2011 RMAIR Annual Fall Conference is Fast Approaching!
Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 26-28, 2011

Please join us as we celebrate this year’s theme of “IR at the Center: Better Data, Better Decisions.” The fall RMAIR conference will be held Wednesday through Friday, October 26-28 at the Hotel Albuquerque in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The hotel is nestled in the heart of Albuquerque’s historical district, within walking distance of museums, restaurants, and shopping.

We are looking forward to hearing from our keynote speaker, Dr. Peter Winograd (Director of the Center for Education Policy Research at the University of New Mexico) at this year’s conference. He has extensive knowledge of data sharing among governmental agencies and educational institutions.

In addition, the conference will include IPEDS training on Tuesday, prior to the start of the traditional conference on Wednesday (pre-registration required), half-day workshops, plus a variety of topics that will be presented during concurrent sessions.

We invite you to attend the Wednesday evening welcome reception, from 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. at the Hotel Albuquerque. This will be an opportunity to catch up with colleagues and welcome new members to the conference.
The Thursday night event will be a great evening – starting with dinner at Seasons Rotisserie & Grill, followed by a Ghost Tour of Albuquerque’s Old Town. Pre-registration is required.

Registration and additional information about the conference is available online at [www.rmair.org](http://www.rmair.org). We look forward to seeing you at this year’s conference!

**Intercom: Letter from the President**

Lisa Muller

Summer greetings RMAIRians.

It was great to see those of you who were lucky enough to attend the Toronto RMAIR SIG gathering at AIR. Our 2nd place RMAIR best paper was presented by Dan Montez "Efficiency and Effectiveness Improvements at the University of Colorado System". Dan did a great job, thanks Dan. We are delighted that we had representation since our 1st place best paper team was unable to travel outside of Colorado. “Exploring Student Populations through a Student Tracking System” by Authors: Patricia A. Meade, Kim Wallace, and Karey Carbaugh.

Leaders are needed both at AIR and RMAIR. We have done a great job in getting RMAIRians into leadership roles historically and it would be great to have this continue, so consider ways that you might be able to help and volunteer. Please join me in welcoming to RMAIR Elizabeth Stanley (now residing in Fort Collins Colorado) who was elected as Chair of External Relations (in the new AIR leadership structure Elizabeth is a member of the board of directors). Elizabeth attended our RMAIR session at AIR and plans to attend our conference in Albuquerque.

Progress in archiving historic Panorama's and programs for RMAIR continues. The goal is to have most of these documents scanned and on our RMAIR website before the October conference.

**Call for Nominations**

Archie George Past President

Hello All. I hope you've had an enjoyable summer and have had the opportunity to take some time away from the office.

As the immediate RMAIR Past-President, it is my responsibility to act as chair of the nominations committee for our upcoming fall elections. This fall we will be voting on the positions of:

- Vice-president, and
- Treasurer

Would you take a moment to consider the membership (including yourself) and advance any nominations for these positions to me? If you do send a nomination, please let me know if you’ve spoken to the nominee. If you have not, I will contact the member.

Remember that the organization is only as strong as we make it. During my time on the executive committee, I've been fortunate, and RMAIR in general has been fortunate, to have had a dedicated team of leaders who have given their time for the benefit of the organization. Of course the continuation of a strong leadership team means that it continually must replace these positions as members complete their terms. So please consider serving for one of these positions.

These two positions are described in our bylaws as follows (See http://rmair.org/images/RMAIR-bylaws.pdf):
The term of the Treasurer shall be 3 years. The responsibilities of the Treasurer shall include proposing an annual budget, recording expenses, maintaining the RMAIR bank account, and providing financial reports to the RMAIR membership. The Treasurer is also responsible for the W-9.

As the Vice-President position is the first year of a three year rotation through the ranks of Vice-President, President and Past-President, the position descriptions for each of these should be noted:

The President shall be in charge of the overall operation of RMAIR, as well as have responsibility for the supervision of all assigned and delegated duties, including presiding at the annual Conference and its associated business meeting.

If the President moves from the Rocky Mountain region or otherwise determines that he/she is unable to complete the term of office, the Vice-President shall become Acting President. The term of office of the President shall be one year. An elected President cannot succeed himself/herself after filling one term in office.

The Vice President shall become President when the President's term expires, at which time a new Vice-President shall be elected. If the Vice-President is unable to complete his/her term of office, the President shall appoint a replacement who shall serve until the next RMAIR meeting, at which time a new Vice-President shall be elected. Any person appointed Vice-President must run for election in order to become President. The duties of the Vice-President shall be determined in consultation with the President.

The Immediate Past President shall chair and appoint a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates for Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He/she will also serve in an advisory capacity to the President. If the Immediate Past President is unable to complete his/her term of office, the President shall appoint a replacement to chair the nominating committee. The term of office of the Immediate Past President shall be one year.

Contact me at archie@uidaho for questions and nominations. Elections will be held in September. Take care and hope to see you in Albuquerque!

Letter from the Editor
Carol Bernhard

Greetings RMAIRians. I hope this finds you well. My apologies for the late arrival of this issue of Panorama. I know this spring and summer have been very busy here at the University of New Mexico, and I imagine this is the case for many of you in your own institutions. A big thank you to our state reporters and to our webmaster for your assistance in gathering the information and helping to put out a newsletter. I would also like to welcome and thank Vicky Morris-Dueer, of the University of New Mexico, for agreeing to take over as the New Mexico state reporter. Given all of the hard work that many of you did to contribute to this issue, I didn’t want to drop the ball altogether. We still need a reporter in Nevada. Please consider nominating yourself or someone in your office for a turn at writing up your states events.

