Save the Date!

2012 RMAIR Annual Fall Conference is in Laramie, Wyoming
October 3-5, 2012
A Note from Lisa Muller

Please join us as we discuss this year's theme "Defining IR". Our fall RMAIR conference will be held Wednesday through Friday, October 3-5 at the University of Wyoming Conference Center the Hilton Garden Inn. The conference center is located at the east end of the University of Wyoming and within easy walking distance to the Art Museum, New Visual Arts Building as well as the Fine Arts Center. As luck will have it the first play and the first symphony of the season will be performed during that time period so these are possible evening activities. Our downtown area features boutique shopping and dining. Information about the conference and registration (including early registration) will be posted online at www.rmair.org as it becomes available.

If you have extra time Laramie has amazing outdoor activities with the Snowy Range Mountains to the west and
incredible hiking and climbing possibilities to the east at Vedauwoo.
http://www.visitlaramie.org/index.html

The photo below is one of my favorite spots in the Snowy Range.

Intercom: Letter from the Acting President
Nicolas Valcik

The RMAIR organization is the finest organization I have belonged to with the best and brightest in the field of institutional research being a component of its membership. I have been very fortunate to be colleagues with many of you throughout the years as well as being mentored in the organization by previous leaders. I have always viewed the RMAIR conferences as being extremely professional and at the same time having a very inviting atmosphere for new and old members to attend. That is what makes this organization so special and why I am so proud to be a part of this membership.

RMAIR Conference Albuquerque 2011

With that being said I would like to thank everyone who organized the conference in Albuquerque this past October. I would like to especially thank Carol Bernhard who was the Local Arrangement Chair and Judy Bosland who was the Program Chair. The conference was extremely well done with great papers and presentations which reflected well on the talent that attends the RMAIR conference. The RMAIR conference was well represented by Paul Gore who won the RMAIR Best Paper Award for 2011, “Combining Traditional Admissions and Noncognitive Data to Establish Robust Early-Warning Systems”. Paul's paper was presented at the AIR forum in New Orleans 2012 conference.
Executive Board 2011 - 2012

Recently Mary Beth Worley has resigned as President from RMAIR due to personal reasons. Therefore for the remaining term I will serve as the Acting President and Vice President of RMAIR for the 2011 – 2012 time period. Our new Treasurer Ann Lewis is spearheading the effort to obtain 501C3 status which is a huge amount of work. A challenge for the board and the current conference has been that each of the previous two conferences had a net loss of funds, resulting in a current balance that is smaller than 2 years ago. Speaking from my own viewpoint, we are very fortunate to have Lisa Muller the Past President, and Kay Schneider the Secretary, on the Executive Board that have experience in leadership positions with the organization. I know their insight has been invaluable to me personally when Executive Board discussions have occurred.

The two individuals that rotated off the Executive Board at the 2011 Business Meeting in Albuquerque, NM were Archie George (Past President) and Ellen McGregor (Treasurer). Archie has led the charge on obtaining the organization’s 501C3 status since he was elected as an incoming Vice President for RMAIR. Thanks to Archie we now have a good foundation to start with to obtaining the 501C3 status. I would also like to thank Ellen McGregor for all of her years of service to the organization as the outgoing Treasurer. This is a critical position of responsibility to the organization, and Ellen had done an outstanding job since the late 1990’s with some of those years having to do both the Secretary and Treasurer positions combined.

501C3 Status of the Organization

This year has been extremely challenging but progressive for the RMAIR organization from several standpoints. The organization has been working extremely hard on getting our Non-Profit Organization 501C3 status approved through the IRS which will set a solid foundation for the organization and its members for years to come. With obtaining 501C3 status however, by-laws, policies and procedures need to be updated, documented and vetted to satisfy the IRS rules and requirements. The by-laws in particular will need to be addressed by the membership to make the by-laws more consistent and to take into account that RMAIR will be its own stand-alone organization with an independent 501C3 status. I know the Executive Board has been working very hard on revising the by-laws for the membership to vote on this month, July 2012. Additionally the Executive Board has compiled a historical RMAIR membership list which allows the organization to keep track of members, who paid membership dues, what institutions and organizations have attended RMAIR conferences and events as well as the individuals in the organization who over the years have performed several roles for the organization. In short as I have heard it before, the membership is the lifeblood of the organization and it is critical that a membership list is maintained.

