



Inside SFA

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Sneak Preview: *SFANet*

A sneak preview of *SFANet* now is available online! Today we roll out the first phase of the SFA staff Intranet, which puts a host of tools and information at your fingertips.

Your Intranet can be previewed by simply typing “*SFANet*” in the address line of your web browser. (The site works best with Internet Explorer.) It looks like a website you’d see on the World Wide Web, but you can read about SFA employee services, stay updated on the latest news and announcements in SFA, and get access to loads of other information, all in one site.

The site is still in development — this is the organization-wide roll out of the first phase. Each SFA area will eventually have its own “page.” Right now, there’s content available on the SFA Home Page, Employee Services, Communications and CIO. You can also get to SFA publications, read the highlights of progress toward our three key performance measures, see what’s for lunch (at least in the ROB-3 cafeteria), get travel information and more.

Keep in mind, though, the site is far from complete. New “pages” will be added and more content will go up on existing pages — all the channels and enterprise services will have their own pages in the near future. That’s why we’re calling this a “sneak preview.”

We hope to have the “Search” and “Help” features active soon. In the meantime, you’ll find answers to “Frequently Asked Questions” to help guide you.

Be aware that we will be constantly updating and improving the site, so be patient and check back regularly for new pages and content. As a fun way to encourage you to visit *SFANet* often, to acquaint yourself with how to use the ‘Net and discover what’s available, we would like to announce that...Elvis is in the building!

A picture of Elvis will appear on a different page each day for the first week. If you find him, click on the image and follow the instructions. Your name will be added to the Official *SFANet* Super Surfer list to be posted on the site. Be the first in your area to become a Super Surfer!

SFANet is designed to make it easier to share information within SFA. Because it is an “Intranet” site (not “Internet”), only SFA staff members can access it. Just like ConnectEd is only for ED staff, *SFANet* is especially tailored for us.

SFANet does not replace ConnectEd. It’s another tool to use in addition to ConnectEd. It also doesn’t replace our Internet sites. Services for our customers, like IFAP, www.students.gov, and www.ed.gov/offices/osfap, are still there. *SFANet* is simply a cutting-edge electronic tool to help us share information at the speed of ‘Net.

As we said, this sneak preview is the just the first phase. *SFANet* needs testing, and we need your opinions, suggestions and questions. Your comments will help us make the site better. And as more pages are rolled out, we’ll need your feedback on them too. Simply click the yellow “Feedback” button at the top of the site, type in your thoughts and hit “send.” This is your tool — let us know what you think!

Thanks to all of those SFA staff members who’ve participated in focus groups and testing! We’ve already gotten a lot of feedback that improved the design. But we want to hear from you! Visit the ‘Net and send us your feedback. Once you get the hang of it, you’ll probably wonder how we ever got along without it!

So open your Web browser now, type “SFANet” in the address line, and explore. You’re just a point and click away from more SFA info than has ever been gathered together in one place. (If you have computer questions, call (202) 708-HELP. For questions or comments about *SFANet*, call (202) 401-3843 or use the “Feedback” button on the site.)