I want to thank Kay Schneider for her great summaries of the business meeting at our conference in Denver, and the business meeting at the AIR Annual Forum in Toronto, and Alli Bell for submitting a summary of the conference in Denver. Lisa’s Intercom message also contains news from Toronto. I hope these articles are especially informative for those of you who were not able to attend RMAIR 2010, or AIR 2011. The meeting in Denver was great in every way, and I would encourage all of you to consider attending our next meeting this October in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Also I encourage you to consider sending in a proposal by August 22 for the RMAIR conference (details online at www.rmair.org). Judy Bosland and I are the organizers of RMAIR 2011, and we are looking forward to seeing you all in Albuquerque this October!

I hope you all have a productive and sane fall.
1. President Archie George welcomed the attendees to the business meeting/luncheon.

2. Executive Committee members were introduced and thank you gifts were distributed to the leaders of this year’s planning and local arrangements committee, Greg Appling, Amanda Spears and Mary Sherman; as well as outgoing officers Mark Chisholm (past president), Lisa Muller (Panorama editor) and Farah Thompson (secretary).

3. Ellen McGregor provided a summary of 40 years of RMAIR meetings, beginning with information from the first formal conference, which was held at the University of Utah. In 1988, the newsletter was developed and officers were appointed. Additional information regarding the 40-year history will be posted to the RMAIR website.

4. Lisa Muller provided a recap of the 2009-10 year. Challenging economic conditions were expected to impact attendance at the RMAIR conference but attendance has been comparable to previous years. Results from last year’s conference evaluations revealed that participants wanted a Thursday evening group event, so the King Tut exhibit was an optional social activity at this year’s conference. The RMAIR members met at AIR in Chicago in June. At the national level, there was discussion regarding the value of scheduling the regional meetings in conjunction with the annual AIR Forum, but there was minimal support for this proposal.

5. Ellen McGregor provided a treasurer’s report. The available balance will be approximately $20,000 after paying the Curtis hotel for hosting this year’s conference. RMAIR is earning a very low rate of interest by keeping the money in a savings account. RMAIR is not a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; benefits of obtaining 501(c)(3) status include obtaining a sales tax exemption and being more appealing to donors. RMAIR will need to submit an initial application to obtain non-profit status; annual IRS 990 form submissions will be required to maintain this status. Archie George will research which state would be the most logical as a location for incorporating. While incorporating in Idaho is free, there are few RMAIR members Idaho.

RMAIR has not developed guidelines regarding how to administer the scholarship fund, which was established to honor former RMAIR members who are now deceased. This scholarship is separate from AIR’s Duckwall scholarship. Members discussed if the scholarships should be limited to graduate students, to support presenters’ travel costs, or to support new IR staff members’ attendance at their first RMAIR conference. One of the priorities for the upcoming year is standardization of the application criteria and application process. Archie George will distribute the PNAIRP scholarship guidelines for our review.

6. Election results were announced. The elections were very close, with 60 RMAIR members casting ballots. Mary Beth Worley (New Mexico State University) was elected to the president elect position and Kay Schneider (University of Denver) was elected to the secretary position.

7. Members will be asked to approve minutes from last year’s RMAIR conference via an online approval system.

8. Lisa Muller provided a Panorama update and indicated that all past year’s editions will be posted online as part of our organizational history. Lisa thanked contributors and the state reporters. Carol Bernhard (University of New Mexico) agreed to serve as the new editor of Panorama.

9. The 2011 fall conference will be held in Albuquerque and the 2012 conference will be held in Laramie. The AIR Forum in 2011 will be held in Toronto.

10. Passing of the gavel: Lisa Muller is our incoming president while Archie George will become the past president. One responsibility of the past president is to recruit candidates for officer positions. Lisa indicated that her agenda will include working with Mike Ellison, our webmaster, to ensure that the website serves as a repository for Panorama and the conference programs. Another priority for the coming year is the development of a toolkit for conference planning. The Train the Trainer program will continue, but the request for applications
will be made earlier than has been the case in past years, as the pre-conference workshops at AIR fill up very quickly. Treasurer Ellen McGregor encouraged everyone to consider applying for a Train the Trainer grant, which provides $500 for travel plus the AIR workshop fee.

11. For the good of the order: Mavis O’Connor has retired from Colorado State. Nicolas Valcik made a motion to award emeriti status to Mavis, the motion passed. Additional door prizes were distributed. Acknowledgement was given to members outside of our region who support RMAIR.

12. Meeting adjourned.

Addendum to the minutes:

1. After the meeting an attendee pointed out to Archie that non-profit status and incorporation are separate issues, which seem to have been discussed as if they were the same. Archie agreed and will investigate each.

2. The association will need a comprehensive annual financial statement after the end of the year, consisting of beginning balance, all income and expenditures, and year-end balance. This will be published in the Panorama newsletter in the spring.

RMAIR Business Meeting Minutes
RMAIR Meeting Notes Kay Schneider May 23, 2011

Meeting held at the Association for Institutional Researchers Annual Forum

Board Members Present: Lisa Muller (President), Kay Schneider (Secretary)

Introductions

Colorado RMAIR: Some of the presentations are posted online. The conference was well attended. The conference was well attended, but a financial report from the conference is not yet available.