Membership Drive and Membership Renewal

I would like to see an increase in members throughout the next three years which would allow for a larger attendance at our yearly conferences. I was very surprised to see how many institutions and organization have not been regular attendees of RMAIR conferences since the first conference in 1971. It does not serve the organization well when institutions that are denoted as being in RMAIR states are not present or attending the annual conference. In addition I would ask the membership to make sure and renew your membership annually even if you are not attending the conference. The Executive Board is currently working with Mike Ellison, RMAIR webmaster as well as with AIR to get a permanent online link established so that membership renewals can occur at any point during the year. The membership dues are low but they do assist the organization to off-set costs that are incurred to the organization as well as keeping conference fees as low as possible.
**RMAIR Website**

Currently AIR is considering abandoning support of web hosting for the regional affiliates. If this comes to pass the membership (and Executive Board) will need to consider options about supporting the website at a RMAIR university, or the possible hire of a third party to manage the website and outsource the effort. If the members of the organization want to outsource this endeavor, then membership fees may have to be raised to cover the costs. By-laws and computer assistance will be items on the agenda at the upcoming RMAIR business meeting in October 2012. We are also looking for volunteers that know HTML that want to work on the RMAIR website. If you are interested please contact Mike Ellison or a member of the Executive Board.

**RMAIR Conference Laramie 2012**

The upcoming conference is going to be in Laramie, Wyoming for 2012, October 3 through the 5th. I want to commend Lisa Muller for her ability to raise funds for the upcoming conference as the Program Chair. In addition I know that Lisa and the Wyoming community college program committee team are also currently working on getting more sponsor support from additional university officials as well as vendors. The Co-Chairs Tammy Scott and Kim Russell have been working diligently on making the conference very special for this upcoming conference. I would also like to thank Lisa for working on getting a variety of different workshops for the conference that will benefit the attendees greatly. Please plan on submitting proposals so that we can get a conference full of good presentations. Early deadline for proposals is July 17, 2012.

**RMAIR Conference Salt Lake City 2013**

The first conference that RMAIR ever had was in Salt Lake City so it would be great if as many emeritus members attended as possible. I cannot wait to see what Paul Gore and Theresa Fall will devise for the conference program and local arrangements. This should be a very memorable conference.

**RMAIR Conference 2014**

So where does everyone want to be for 2014? I believe it will be Idaho’s turn to host the conference so the membership needs to consider where it would like to have the conference for that year. Please be thinking about it when we meet for the annual business meeting in Laramie.

**Final Note**

I have a challenge to the members. I would like to see more RMAIR members being active by publishing more materials, and obtaining contracts and grants in an effort to be recognized as the best regional affiliate AIR has to offer. We have had quite a few members that have published articles, chapters and books throughout the years, and I believe that it benefits the membership significantly when those activities are undertaken.

*See you in Laramie!*
Call for Nominations
Lisa Muller Past President

We are looking for a wonderful Vice-President! As the immediate RMAIR Past-President, I am the chair of the nominations committee for our upcoming fall elections. Please consider nominating a RMAIR member you are sure will help move our organization forward. Your nominee may be a colleague or yourself.

I have been impressed at the dedication of the RMAIR community and the leaders who have stepped forward to keep our organization progressing. Each year we have an opportunity to bring in new faces and strengths. Is this the year you are willing to step forward? You would certainly be learning the ropes with a great team.

Remember that the organization is only as strong as we make it. 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 RMAIR.

Our positions are described in our bylaws as follows (See http://rmair.org/images/RMAIR-bylaws.pdf):

Please let me know if you've spoken to the nominee. If you have not, I will be happy to contact the member. Send nominations to lisamull@uwyo.edu. Thanks

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 (this was supposed to come out in June), and I imagine this is the case for many of you in your own institutions. I want to extend 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. 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 are still in need a reporter in Nevada. And I am also looking for state reporters for Montana and New Mexico, as Jim Rimpau and Vicky Dueer have to step down. I appreciate all the work they have done in the past. Please consider nominating yourself or someone in your office for a turn at writing up the state’s events for Montana, Nevada or New Mexico.

