



THE HUB

Volume 18 December 2024

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

Congratulations Barbara Lewis!!



Barbara Lewis retired as the Executive Assistant to the CEO in our Montgomery business office. She worked at ASA for a combined thirty years. Throughout her career she was instrumental in keeping the Montgomery office running smoothly for many years. We appreciate Barbara's years of service to ASA and we wish her the best in her new endeavors!

Employee Spotlight - Beth Edwards

How long have you worked for ASA?

Four years.

What do you like the most about working for ASA?

The amazing people I work with.

How would you describe ASA?

Small state agency that does big work.

What advice do you give to new employees?

Learn all you can and help where you can.

If you could do any other job for one day, what would it be and why?

Stay home dog mom. Because they miss me when I am at work.

Tell us about your pets.

Three dogs: Shug (a yellow lab), Pearl (a lab/GSP mix), and Cami (a chihuahua).

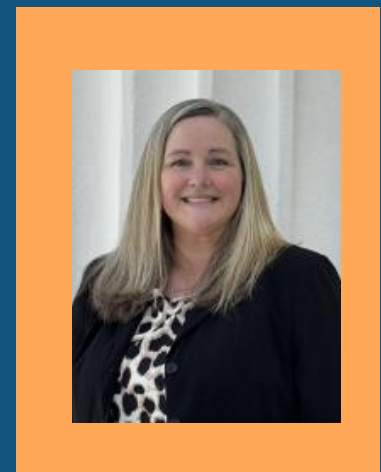
Two cats: Nova and Spirit.

What's the best advice you have ever received?

Work hard, play hard, and find the balance between the two.

What's on your bucket "to-do" list?

Go to Key West, Montana, and Hawaii.



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ASA Spotlight: A Year in Review

2024 Accomplishments

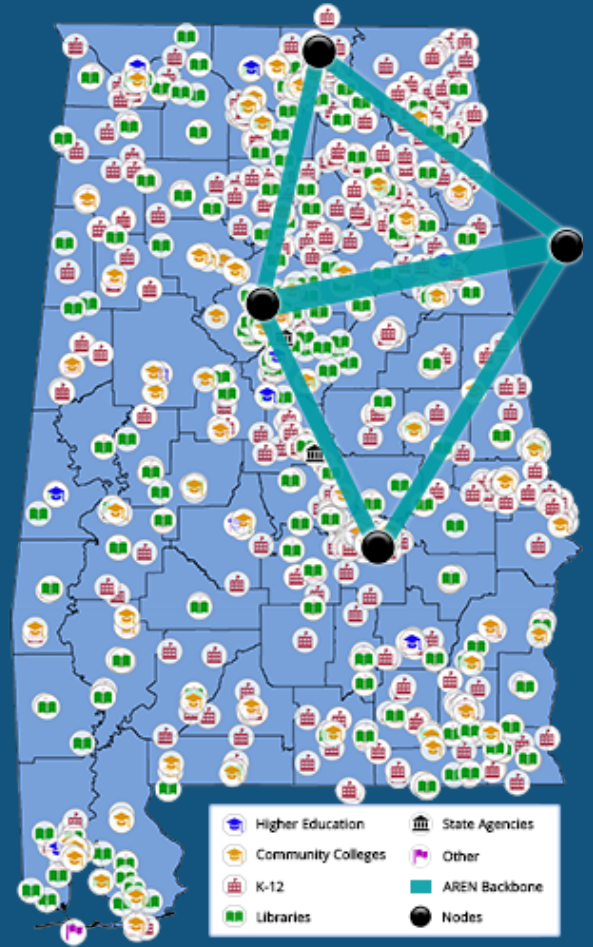
This year, the Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA) celebrated tremendous progress in advancing technology and education across the state. From connecting over 1,000 sites to our network to enhancing services, we have worked to empower schools, libraries, and institutions with the tools they need to thrive.

Supporting our Members

At ASA, member success is our top priority. This year, we provided enhanced support through our IT Help Desk, resolving hundreds of requests and ensuring smooth operations for schools, libraries, and institutions. By delivering reliable solutions and personalized assistance, we've helped our members focus on what matters most—education and innovation

Key Achievements

In 2024, ASA expanded our network across Alabama, connecting more schools, libraries, and institutions to reliable, high-speed internet. We enhanced cybersecurity services with advanced protections and 24/7 monitoring to safeguard member networks. These improvements ensure greater connectivity, security, and support for our partners.