Future RMAIR Conferences:

New Mexico, October 26-28, 2011. Carol Bernhard is the Local Arrangements contact, and Judy Bosland is the Program contact – Judy recommended that attendees be prepared for cool weather. The call for proposals has been distributed; a reminder will be sent in a week or two. Hans L’Orange indicated that the national discussion is focused on using data appropriately in a P-20 context. He also suggested there may be challenges in hiring entry level analysts, although this may not be the case at all institutions. Both of these could be potential topics for the fall conference, possibly structured as panel discussions. Plenary speakers have not been identified but suggestions for speakers are welcome. The conference hotel is reasonably priced, at $109 per night. The IPEDS workshop will be offered on Wednesday, with the conference beginning on Thursday morning and ending on Friday afternoon.

Wyoming October 3-5, 2012. Lisa Muller is the contact.

Maybe Utah will be able to host in 2013?

Panorama: Carol Bernhard is the new editor. Diane has old copies of Panorama, which she will provide so that they can be archived. Ellen McGregor provided old copies in a binder when Panorama was distributed via paper copies. The University of Wyoming is scanning these as part of the archival goal. They will then be posted on the RMAIR website.

Treasurer Report: A report is pending. We do have adequate backup funds in the event that a conference does not do well.
Tax free status: As a result of the AIR reorganization/new governance structure, our tax free status will need to be addressed. Board member liability is another issue we need to consider, along with determining which state we should use as a basis for our incorporation. Dinah Henry or Brandice Pittard at the AIR office can provide guidance as we continue to pursue this issue.

Train the trainer: RMAIR was able to sponsor attendance at the “Excel Pivot Table” pre-conference workshop. This session will be included on the schedule during the Albuquerque conference. Our “to do list” includes formalization of the Train the Trainer policy/procedures.

RMAIR best paper: Dan Montez presented the RMAIR best paper (“Efficiency and Effectiveness Improvements at the University of Colorado System”). Lisa reminded members of the importance of completing evaluations so that we can determine the best paper and be well represented at AIR.

Website: The RMAIR website is hosted by AIR; the annual cost is $100. The hosting arrangement may change as a result of the AIR reorganization.

August 2011 Treasurer’s Report

Beginning balance as of Oct 14, 2010: **$20,081.87** (does not include September 2010 registration fees for the Denver conference, or September 2010–2011 membership dues received by AIR by credit card).

Expenses: $17,067.29 (covers Denver dinner, Denver conference, Best Paper, and other 2010 conference costs)

Revenue:


Savings Accounts:

- $750.72 scholarship
- $3083.70 savings

Checking Account: $9838.76

Ending balance as of July 31, 2011: **$13,673.18**

Ellen McGregor, RMAIR Treasurer

RMAIR 2010 Annual Meeting Highlights

Alli Bell

In 2010, we celebrated 40 Years of Moving Higher Education Forward at the RMAIR Annual Conference. Ninety four participants came to Denver, CO for three days of learning, networking, and celebrating RMAIR’s accomplishments. The sessions included IPEDS Trainings, keynote addresses from David Skaggs and Matt Gianneschi, and presentations by your fellow RMAIR members. As usual, the topics were varied; however, data systems and integration and improving higher education in tough economic times were recurring themes. The social highlight of the meeting was the 40 Years of RMAIR celebration that included a trip to the King Tut exhibit and dinner at Maggiano’s.
News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)

Arizona News

AZ AIR held its annual conference on April 1, 2011. The conference was hosted by Pima Community College, and the program was coordinated by the University of Arizona.

State Budget Impacts Higher Education

The Arizona budget crisis was solved on the backs of education. The community colleges took a 30% reduction in funds from the State.

University of Arizona

The University of Arizona recently lost both its President and Provost. Robert Shelton, the former President of UA recently became the head of the Fiesta Bowl in response to questionable issues and legal concerns of the Fiesta Bowl. A 23-member Presidential Search Committee has been appointed by the Arizona Board of Regents. For the next year, Eugene Sander will lead the UA on an interim basis as President while the Arizona Board of Regents conducts a national search for the next president.

Provost Meredith Hay was appointed as Special Advisor to the Arizona Board of Regents. Dr. Hay assumed her new role on August 1. Jacqueline Mok will serve as senior vice president for academic affairs and provost until a national search for a permanent replacement is completed.

COLORADO
State Reporter: Kay Schneider (Colorado School of Mines)

News from the Colorado Association of Institutional Research meeting (hosted by CU Boulder) by Lisa Muller

During a roundtable of all the schools I was surprised to hear how similar the campus priorities had been over the past 2 years. The major topics that nearly every school mentioned were an emphasis on building or renovating facilities, recent completion or current work on national accreditation, name changes (which added a little levity) and increased requests for information. Colorado University Vice Chancellor and CFO Ric Porreca had just returned from meetings in Washington DC and commented on the Data Driven University. His feedback was "Don't be too complex". His goal is make better use of data already in campus systems (Like PeopleSoft). Porreca commented that at the executive level data should be used to evaluate and identify problems. He also mentioned that Institutional Research can be helpful in trend analysis and helping to identify key data translators on campus (for example strategic alliances with information technology).