I want to thank Kay Schneider for her great summaries of the business meeting at our conference in Albuquerque, and the business meeting at the AIR Annual Forum in New Orleans. I hope these articles are especially informative for those of you who were not able to attend RMAIR 2011, or AIR 2012. I also want to thank Nick for providing an Intercom message. Nick’s letter, among other things, contains news from the executive board about the future direction the organization.

I hope everyone is considering the October RMAIR conference in Wyoming. The planning team is hard at work getting ready for the conference, and it sounds like it is going to be a dynamite conference. For those unable to join us in Wyoming don’t forget that our RMAIR dues are still incredibly reasonable at $20.00.

That’s it for now. I hope you all have a productive and sane summer.

RMAIR Business Meeting Minutes
Kay Schneider, Secretary
October 22, 2010, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Albuquerque, NM

1. Welcome: Lisa Muller welcomed everyone to the business luncheon and thanked the leadership team and local arrangements team for all of their work.
2. Introduction of Executive Committee: Lisa Muller-Presdent, Mary Beth Worley-Vice President, Archie George-Past President, Ellen McGregor-Treasurer, Kay Schneider-Secretary.

3. Recap of 2010-2011
   a. Website progress report: Mike Ellison from UNLV is our webmaster. With Ellen, Lisa, and Carol’s assistance he has archived past editions of Panorama on the website. We are in the process of adding previous conference program documents to the website.
   b. Tax-free Status: Archie George reported that RMAIR filed paperwork related to the articles of incorporation two weeks ago. Ellen will assist with our application for 501(c)(3) status, which requires that we provide five years of organizational history, which is one of Ellen’s areas of expertise.

4. Treasurer’s Report: Ellen reported that our current bank balance is $23,482.47. This excludes expenses and revenues related to this year’s conference. We owe $18,000 to the conference hotel and will lose money on this year’s conference, but have a reserve in the bank to address this situation. Members discussed if we should raise registration costs and/or not offer breakfast, lunch, and a reception on Wednesday. Members agreed that we could reconsider including lunch on Wednesday for the attendees of the pre-conference workshops. We also discussed the potential for increasing participation in the conference by not scheduling the conference at the same time that other associations are sponsoring conferences. This may be a challenge, as October is a popular month for conferences and we try to schedule the RMAIR conference in consideration of members’ responsibilities related to IPEDS and census reporting.

5. Secretary’s Report: Kay indicated that Train the Trainer funds will likely be available for anyone who is willing to attend a pre-conference workshop at AIR and then share that experience at RMAIR in Fall 2012. More details will be available in the spring. The best paper award, which is the presentation of a RMAIR paper at the AIR conference, is based on session evaluations.

6. Panorama Report: Carol asked for a volunteer in Nevada, as the Nevada state reporter position is vacant.

7. Future Conferences
   a. Wyoming 2012: Kimberly Russell announced that next year’s conference will be held on October 3-5 at the University Conference Center in Laramie, Wyoming. The early October date was selected as a strategy for avoiding potential weather issues that could occur later in the month. Hotel rates will be similar to those for this year’s conference. Attendees may wish to fly into Laramie or Denver, which is 2 ½-3 hours away.
   b. Utah 2013: Paul Gore will coordinate the conference at the University of Utah in Salt Lake, October 9-11.

8. 2012 AIR Forum: Lisa encouraged members to attend AIR in New Orleans, Louisiana on June 2-6. Workshop proposals are due on 10/31/11. Archie encouraged people to submit proposals for sessions and/or serve as proposal reviewers, which requires a fairly limited time commitment. Fred Lillibridge is a past AIR president and he encouraged members to represent RMAIR at the national level. The first step is to serve on the nominating committee. The restructured AIR board is smaller than has been the case in the past, which makes it a bit more difficult for members to be involved. If you are interested in serving, please contact Fred.
9. RMAIR Elections: Lisa reported that Nicolas Valcik (University of Texas-Dallas) has been elected Vice President and Ann Lewis (North Idaho College) has been elected as Treasurer. Ellen was thanked for her many years of service as Treasurer.

