

## *Best of Kentucky Awards*

Each year the opportunity is taken to recognize people and projects that represent and exemplify the best IT work taking place throughout the Commonwealth. Many excellent nominations were received from Commonwealth agencies and local governments throughout the state. A committee of peers and IT practitioners reviewed nominations in each category and selected those most deserving of recognition and award.

The **Kentucky Mesonet of Western Kentucky University** is one of two recipients of the **Best Application Serving a Public Agencies**. The Kentucky Mesonet is a network of automated meteorological and climatologically sensing stations deployed across the entire Commonwealth. The Mesonet has made substantial contributions to operational meteorology and climatology by collecting, storing, and distributing over 5 million observations containing 100 million individual measurements. Collaborating with the Commonwealth Office of Technology and the Division of Geographic Information, WKU enabled a GeorSS feed of the Mesonet's data. This feed was incorporated into the Kentucky Event Mapping and Analysis Portal (KEMAP) and the Kentucky Weather Mapping website thus allowing first responders and the Commonwealth's citizen's map-based access to timely weather information. Currently, ESRI is showcasing the Kentucky Weather Mapping Site as an example Web 2.0 application.

**Kentucky Integrated Child Care System (KICCS) Provider Portal** is the second recipient of the **Best Application Serving a Public Agencies**. The KICCS Provider Portal system is a collaborative effort between the Cabinet of Health and Family Services (CHFS), Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), Division of Child Care (DCC), the Office of Administrative and Technology Services (OATS), Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), and individuals and agencies which provide child care for state-subsidized eligible families. This web based application is designed for use by public or private for profit, non-profit, licensed, certified and regulated child care providers who are currently approved or pending approval to participate in the state's child care subsidized assistance program. The portal allows child care providers to complete and submit Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) billing forms and view/print payment remittances online, allowing for a paperless process.

Teams are recognized that have designed developed and deployed applications or improved existing systems that directly deliver services more efficiently and effectively to the public are awarded **Best Application Serving the Public**. The **Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC)** is a program of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), which coordinates change and improvement in Kentucky's postsecondary education system. Its mission is to serve as "a statewide advocate for access to learning through technology, a convener of partners that use

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resources effectively, and a catalyst for innovation and excellence in eLearning". KYVC strives to be a technology-based clearinghouse for quality online college courses, professional development, and supplemental studies. The KYVC offers numerous benefits to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As a nationally recognized leader in providing online learning services, the KYVC extends to the Commonwealth's citizens a "one-stop shop" to achieve all of their educational goals from K-12, postsecondary, adult education, professional development, and continuing education. Online 24 X 7 X 365 services eliminate time and place-bound restrictions that may previously have prevented citizens from continuing their education. The online learning environment also allows students to learn at their own pace.

**E-Warrant** system takes the **Best IT Collaboration Among Organizations**, category. Recognition is given for special efforts to facilitate inter-organizational technology projects, data sharing or integration that results in greater cooperation between government agencies or business units. To combat the issues plaguing the current warrant system, the Kentucky State Police, Office of Homeland Security, Attorney General's Office, and Administrative Office of the Courts joined together to form a partnership in the development and implementation of the paperless Kentucky **E-Warrant** system. This system was created in 2008 and implemented in six pilot counties: Jefferson, Campbell, Fayette, Woodford, Bourbon, and Scott. The design of **E-Warrants** has all but eradicated the problems of the paper-based system. This system is web-based, thus providing users the ability to create complaints, sign complaints into warrants, and access those warrants wherever they have internet connectivity and accessible by all criminal-justice personnel 24-7, 365 days a year.

**Bar Coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking System(BEAST)** receives honors for the **Most Innovative Use of Technology by a government agency**, Due to the increased demand to provide more advanced evidence and data tracking the KSP began searching for a system to assist in accomplishing these goals. In June of 2007, the KSP implemented a LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System), know as **BEAST**.

This LIMS system is integrated with bar codes to expedite evidence receiving as it arrives at the laboratories. All evidence is bar coded and given unique identifiers to ensure proper cataloging of evidence. The BEAST system is incredibly dynamic and allows for custom modifications based on end users requirements. The BEAST LIMS, also offers powerful statistical data analysis tools. These tools allow laboratory management to identify trends in data, which in turn allows for the proper allocation of time and supplies to provide the most accurate and beneficial services to the Commonwealth of Kentucky

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**The Compliance-Audit Management Tool** takes the award in the category of **Best Risk Management Initiative**.

This solution developed by Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) is both archival and solution-centric in a single tool. CHFS established an Audit center on SharePoint to centralize all CHFS audit information. The Cabinet developed forms into which the audits could be archived at a granular level and entered the audits into full electronic format. This provides both a centralized, accessible repository of information while also serving to standardize the information into a single format.

The primary advantage to the state from this project is in cost avoidance. Increasingly, the security regulation to which the state must protect the data carries monetary penalties. HIPAA now has maximum fines up to \$1.5 million per incident. Additionally, the state derives benefits from federal programs with very specific requirements on how to protect its data. The use of data from the IRS alone leads to millions in revenue for the state Child Support Enforcement program. By having a compliance program and tool to protect the use of this information, the state avoids business interruptions which could cost the state millions of dollars.

The 2010 Kentucky Digital Government Visionary Award recognizes a government manager or official who has demonstrated vision, leadership and support of technology initiatives in their organization. The recipient possesses a clear record of driving the use of technology, a demonstrated ability to identify future needs and a passion for serving the public. As a testament to the strong leadership and vision provided by many two individuals are recognized as Digital Government Visionaries.

**David Couch** is the CIO for Kentucky's Department of Education. David has kept the education community on the cutting edge of technology over the past several years. Kentucky, according to Education Week magazine, has finished as a top 5 state in their annual report for the past 3 years in access, use and capacity to use technology in our K-12 schools. It is the first state to have high speed Internet access to every school and district office and has been recognized as the best state providing equity of access no matter the size/location of the school or demographics of the student, along with much other recognition.

**Rama Dhuwaraha (DUH-WAR-A-HA)**. Rama, after being Lexington's first Chief Information Officer, he came to government after serving as director of business development with Lexington's QX Networking and Design Inc. Dhuwaraha previously served as vice president of Win Enterprises, which merged with QX. He is vice president of the Kentucky Internet Service Providers Association. Dhuwaraha holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Kentucky.

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Many congratulations to all that are recognized as being the "best of the best" in Kentucky IT.