IDAHO
State Reporter: Christine Lighty (University of Idaho)

Idaho’s State Board of Education is in the process of developing a state-wide data warehouse. Diligence is important at this point and much time is being spent on the data dictionary and determining how to integrate the various data-management systems in use by the institutes of higher learning within the state.
University of Idaho

The U of Idaho will offer its first-in-the-nation Doctorate degree in Athletic Training this summer. The two-year program combines academic experience with hands-on experience during residency programs.

The U of Idaho was recognized for its commitment to community engagement and service-learning by several entities: For the fifth year in a row, the university has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition for volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. The U of I received the Carnegie Classification for Engagement. The university also was a finalist for the national C. Peter Magrath University/Community Engagement Award, receiving the Outreach Scholarship/W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award for the western U.S. region.

Research done at the University of Idaho now is helping the vision impaired safely cross intersections. The Advanced Accessible Pedestrian System was in development for six years at the U of I and is now in commercial production. The new signal provides information visually with a traditional lighted signal, audibly through a recorded message and through touch – all in an effort to provide as much information as possible to the pedestrian in order for them to cross the busy intersection safely. The Office of Technology Transfer is responsible for licensing any technology developed at the University of Idaho that may have commercial application. The AAPS is an example of how research at the university may reach the real world.

Around the state:

Boise State University

Boise State University announced that Micron Technology, Inc., has committed $13 million to the College of Engineering for the development of a Ph.D. program in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) — the largest gift to the university in its nearly 80-year history. A Ph.D. program will increase collaborative research with the potential to yield significant benefits in areas ranging from health care to construction and defense.

Related research in Boise State’s MSE department ranges from using DNA as nanoscale scaffolding for groundbreaking biomedical devices to developing new materials to withstand environmental conditions such as extreme heat, corrosive gas and radiation. An undergraduate degree program and two master’s degree programs bridge the pure and applied sciences and produce graduates with interdisciplinary skills that are in demand, and the addition of a doctoral program promises direct benefits for the university and Micron.

Idaho State University

Idaho State University has catapulted to Research University-High status in the Carnegie Foundation rankings of U.S. colleges and universities. ISU is only one of 98 institutions in the country in this prestigious group. This classification is second only to the highest category Research University-Very High, and for many years, ISU has been listed as a DRU, or Doctoral Research University.

Lewis-Clark State College

Lewis-Clark State College’s new President is Dr. J. Anthony (Tony) Fernandez. Dr. Fernandez served as Vice President/Provost from 2003-2010 and had been the interim President at LCSC since April 2010.

North Idaho College

Since the fall of 2007, NIC enrollment has increased by 36.5 percent with a 12.16 percent increase in enrollment this fall compared to last year’s fall semester. NIC saw a 15.38 percent increase in the number of students enrolled in professional-technical programs this fall. To make room for the expanding need for Workforce Training
programs, as well as apprenticeship programs, NIC is developing the Kootenai Technical Education Campus that is expected to be ready for classes in 2013. The KTEC plan is to include training labs for the programs most in need of additional space, which include automotive technology, collision repair and diesel technology. Programs like welding, carpentry and computer-aided drafting are other possibilities for the KTEC site.

**Eastern Idaho Technical College**

EITC plans to build on 3 existing recruitment and retention programs operated through their ABE and Center for New Directions (CND). The plan places priority emphasis on student advising, counseling, college orientation and mentoring as keys to student college transition and retention. Project also places emphasis on outreach activities to area alternative high school students with college readiness support activities.

**College of Western Idaho**

College of Western Idaho plans to expand the dual credit and tech prep programs to alternative high school students to help prepare them for a post-high school education option. It includes: 1) collaboration between CWI faculty and high school educators to better equip them to teach college-level coursework 2) transition services including advising,3) assistance with financial and application forms, 4) COMPASS placement testing 5) mentoring by CWI students as part of their service learning and 6) campus visits.

**MONTANA**

State Reporter: Jim Rimpau (Montana State University-Bozeman)

Most of the institutions in the Montana University System continue to experience record enrollments in spite of a slight decline in the numbers of high school graduates in the state. That increased demand did not seem to impress the State Legislature. They produced a budget that leaves about a $14 million biennial shortfall across the eight MUS campuses. The State’s budget overall has something more than a $200 million surplus.

The Governor’s proposed budget was much more favorable to higher education and included a 1% raise for State employees in the first year of the biennium and a 3% raise in the second year. The final legislative budget does not include any raises for State employees for the biennium.

During the session, a bonding bill was introduced that would have funded building projects on many of the MUS campuses. That bill did not pass out of the legislature.

With State support not being what we had hoped for, the Board of Regents had a long discussion at their May meeting about increasing tuition. Montana has been able to hold tuition increases down over the last several years and our rate of increase is about the lowest in the nation. The current rates at our four year institutions are below WICHE averages but our two year tuition is still above WICHE averages. With all of that as background, the Board approved 5% tuition increases at our four year campuses for each of the next two years. The MUS two year campuses will not have any tuition increases over the next two years. Montana also has three community colleges which are not counted among the eight MUS campuses and they will have tuition increases between 2 and 11% over the next two years.

In other news, Martha Potvin accepted the position of Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Montana State University Bozeman. She assumed office in January 2011. “Dr. Potvin will be a wonderful addition to our university,” said MSU President Waded Cruzado. “Her background and qualifications make her an excellent fit for MSU. Dr. Potvin has ample experience, and she thoroughly understands the role and responsibilities of a successful provost.” Dr. Potvin was the Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Dakota.
Montana Tech named a new Chancellor, Donald Blackketter, who is currently serving as dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Idaho in Moscow. “Dr. Blackketter will make an excellent chancellor, and I could not be more pleased by the outcome. I look forward to a bright future for Montana Tech under his leadership,” said President Royce Engstrom. Dr. Blackketter will begin his job at the Butte campus in late June and replace Chancellor Frank Gilmore who served for 13 years.