10. Thank Yous:
   a. Thank you to Local Arrangements
   b. Thank you to Archie
   c. Thank you to Vicky for obtaining door prizes for the raffle
   d. Handing over the Presidency from Lisa to Mary Beth

11. Raffle: door prizes were awarded.

12. Meeting adjourned.

RMAIR Business Meeting Minutes
RMAIR Meeting at the AIR Annual Forum
Kay Schneider, Secretary
Sunday, June 3, 2012
6:00 p.m., Salon 828

1. Welcome and introductions (Lisa Muller)

2. RMAIR 2012 conference in Laramie, Wyoming, October 3-5 (Lisa Muller, Kim Russell, and Tammy Scott): IPEDS training will occur on Tuesday, October 2. Workshops will be offered on Wednesday, October 3. Topics will include GIS, a hands-on SAS session, data mining, and SQL. Registration for the conference can be made via the RMAIR website. Early registration ends on July 15. Accommodations will be provided by the Hilton Garden Inn; see the RMAIR website for details. The social events that are being planned include a tour of the Wyoming Territorial Prison and a murder mystery party.

3. RMAIR 2013 conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 16-18 (Paul Gore): Planning for the conference is underway. Transportation directly from the airport to near the conference center will be available by 2013.

4. RMAIR 2014 conference: Idaho last hosted in 2004 and has tentatively agreed to host in 2014. The suggested meeting site mentioned was Coeur d'Alene and Archie George has recommended an outing on the lake as a social event.

5. Panorama update: The next edition of Panorama will be published in June. Past issues are online at the RMAIR website.

6. Treasurer report and budget update (Lisa Muller): Ann Lewis has made substantial progress in organizing our financial records. We lost money at the last two conferences. As a result, our checking account balance is $6,250.66. The savings account balance is $560.14 and the scholarship account balance is $751.04. Lisa and many other people in WY have acquired donations to underwrite some of the costs of the 2012 conference (including a $5,000 donation by the University of Wyoming President bringing the current checking balance to $11,250.66).

7. Non-profit status update and thank you to Archie George and Ann Lewis (Lisa Muller): Archie and Ann have devoted significant amounts of time to this effort. They continue to work with the lawyer to establish
our non-profit status. Ann is compiling five years of financial data for our 501(c)(3) application. The intention is that RMAIR be a non-profit organization prior to the Fall 2012 meeting.

8. Summary of June 1 officer’s meeting (Kay Schneider): Several members of the Board met for a half day on Friday to discuss Association business. At that meeting, we:
   a. Proposed substantial revisions to Bylaws to update outdated language, to define responsibilities for all Board members, to eliminate repetitive and/or contradictory language, and to address responsibilities related to our forthcoming 501(c)(3) status. A draft of the changes will be sent to members for review and comment in June. Voting on the Bylaws changes will occur prior to the Fall Conference.
   b. Reviewed the budget (particularly in relation to conference planning), discussed efforts to obtain non-profit status, developed guidelines for expenditures, discussed technology needs (particularly in relation to conference registration and payment processing), and agreed to use Dropbox as a repository for RMAIR documents.
   c. Discussed developing formal policies for the Train the Trainer program and the Best Paper process. Drafts of documents will be sent to members for review and comment.

9. Membership recruitment efforts (Lisa Muller and Kay Schneider): Vice President Nick Valcik has done a significant amount of work to develop a current membership list. Annual membership fees are $20 and RMAIR members are encouraged to invite colleagues to join the organization and to attend the conference.

10. Web hosting: Mike Ellison has graciously served as webmaster for RMAIR, but support from AIR is lacking so we need to migrate to another hosting solution. The current content management system utilizes outdated technology and does not enable multiple people to edit the site. Some possibilities include using Drupal or Wordpress; please contact Mike if you have experience with either of these solutions. We currently pay a high transaction fee for credit card payment processing. Reducing this fee could fund the annual cost of webhosting. A vendor may be willing to sponsor the site in exchange for having a presence on the site.

