

## Update from the Mountain State *Andrew Nichols, PhD, PE*

It has been almost a year since Dr. Andrew Nichols left South Carolina to return to his home state of West Virginia. It has been a busy year getting settled in to his new job. At Marshall University, he has been responsible for teaching engineering economy, introduction to engineering, and transportation engineering courses. He has also been helping the program prepare for their first ABET accreditation visit in 2009. In addition to his teaching and university responsibilities, Andrew is conducting research in conjunction with the Nick J. Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute, a University Transportation Center. He has been assisting the West Virginia Department of Transportation with their first statewide ITS deployment.



**Andrew Nichols, PhD, PE**  
Marshall University

This deployment includes the construction of a new traffic management center at the WVDOT headquarters in Charleston, WV and a backup center in Huntington, WV that will be housed and operated by the Transportation Institute. He is the principal investigator on a 5-year research project to evaluate the statewide deployment. Another research project with the WVDOT is underway to evaluate a new video detection technology that utilizes a single fish-eye camera to detect all four intersection approaches. The technology will be installed at an existing signalized intersection along with traditional loop detection and video detection for comparison purposes.

Andrew continues to perform traffic engineering work for Dennis Corporation, based out of Columbia, SC on projects in South Carolina. He is actively pursuing new projects in West Virginia and serves as the WV division manager. The picture below was taken during the installation of the first changeable message sign on I-64 between Huntington, WV and Charleston, WV.