NEVADA
State Reporter: Open position

No report. Please contact Carol Bernhard if you are interested in serving as Nevada state reporter. Her contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Vicky Morris-Dueer (University of New Mexico)

New Mexico- Statewide

HED Funding Formula Revision: New Mexico's Higher Education Department has been charged by the state legislature to revise the state funding formula by Oct 15, 2011. The current formula, which has been in use for nearly 30 years with periodic updates, is based primarily on credit hours and academic space. The process will include collaboration between HED and representatives from all institutions in the state and will explore the option of incorporating more outcome measures and incentives for student success as well as workforce preparation into the new formula. In addition, rather than using one formula that is designed to work for all institutions, there is discussion about developing three formulas; one for research universities, one for comprehensive universities, and one for all two-year institutions. Models from other states will be carefully examined. It is likely that some ideas from these state models will be incorporated into the new formula as well as new ideas that make sense for New Mexico. It should be an interesting summer!

State Employees Pay More for Retirement: State employees are now paying more to their retirement funds as a result of the 2011 spring legislative session. House Bill 628 extends the current 1.5% contribution employees make to retirement funds and shifts the 1.75% contribution employees were already making as a result of a previous bill in FY11 from the state to employee. These shifts require employees to pick up a cumulative 3.25% employer contribution for FY12 and could extend into FY13 if FY12 revenues fall short of thresholds of a 5% reserve and at least $100 million over the current forecast.

University of New Mexico

Budgets: The Board of Regents approved a $2.042 billion budget for the main campus, health sciences center and UNM Hospital, a decrease of 3.4 percent from the 2010–2011 budget. Earlier this month, regents had approved a 5.5 percent increase in tuition and fees for Fiscal Year 2012. The budget reflects a rapidly changing level of support from the state of New Mexico. UNM has absorbed $63 million in state funding cuts from the legislature over the last three years. New Mexico taxpayers now contribute 13.5 percent of the UNM budget, down from 20 percent in 2008–2009. UNM’s share of the state’s overall higher education budget has also decreased. In addition, 72 percent of the latest tuition increase will return to the state in the form of the tuition tax credit.

Administrative Changes: University of New Mexico President David J. Schmidly announced that he will leave the presidency of the university when his contract is fulfilled in June of 2012.

Administrative Changes: President David Schmidly announced the appointment of Engineering professor Chaouki T. Abdallah as interim Provost and Executive Vice-President of Academic Affairs for a one-year term effective July 1, 2011.
**Institution Recognition:** The University of New Mexico is ranked among the top 100 colleges for Hispanics, as reported in *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*. UNM ranks 13th for the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics, with 36 percent of degrees awarded going to Hispanics. UNM ranks 24th for the number of master’s degrees awarded to Hispanics, with 22 percent of degrees awarded going to Hispanics. UNM ranks 7th for the number of doctoral degrees awarded to Hispanics, with 21 percent degrees awarded going to Hispanics.

**Institution Recognition:** The *Princeton Review* lists UNM as among the top “Green Colleges” in their “Princeton Review’s Guide to 311 Green Colleges, 2011” book. UNM was chosen after the *Princeton Review* and US Green Building Council investigated sustainability efforts of more than 700 colleges and universities. UNM is the only New Mexico higher education institution listed. UNM received special recognition in the Green Guide for its Sustainability Council, made up of students, staff and faculty working together with the Office of Sustainability to help oversee UNM’s 2008 Sustainability Policy as well as the university’s Sustainability Studies program, one of the first in the country.

**Institution Recognition:** University of New Mexico Hospitals (UNMH) has again been named to the second annual list of “Best Companies for Hourly Workers” in *Working Mothers*. The only initiative of its kind, the “Best Companies for Hourly Workers” list celebrates businesses working to provide family-friendly benefits that promote health/wellness, education, flexibility and work-life balance.

**Institution Recognition:** The University of New Mexico is not just a foremost educational institution for students in the community. It’s also a prime moneymaker for the state. A new study from the University’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) shows how the university brings money into the New Mexico economy. According to the report, during the 2010 fiscal year, UNM operations accounted for $1.86 billion in expenditures and more than 25,000 jobs, making it the largest employer in the state. Total salaries and benefits were $1.03 billion.

**Institution Recognition:** Many University of New Mexico programs made the *U.S. News and World Report’s* list of best graduate programs for 2012, as reported in the 2012 edition of “Best Graduate Schools by U.S. News Media Group.” Some of the programs listed are; UNM School of Medicine ranked 28th for primary care, rural medicine ranked 2nd and family medicine ranked 8th, as determined by medical school deans and senior faculty. Pharmacy was ranked 32, as it has been for a few years. The UNM Fine Arts program was again ranked 50th in the country with the College of Fine Arts’ photography program ranked 5th, and printmaking, 11th.

**New Mexico Military Institute**

**Another Successful Academic Year:** NMMI just completed another successful academic year here, the second for our current Superintendent/President Major General Grizzle. Approximately 280 High School and Junior College students will graduate with more than a thousand parents, relatives and alumni present. It appears that we will continue our success at preparing young men and women for future academic endeavors at the five United States Service Academies with some 75 securing nominations.