11. AIR items (Lisa Muller and AIR representatives): Christine Keller and Joseph Huey shared greetings from the AIR Board of Directors. As a result of recent changes to the AIR Bylaws, the organization is placing a greater emphasis on listening to members’ needs. Christine and Joseph welcome suggestions for how AIR can support our efforts, but will no longer do web hosting and credit card processing for the regional associations. They want to partner with us to determine what skills related to technology and policy we need to successfully perform our jobs. Fred Lillibridge indicated that updates from the Data Policy Committee would be helpful for RMAIR members. Another topic of interest is the Code of Ethics. Christine also invited participants to submit information to the E-AIR publication.

12. Other: Fred Lillibridge serves on the AIR nominating committee and encourages RMAIR members to run for office. We also need to be sure to vote for our members so that RMAIR is represented at AIR.

13. Dinner plans: Thank you to Lisa Muller for arranging our dinner outing.

May 2012 Treasurer’s Report

First I’d like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer. It has been a busy yet exciting transition.

Ellen and I have finished the transfer of the bank account to my local branch. Here are the current account balances, as of 05/11/2012.
Checking Account: $11,250.66
Savings Account: $560.14
Savings Account (Scholarship): $751.04

Also, as part of the project to gain nonprofit status for RMAIR, I’ve been working on ledgers with a four year history. I’ll keep you all updated on that project as we move forward.

Ann Lewis, RMAIR Treasurer

News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)

University of Arizona

The Arizona Board of Regents appointed Ann Weaver Hart to be the next UA president, effective July 1, 2012 at its meeting on Friday, February 17, 2012.

The board conducted a national search to fill the position, creating a 23-member committee and 27-member Search Committee Advisory Council to aid in doing so. The committees included UA faculty, regents, student leaders and community leaders to provide input on qualities they sought in the next president.

http://www.wildcat.arizona.edu/index.php/article/2012/02/hart_in_as_president

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

Colorado – Statewide

- According to the Denver Post, “The state, it seems, has finally started to turn the corner — if ever so slightly — after its worst budget crisis since the Great Depression. While not increasing funding for schools and colleges, the new budget doesn't impose the deep cuts to education that had been seen for the past three years.”
- For the sixth time, a bill to lower tuition costs for illegal immigrants has failed in the Colorado legislature.
- Colorado and New Mexico renewed an agreement that allows students from New Mexico to pay in-state tuition at various Colorado institutions of higher education and vice versa.

IDAHO
State Reporter: Christine Lighty (University of Idaho)

University of Idaho

The United States Department of Energy Nuclear Energy University Programs (NEUP) awarded three new research and development projects to the University of Idaho. The $2.56 million total value of these projects is the largest amount awarded to any single institution. In addition, UI has received a $1.1m NSF grant to provide STEM engagement to Native American 4-6 grade students in after-school and summer programs.
University of Idaho outreach and engagement efforts have been recognized by the White House for the sixth time, as it has every year since the Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service began in 2006—this year the university received “with distinction” status.

After several years of cut-backs in state funding, the Idaho State Board of Education has approved a 6.1% increase in tuition at UI.

**Around the state:**

**Boise State University**

graduated the highest number of students in school history May 12 during its 90th Commencement ceremony. More than 2,400 bachelors and masters degrees and a record 11 doctoral degrees were awarded.

The 81,290-square-foot Norco Building, the new home of the university’s Department of Nursing and University Health Services, was officially opened Wednesday, Jan. 13. The building includes state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory space, allowing the university to educate more nursing students and providing additional opportunities for research and clinical experience.

Boise State University is meeting the needs of a growing number of students with expanded online and distance education programs. The university now offers 225 different online courses and 13 full academic certificates and degrees that can be completed entirely online, including five graduate degrees.

**Idaho State University**

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching reclassified ISU as a "Research University-High" status, placing ISU in a field enjoyed by less than 5 percent of all higher academic institutions.

