



THE HUB

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

ASA VISITS THE DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB

In November 2021, ASA staff members visited the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Dauphin Island, Alabama. Debra Wallace, CEO, did a presentation for the DISL employees featuring the services that ASA offers. In attendance were the DISL staff including Dr. John Valentine, Executive Director, and Melissa Mills, Technology Director. The ASA staff in attendance included Crystal Maylin, Chief Contracting Officer and Nichole Gipson, Client Services Director.

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab was founded in 1971 by the Alabama Legislature to provide marine science programs for many of the state's colleges and universities. Since 1971, the DISL mission has expanded to include K12 education, professional development, and a public aquarium. (continued on page 3)

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L-R: Debra Wallace, Crystal Maylin, and Nichole Gipson



E-RATE CORNER

Nichole Gipson
Client Services Director

FY2022 E-RATE CONSORTIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

ASA is in the beginning stage of gathering data for filing our Funding Year (FY) 2022 E-rate Application for Category One Services (Managed Internet Access and Managed WAN Services) for all public K12 school districts and libraries that will participate in our E-rate Consortium for FY 2022. We recently emailed the Consortium Announcement and Letter of Agency (LOA) form to schools and libraries. On the Consortium Announcement, you will find an overview of the base level services that ASA will provide to your school or library during FY 2022 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). The Announcement also instructs each school district or library to submit a signed LOA to ASA in order to participate in the Consortium. Your signature on the LOA authorizes ASA to include your school district or library in our E-rate application. If you have not submitted a signed LOA to ASA and would like to participate in our State E-rate Consortium, please click on the link BELOW for access to the appropriate form. Completed forms should be emailed to **docs@asc.edu** or **faxed to 334-242-0637**.

If you are interested in receiving quotes for additional bandwidth or if you have additional school or library sites that you wish to add to our E-rate application, please email your requests to **Tyler Carr at tcarr@asc.edu**.

<https://www.asc.edu/about/e-rate-information>

The 2021 Holiday Season is in full swing and the staff at ASA would like to say thank you for an amazing year! We could not do what we do without all of your continued support. Happy Holidays and we will continue to work hard for you in 2022!



ASA VISITS DAUPHIN ISLAND SEA LAB (CONT'D)

The DISL offers educational programs for K12 and marine science programs for many of the state's colleges and universities. They offer Discovery Hall Programs that include virtual learning programs. There is also an Aquarium Live Feed where a roaming webcam gives you a peek inside the aquarium each day.

ASA has been providing internet services for DISL since 2005. At that time, we were providing 1.5 Mbps. In July of 2021, we were able to increase the broadband services for DISL from 50mbps to 1G.

We hope that this will help to better serve the internet service needs of the Sea Lab. We appreciate the gracious hospitality from the DISL staff during our visit. For more information on the Dauphin Island Sea Lab visit their website at disl.edu.



L-R: Debra Wallace, Nichole Gipson, and Crystal Maylin

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - MICHAEL FRAZIER



Michael Frazier
Facilities Maintenance
Specialist

- 1. How long have you worked for ASA?**
12 years
- 2. What do you like most about working for ASA?**
The challenge
- 3. What advice do you give to new employees?**
Have a great attitude
- 4. What three words would you use to describe ASA?**
Power, Driven, Innovation
- 5. What is something that you would like to learn how to do?**
Fly helicopters
- 6. If you could do any other job for one day, what would it be and why?**
Park Ranger-I would be outdoors all the time
- 7. What are your hobbies?**
Hunting, fishing, anything outdoors
- 8. What is your favorite quote?**
"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground"



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Debra Wallace, CEO

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority has had an exceptional year. As we enter the last month of 2021, I'd like to recap some of the highlights of this year. Cybersecurity has continued to be a top focus and we are delighted with the work that our Security Operations Center (SOC) team has accomplished. With over 335 cyber events detected, ASA has been actively working on network security for the schools in the state. But equally important is the collaboration with K12 Technical Directors in resolving issues identified. Outreach has been an intentional focus with K12 schools, libraries, and conferences. We are happy with the reception we've received with this outreach.

ASA is encouraged by the expansion of broadband to rural homes through the Alabama Digital Expansion Authority and I look forward to its continued expansion. ASA is also pleased with the additional funding available to schools through the federal programs, which enables the purchases of additional laptops for K12 students. We are fortunate to be involved in all facets of technology for education. ASA stands ready to enter 2022 with full support of what is yet to come.

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Wallace".



Tech Talks