**Institutional Accomplishment:** We had a successful year in IR with an accreditation visit from the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission in April and we are confident that our progress in documenting our assessment practices over the past 4 years has been representative of our continuing efforts to develop an institution where these efforts are ongoing and embedded. Our HLC Assessment Academy Task Force has been instrumental in making these endeavors a success. We have been using the CAAP test as a strategic measure of our Junior College general education learning outcomes, and this year's required testing for Associates Degree candidates has resulted in a record number of Cadets receiving ACT recognition for their higher scores.

**IR Achievement:** Richard Kestner, NMMI’s Institutional Research Officer, is currently serving as the NM Higher Education Assessment Association President. While serving in this capacity, Richard began a program to visit the chief executive officer of every institution of higher learning in New Mexico to promote the NMHEAA and the annual NM Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference. This effort kicked off with a recent visit to UNM where he met with President David Schmidly, Chief of Staff Breda Bova, and Assessment Manager Tom
Root to endorse NMHEAA and the annual conference. Dr. Vince Tinto has committed to be a contributor to the upcoming NMHEAR 2012 conference. Richard will also be attending the AIR Annual Forum in Toronto.

Highlands University

*Lowest Tuition Rate:* Highlands University has the lowest undergraduate tuition and fees of any four-year college in a 15-state region in the West. According to the study "Tuition and Fees in Public Higher Education in the West, 2010-11" completed by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), Highlands had the lowest tuition and fees for both resident and non-resident undergraduate students of any four-year institution in the entire region, which includes colleges in California.

Northern New Mexico College

*Single Tuition Rate:* Northern joins its peer four-year colleges and universities in charging a single tuition rate for lower and upper division courses. Continuing our maturation as a college offering four as well as two year degrees, the new tuition rate will be effective fall 2011.

*Administrative Changes:* Northern bids a fond farewell to Theresa Romero-Martinez, as she vacates her position on the NNMC Board of Regents. As a Northern Regent from 2005-2010, Ms. Romero Martinez served during an exciting period of growth and change for the college. Her position has been filled by Governor-appointed Rosario (Chayo) Garcia, who previously served the College as Regent from 2002-2007. Ms. Garcia is a local businesswoman who also serves on the Española City Council.

New Mexico State University- Alamogordo

*Budgets:* NMSU Alamogordo is focused on reduced funding from the State of New Mexico at a time when we continue to experience growth. Enrollment for 2010-11 was about 7.5% (FTE) higher than the previous year. This results in a $7 increase in tuition for resident in-district students, a $10 increase in tuition for resident out-of-district students and an $18 increase for out-of-state students.

*Upcoming Accreditation:* NMSU-A is conducting its Self-study for reaffirmation of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. The evaluation team visit is scheduled for spring 2013.

New Mexico State University

*Institution Recognition:* New Mexico State University was rated among the top 100 colleges for Hispanic students according to the May 2 issue of *Hispanic Outlook* in Higher Education magazine. The rankings show the top 100 institutions for Hispanics based on the number of degrees awarded. The information, made available by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, was compiled and reported by The Hispanic Outlook. NMSU ranked 23rd for the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanics, with 41 percent of degrees awarded going to Hispanics. NMSU ranked 29th for the number of master’s degrees awarded to Hispanics, with 27 percent of degrees awarded going to Hispanics. In a separate ranking of the top 10 number of bachelor’s degrees awarded by academic program, NMSU achieved eighth place for “Agriculture” and seventh place for “Education.”

Central New Mexico

*Budgets:* As a way to address a 7.5 percent cut in state funding for the upcoming fiscal year, Central New Mexico Community College conducted a successful Voluntary Retirement Incentive program that is estimated to save the college $3.9 million in upcoming years. CNM offered full-time employees who were eligible to retire on or before Dec. 31, 2011, $1,000 per year of full-time service at the college to retire by Dec. 31. The program exceeded expectations with 105 employees taking advantage of the incentive by the deadline in March, allowing CNM time
to integrate the savings into the 2012 fiscal year budget. An estimated 70 percent of the vacated positions will be filled with younger employees earning less. CNM expects to eliminate 30 percent of the vacated positions. The buyouts will cost CNM about $2.2 million, but they will create an estimated $3.9 million in savings in the following years. The Voluntary Retirement Incentive helped CNM avoid any salary reductions or layoffs.

**Institution Recognition:** CNM Awards Record Number of Degrees and Certificates This Spring-This spring term, CNM awarded 1,870 degree or certificates to 1,563 graduating students, both all-time records at the college. The previous all-time high for degrees and certificates awarded in a term was 1,525, set after the fall 2010 term. The previous high for a spring term was 1,475 in spring 2010.

**New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology**

**Budgets:** The New Mexico Tech Board of Regents approved the administration’s recommendation to raise tuition 8 percent for next year. Tech President Dr. Daniel H. Lopez said the increase includes the state-mandated 3.1 percent increase. At a previous student forum, Lopez said the 4.9 percent that Tech is adding to the state-mandated hike is expected to generate about $500,000 in additional revenue. That additional funding will be used to hire two or three new faculty members.

**Student Enrollment:** Enrollment for the fall 2011 semester is starting to inch closer to last year’s record class. Tech has received more applications this year than last year and admitted roughly the same number (728 this year versus 731 in 2010). However, this figure is for paid applications, which is lagging behind (205 this year versus 260 at the same time last year).