Idaho State of Mind, a weekly, 30-minute public affairs television program is broadcast Saturday afternoons over Idaho Public Television. ISU is one of a handful of universities with a regularly scheduled television program broadcast on network television. The lively, informative program focuses on the research, teaching and public service being conducted by ISU faculty, students and staff. The majority of the program's content is produced by ISU Mass Communication students.

**Lewis-Clark State College**

Lewis-Clark State College was also recognized as a higher education institution that reflects the values of exemplary community service and achieves meaningful outcomes in its communities and listed on President Obama’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

The Lewis-Clark State College Graphic Design/Print Technology Program has received a significant donation of software from Esko, a global supplier of integrated solutions for packaging, sign and display finishing, commercial printing and professional publishing. The donation provides for a 20-seat license of Esko's ArtiosCAD and Studio 10 software, including their award winning Studio Toolkit for Shrink Sleeves. This tool will help prepare LCSC design students to enter this expanding and lucrative field. "In terms of software, this puts us on the same playing field as Clemson and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo,” said Brian Kolstad, an associate professor of Graphic Design and Print Technology.
North Idaho College

NIC was awarded a $625,000 grant to train students to work in the health IT field through two programs: Electronic Medical Records Adoption for Healthcare Practices (EMRA) and Electronic Medical Records – Information Technology Support (EMRITS). 327 students enrolled and 80% earned post-secondary certificates that qualify them to move directly into the field.

Eastern Idaho Technical College

(EITC) Dr. Steven Albiston, an eastern Idaho native, graduate of the University of Idaho and a thirty-year employee of EITC will be the next president of Eastern Idaho Technical College. He came to EITC in October of 1981 as an Admissions/Vocational Counselor. He has held a number of positions including Student Services Coordinator, Student Services Manager, Dean of Students, and most recently Vice-President for Instruction and Student Affairs.

590 awards will be issued at EITC Commencement this year (241 Associate of Applied Science degrees/certificates and 349 General Education Development (GED) diplomas).

College of Western Idaho

Enrollment continues to grow as Spring 2012 enrollment topped the school’s previous mark for a seventh consecutive semester with 8,375 credit students. Since opening its doors in Spring 2009, CWI has grown 593% from an initial student population of 1,208.

CWI is working toward Accreditation through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. CWI received Candidacy status for Accreditation in January, which will allow the College to implement independent systems to support students such as federal grants, financial aid, enrollment, and student data systems. College of Southern Idaho will continue to provide accreditation of CWI students until CWI is fully accredited.

Enrollment growth has also led to expansion of facilities at CWI. This summer the College will be opening the doors to its new Micron Center for Professional Technical Education, which will serve nine professional-technical programs and several student services functions. The 176,000 square foot building will be open for the start of classes on Aug. 27, 2012.

College of Southern Idaho

CSI is partnering with the College of Western Idaho (CWI) in order to assist CWI in meeting standards for accreditation and to help CWI offer college credit instruction, certificates and degrees, and federal financial aid while seeking accredited status. For the duration of this partnership credits, certificates and degrees earned at CWI appear on CSI transcripts and are transferable to four year institutions, subject to the specific policies of those institutions.

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

As Spring semesters conclude at campuses across the Montana University System we are able to celebrate with a record number of graduates (and look forward to another beautiful Montana summer!).
Our Board of Regents (a statewide board governing all MUS campuses) is discussing what initiatives they might forward to the legislature when the legislative session begins next year. State fiscal analysts are projecting that the State of Montana will have the largest fund balance in history as revenue has been much better than projected. At this point it is impossible to know what our usually conservative legislature will elect to do (if anything) with those funds. We will also have a new Governor next year as Governor Brian Schweitzer (D) is term limited. There are lots of unknowns in our political environment at this point in time.

Our Board has discussed several priorities including Faculty and Staff Support (salaries); Workforce Development and Two-year Education; Graduate Education and Research; Student Financial Aid and Services (tuition assistance and debt reduction); Integrated Information System (a statewide MUS system); Strategic Resource Alignment (program prioritization); Performance based funding; Accelerated Degree Programs; and a Smart Buildings Initiative. The Board is still early in the discussion process so it isn’t clear which of these might gain momentum and become real budget initiatives. Some of these will obviously have a heavy impact on our IR offices.

