with several divisions, to include Application Development, System Administration, Security Operations, High Performance Computing, and the Network Division. The intern was able to choose which division he found most intriguing and was placed with this division for an additional week.

Josh Ledlow, a Senior at ASCTE from Pike Road Alabama, was chosen as ASA's inaugural Spring intern. Josh recently spoke with us about his experiences working with ASA and we have shared some of his comments below.

## **What are your plans after graduation?**

I plan to attend Georgetown University to study Science Technology and International Affairs following graduation.

## **Do you have any hobbies?**

Cooking, baking, and hiking around Montesano.

## **Which department did you enjoy working with the most at ASA and why?**

The Networking team. Working with the Networking team has been interesting and has allowed me to learn how everything works and what keeps everything going.

## **What has been the best part of working as an intern at ASA?**

Everyone at ASA have been super welcoming! The fact that everything I have learned so far is how you would actually do something in the work place. I was able to see how what I have learned in the classroom relates to real life situations in the workplace. It grounded everything I learned.

Josh we have enjoyed having you as an intern at ASA and we wish you the best in your future endeavors!