**Institution Recognition:** Forbes ranked New Mexico Tech 20th in the nation for providing quality educational opportunities for minorities. The Forbes study focused on universities that confer a high percentage of degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (known colloquially as STEM). The Forbes ranking of the best colleges for minorities in STEM compared African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians (groups typically underrepresented in STEM) to whites and Asians (groups typically well-represented in STEM). In a separate Forbes ranking, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology ranked 20th and New Mexico State University ranked 13th in the ”Forbes Top 20 Universities for Minority Opportunities.”

**Western New Mexico University**

**Administrative Changes:** The Board of Regents selected Joseph Shepard as the next WNMU resident. Dr. Shepard is currently vice president for Administrative Services and Finance at Florida Gulf Coast University. Dr. Shepard will lead Western New Mexico University as its 15th president effective July 1, 2011 with a four-year contract.

**Celebrating Founder’s Day:** Western New Mexico University initiated a new tradition on February 11, 2011 with the first observance of Founders Day. Established as a Normal School in 1893, the University was known as New Mexico State Teachers’ College and New Mexico Western College until it received its current name in 1963. The University plans to make this an annual tradition.

**Clovis Community College**

**Budgets:** In spite of the turbulent times for Higher Education in general we have handled our budget cuts without any layoffs or any drastic changes. We are also building the second phase of our Allied Health Building, the Joe and Charlyne Sisler Allied Health Building.

**Administrative Changes:** The current President of Clovis Community College Dr. John Neibling is retiring in a couple of months. He is being replaced by the current Executive Vice President Dr. Becky Rowley. The Executive Vice President's position will be taken up by Dr. Robin Jones, the current Dean of Allied Health.
San Juan College

New Mission, Vision, and Values: In May, the San Juan College Board of Trustees approved new mission, vision and values statements that take into account changing direction and greater emphasis on service and community for the College. The statements were developed by the Strategic Planning Oversight Committee with comprehensive input from students, faculty, students and members of the community. Following are the statements that will support the College’s work for years to come.

Administrative Changes: The Trustees of New Mexico Junior College have announced that Dr. Steve McCleery will retire as president of the college in June 2012 after 28 years of distinguished service, the last 13 of which have been as president. NMJC plans to formally open the nomination and application process in September or October 2011 with intent to conduct interviews shortly after February 1, 2012.

UTAH
State Reporter: Steve Jones (Weber State University)
Author Michael Nguyen

Regents approve Weber State plan for improvements (03 June 2011)
The State Board of Regents recently approved Weber State University’s master plan to address growth and implement campus improvements. Although the University hopes to see the project underway in the coming 10 to 15 years, the reality is that the project is contingent on the availability of funds. Weber State University’s vice president, Norm Tarbox, explains, “The big picture is, the Ogden campus is 55 years old. It’s a beautiful place, but there’s a lot of reinvesting that we have been doing and we need to do. We are trying to renew the campus for new generations of students and patrons.” With that in mind, the approved master plan would see to the construction of a new health sciences building, a new science lab, and a new road joining both student housing and the Dee Events Center with the main campus. Student housing is already getting attention. “Our plan is to open a new residence hall each fall semester for the next three falls—2011, 2012, and 2013,” explains Tarbox. The Dee Events Center parking lot will be resurfaced and landscaping projects will be coming its way. For more information, please see: http://www.standard.net/topics/education/2011/05/21/regents-approve-weber-state-plan-improvements.

U. picks NYU research leader to head health sciences (18 May 2011)
Following a year’s worth of searching, the University of Utah has announced its new senior vice president for health sciences: Vivian Lee. She will fill the vacancy left by Lorris Betz who retired and is now serving as the University of Utah’s interim president. Her new duties will include the role of medical school dean and CEO of University of Utah Health Care. She will also be over biomedical research. Lee is married and has four young daughters. Her husband, Benedict Kingsbury, is a NYU law professor who more than likely will be joining the University’s staff. Lee served in the capacities of chief scientific officer as well as vice dean of NYU’s Langone Medical Center. In her own words, “The University of Utah is a remarkable place that is held nationally in the highest esteem—for the quality of its clinical care, for outstanding research in a broad range of areas from basic sciences to clinical research to community health, and for training top-notch scientists and health care professionals. I am excited and honored to be joining this extraordinary institution.” The article in its entirety can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/51840105-78/research-health-lee-university.html.csp.

Utah schools honored for community service (17 May 2011)
The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recognized Utah schools among 641 other schools for their endeavors in volunteering, service learning, and civic involvement. Among the Utah schools named were Weber State University, Southern Utah University, Salt Lake Community College, and the University of Utah. Schools earning “with distinction” recognition included Brigham Young University, Utah Valley University, and Westminster College. Julie Tille of Westminster’s Center for Civic Engagement states, “Westminster’s civic-engagement efforts stretch from students’ first day on campus to well past graduation. We introduce students to the full range of civic-engagement opportunities and build on each other, helping students grow into lives fully committed to learning and to engage in the challenges of community life. Westminster is dedicated to the service
Utah Commissioner of Higher Education reacts to national study: “Is College Worth It?” (16 May 2011)

In a new study recently released, the Pew Research Center attempts to answer a hot topic question in a time of economic crisis when many are returning to college to pick up more skills and increase their competitiveness in the job market: “Is College Worth It?” William A. Sederburg, Utah’s Commissioner of Higher Education, believes that these topics need to be discussed and he shares some of his insight. With regard to the value of college, Sederburg states that “74% of college graduates say their college education was very useful in helping them grow intellectually.” He goes on to say that, “The biggest concern raised by the study is affordability, not the actual value of college.” With regard to attending costs in Utah, Sederburg said, “Attending a four-year institution in Utah is nearly 40% less expensive than a public institution elsewhere in the country.” More information can be found at: http://www.utahpolicy.com/featured_article/utah-commissioner-higher-education-reacts-national-study-is-college-worth-it.