Speaking of our Board, they have hired a new Commissioner of Higher Education. Long time Commissioner Sheila Stearns has retired and been replaced by Clayton Christian. Mr. Christian is a Missoula businessman who had been serving as Chair of the Board of Regents. He resigned that position to accept the appointment as Commissioner.

Dr. James Limbaugh has been named Chancellor of MSU-Northern in Havre Montana. He had been the VP for Strategy, Planning and Policy at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

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)

University of New Mexico

The Board of Regents selected Robert G. Frank as the 21st president of UNM. Frank succeeded David J. Schmidly who announced in April 2011 that he would step down after five years as president. Frank took office in June 2012 and began working with administration on campus in early spring 2012. Dr. Frank has a strong focus on improving retention and graduation rates.

The Office of Institutional Research has been working in conjunction with several other constituents around campus to develop the Provost’s Analytic Dashboard. This Dashboard will offer a public view of many statistics about UNM surrounding faculty, staff, and students that people often feel is hard to find. The site is now in testing and OIR is an important contributor to this work.

The university has purchased a new reporting tool called Web Focus which will replace Hyperion. Members of OIR are working closely with the institution to acquire early skills for tool use. Our own Carol Bernhard attended the upcoming IBI Web Focus Summit and will become a “Train-the-Trainer” as UNM rolls the new tool out sometime this fall. In addition, the Office of Institutional Research recently hired two Business Intelligence Officers, Terry Turner and Phil Handwerk. Terry most recently served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for
Enterprise Analytics at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and began work on July 9, 2012. Phil will join the office on July 30, 2012. He is coming to UNM from the Law School Admission Council in Newton, PA, where he was an Institutional Researcher.

**Dona Ana Community College**

DACC has working on a reorganization of the Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Office since summer 2011. Not all aspects of the reorganization are officially approved by NMSU but hopefully they will be soon.

Fred Lillibridge has a new title, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Associate VP for Accreditation, Compliance and Planning. This means he will spend some of his time doing work that is not directly IR related. Mary Beth Worley is now directing the entire IR unit. Two staff members report to her. Her title remains the same but hopefully it will get changed in the near future.

**New Mexico Junior College**

Dr. Dennis Atherton joined NMJC as the new VP for Instruction on June 1, 2012. Dr. Atherton most recently served as VP for Instruction at University of the Southwest and has served a Superintendent at several New Mexico k-12 school districts.

NMJC is one of twenty institutions participating as a pioneer of the new Pathways Accreditation Model adopted by the Higher Learning Commission. As a Pathways Pioneer, NMJC is currently testing the Lumina Foundation Degree Qualifications Profile. The Profile is a proposed model of learning focusing on outcomes of student education.

**UTAH**

**State Reporter: Steve Jones (Weber State University)**

Author Michael Nguyen

*Dixie State College to officially break ground for new Snow Science Building March 2nd (23 February 2012)*

At the forefront of a series of campus additions to come, Dixie State College broke ground for a new science building on March 2nd. The Edward H. and Idonna E. Snow Science Building will add 10,000 square feet of laboratories and rooms which includes: multiple chemistry labs across two-stories, several storage rooms, a geology lab, and a study area. The Snow Science Building will connect to the Val A. Browning Library and as such, the library will be housed in the Jeffrey R. Holland Centennial Commons Building during construction on the new building. This will also allow DSC to renovate the library, creating office space for faculty as well as classrooms for both the physical science and mathematics departments. For more information, please refer to the original article by Steve Johnson at www.kcsng.com.