Looking Ahead to 2025

As we move into 2025, we are excited to continue building on this year's successes. By expanding our network, strengthening partnerships, and addressing new challenges, ASA remains dedicated to supporting education, innovation, and our members across Alabama.



Supercomputer Social Media



Don't miss out on the latest updates, events, and tech tips—follow us on social media! Join the conversation and stay informed about how ASA is advancing technology and education across Alabama. Find us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) - **Just search Alabama Supercomputer Authority**



E-Rate Update by Nichole Gipson

Client Services Director

2024: A Year of Growth and Development

As the year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the milestones and achievements that have shaped ASA. This year has offered us the chance to strengthen our services, cultivate stronger collaborations, expand consortium membership, and support our clients in their education and technology initiatives. Here's a look back at some of the highlights from 2024.

Partnered with SDE for E-Rate Bootcamps

ASA had the opportunity to collaborate with the State Department of Education (SDE) in their E-Rate Bootcamps, allowing us to connect with numerous school Technology Directors and Coordinators. In each bootcamp, we shared information about ASA's services and the benefits they provide to school districts. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with SDE. If you would like to explore how ASA can support your school district, please contact [Andy McClure](mailto:amcclure@asc.edu) at amcclure@asc.edu. To access the presentation, please click [here](#).

E-Rate Compliance and Client Survey Completion

As in every year, we remained committed to ensuring compliance with E-Rate rules and regulations. Part of this effort involved accurately and promptly completing E-Rate applications and forms to ensure our AREN Consortium members receive the full benefits of the program. In addition, we conducted surveys to assess client satisfaction and gather valuable feedback. The insights gained from these surveys help us continually refine our services and better meet the unique needs of each client.

Preparation for FY2025 E-Rate Filing and EPC Profile Updates

As we look ahead, ASA has been actively preparing for the upcoming FY2025 E-Rate application filing. To assist with this process, we ask each AREN Consortium member to log into their EPC (E-Rate Productivity Center) profile to confirm their information is up to date. Now is the ideal time to make any necessary changes, as USAC's Administrative Window is still open. The Admin window will close on, January 9, 2025, at which time no further profile updates will be allowed. The Filing Window will open, on January 15, 2025 and will close on March 26, 2025. Keeping your profile current is crucial to ensuring a successful E-Rate filing year for ASA.

<https://www.asc.edu/service-area/e-rate>

Tech Tip for the New Year

Start the year off right by giving your devices a fresh start! Update your software, change your passwords, and enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for added security. A little maintenance now can help keep your systems safe and running smoothly all year long.





A Message from the CEO - Debra Wallace

Celebrating a Year of Growth and Innovation

As we close out another year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all we have accomplished together. This year has been transformative for the Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA) and our stakeholders, marked by significant milestones that have enhanced our mission to provide innovative, reliable, and secure technology solutions.

Enhancing cybersecurity remains one of our top priorities. In response to the evolving challenges of the digital landscape, we have deployed advanced tools and strategies to safeguard our networks and protect the data of the school systems we serve.

Cybersecurity is a cornerstone of every service we deliver, reinforcing a safer and more secure network environment.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we remain steadfast in our mission to drive progress through cutting-edge technology and outstanding service. ASA continues to research new technologies and more efficient processes to continue to serve the state of Alabama. The coming year promises even greater opportunities, and we look forward to sharing these accomplishments with you.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

High Performance Computing at ASA

ASA provides HPC services at no cost to public schools, colleges, and universities in Alabama, supporting fields such as AI, bioinformatics, molecular dynamics, and quantum chemistry. These resources help train students for careers in engineering, science, and technology, fostering workforce development and innovation across the state.

ASA is looking to expand its HPC services to K-12 schools throughout the state. To learn more about these opportunities, contact

hpc@asc.edu or visit

<https://www.asc.edu/service-area/high-performance-computing>





Merry
CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE ALABAMA
SUPERCOMPUTER AUTHORITY