State officials give thumbs up to university status (03 May 2011)

Senate Concurrent Resolution Bill No. 11 deals with Dixie State College evolution into a university. Penned by Utah State Senator, Stephen Urquhart, it was signed on May 3 by Utah Governor Gary Herbert, as a show of support for the coming transition. Urquhart states, “This is growth. And this institution is growing like crazy. This institution is growing faster than any institution in the state. [The resolution] puts a marker out there that this institution will be a university.” Additional information can be found at: http://media.www.dixiesunlink.com/news/state-officials-give-thumbs-up-to-university-status-1.2218409.

Young moving on (27 April 2011)

After seven years as president of the University of Utah, Michael Young will be taking up the mantle of president at the University of Washington. During his time at the University of Utah, he created a new division at the University called the Technology Ventures Development Office. This program saw the creation of over 100 new companies and earned the University a No. 1 ranking by the Association of University Technology Managers for startup companies that utilized university technologies. Under his leadership, Utah also found entry into the Pac-12 and built yearly private donations up from $130 million to $165 million. For more information, please refer to: http://media.www.dixiesunlink.com/news/state-officials-give-thumbs-up-to-university-status-1.2218409.

College enrollment continues to grow, but pace slows (01 March 2011)

In these times of economic crisis, more and more people are returning to school in order to gain new skills that will help them in the job market. Utah’s state colleges and universities continue to see the cause and effect of economic stress as enrollment continues to climb. Up a remarkable 5.3 percent this spring, enrollment is in fact, beginning to taper. Although there has been significant growth, especially with Utah Valley University and Dixie State College, the rise in student populations is being evenly absorbed by all of Utah’s nine campuses of higher education. The article can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/51338769-76/students-enrollment-utah-state.html.csp.

WYOMING

State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

Wyoming is still in a cautious mode so while revenue was above expectations, financing of higher education focused on one time fund uses for most new budget items. There was money allocated for some health insurance premiums but no raises for state employees. Funding for new building construction will allow the continued renovation of several buildings including the construction of a joint University of Wyoming/Casper College building.

In a collaborative initiative at request of the state legislature, the University of Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) will join the Community College Commission and Wyoming Department of Health in an effort to
develop a training program for behavioral specialists serving people that have been diagnosed with both a developmental disability and a mental illness.

The State of Wyoming Hathaway scholarship remained a focus this year as the first Hathaway scholars graduated. The coursework requirements in high school for each level ("success curriculum") was a lively discussion throughout the legislative session. The primary discussion centered on the foreign language requirements and would have allowed arts and vocational courses to substitute as alternatives. Ultimately there were few changes and the foreign language requirement remained.

http://www.uwyo.edu/admissions/scholarships/hathaway/curriculum-requirements.html

Building, building, building

At the University of Wyoming construction continues with the New Visual Arts Facility quickly becoming a reality. The goal is a grand opening in fall 2011 which will then be followed by a renovation of the current Fine Arts building for Theater & Dance and Music. The latest new facility approved by the legislature is a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) undergraduate laboratory facility.

Wyoming Community Colleges no report this time

Transitions

Colorado

Pat Meade has retired as Director of Institutional Research at Front Range Community College, effective June 30, 2011.

Kim Wallace has been promoted from Assistant Director to Director of Institutional Research at Front Range Community College.

Rachel Robinson has been promoted from Research Analyst to Director of Institutional Reporting at the Colorado Community College System.

Greg Appling resigned his fulltime IR job in December 2010, and taught part-time in the spring. He took official PERA retirement effective June first. He will return to teaching sociology and psychology part-time in the fall, for Aims Community College and the Community College of Aurora.

New Mexico

Judy Bosland was recently named Assistant Vice President for Institutional Analysis at New Mexico State University. Judy has been at NMSU for twenty years, spending the first fifteen years in the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Outcomes Assessment (IRPOA) and the last five as Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment in the Division of Student Success. She may be reached at jbosland@nmsu.edu and 575-646-6131.

SHEEO

Allison (Alli) Bell accepted an appointment as Associate Research Scientist at the National Center for Education Statistics, and has moved to Washington, DC. Alli’s first assignment will be managing the completions survey for NCES. We are pleased that NCES has recruited such talent, but we obviously will miss Alli and her contributions to SHEEO. As part of her duties, she also works with the team that creates the Data Feedback Reports. If you ever have IPEDS related questions, don't hesitate to contact her at Allison.Bell@ed.gov or (202) 502-7413.
Natalie Weil, known to some as Natalie Mischler before her recent marriage, has completed her Masters in Public Administration, with a concentration in non-profit management, and with her husband Brian, has returned to her home town of Buffalo, New York, where he has accepted a position pursuing his research career in physiology. Natalie is currently searching for employment in her field, and would welcome leads, so long as they are near Buffalo!

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