*Ann Millner to step down as Weber State University president (10 March 2012)*

Following nearly a decade as the head of Weber State University, Ann Millner announced her plans to step down as university president. Under her guidance, WSU established a satellite campus in Layton that has continued to grow. Her tenure has also seen several renovation projects which included the Swenson Building, Stewart Library, Shepherd Union, and Lampros Hall. Since her start in 2002 as Utah’s first female university president, WSU has also seen a number of buildings added to the campus including Elizabeth Hall, the Hurst Center, and several dorm buildings at Wildcat Village. As the search for a new university president begins, Regents reflect on
Millner’s capacity to lead both faculty and students; as well as her experience in civic engagement. This article by Brian Maffly can be found in its entirety at www.sltrib.com.

**USU’s education college ranked among America’s best graduate schools (17 March 2012)**
Sharing the honor with the University of Pittsburgh, Utah State University’s Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services was ranked by U.S. News and World Report at No. 24 in the category of best graduate school. USU’s graduate-level education program has placed on the listing of “America’s Best Graduate Schools” for the past 13 uninterrupted years. This year, USU repeats its distinction, and for the second time in a row, is the only school in Utah to be ranked in the top 50. USU also ranked this year at No. 3 with the amount of research funding received. For more, please see Kevin Opsahl’s article at http://news.hjnews.com.

**Utah Valley University opens expanded science building (20 April 2012)**
Utah Valley University recently finished renovating and expanding its Science Building which now totals to 160,000 square feet. The project, which had a price tag of $50 million, was launched in order to meet the needs of an ever-expanding UVU student population—enrollment recently hit the 33,000 student mark. The College of Science and Health projections state that approximately 20,000 students will make use of the numerous additions including: research and laboratory class rooms, lecture rooms, an auditorium, and a greenhouse located on the roof. For more information on this article from The Salt Lake Tribune, please visit www.sltrib.com.

**Utah universities awarded $1 million to train next generation of nuclear energy leaders, advance university-led nuclear innovation (08 May 2012)**
Utah State University and the University of Utah are recently recipients of fellowships and grants for research that add up to $1 million. According to UtahPolicy.com, “Awards under the Nuclear Energy University Program are divided into multiple categories, including undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, university-led research, and development projects, and upgrades at university research reactors.” The announcement of the awards by Secretary of Energy Steven Chu echoes sentiments from the Obama Administration to maintain the affordability of post-secondary education. According to Secretary Chu, “We must invest in the next generation of American scientists and engineers in order to fulfill our commitment to restarting America’s nuclear industry and making sure that America stays competitive in the 21st century.” For more on the breakdown of the awards by university, please refer to http://utahpolicy.com.

**LDS Church throws $4 million toward U.’s new law school (11 May 2012)**
The University of Utah’s S. J. Quinney College of Law is closer to getting a new home thanks to a donation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The project to replace Carlson Hall, which was built in 1963 and is where the College of Law currently resides, is projected to cost around $60 million. Leadership at the U of U are planning to pay for the project in its entirety by way of donations and the $4 million contribution from the LDS Church is a considerable one. Incidentally, the LDS Church’s involvement with the U of U is not out of the ordinary. The LDS Church’s flagship university, Brigham Young University, also has a law school of its own. However, the LDS Church’s connection to the U of U started as its founding. The move to help fund the new law school building is seen as something that would not only benefit the University, but the surrounding communities. To read more about this article by Brian Maffly, please refer to www.sltrib.com.

**WYOMING**
**State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)**

Wyoming is a state impacted by extraction industry profits. Natural gas prices have been going down and hence the February Wyoming legislative session was filled with talk of ways of cutting costs (including agency scenario
budget cuts of 2 percent to 8 percent). The state has a current surplus but since Wyoming is a state that believes in always having a balanced budget and putting money aside in the "rainy day fund", spending this year is for one time projects. There were no major agency reductions for this year and salaries are to remain flat bringing back an era of multiple years in a row without state employee raises. The House of Representatives passed an amendment that would prohibit the use of tuition revenues for salary increases. That bill did not pass in the Senate but the political point was obvious. Projects that were funded for the upcoming year included major maintenance statewide and infrastructure improvements (one time funds).

In late April 2012 with continuing natural gas price declines, Wyoming Governor Mead directed all state agencies to prepare plans for 8% budget reductions for fiscal year 2014. For higher education 8 percent definitely includes reductions in the workforce. UW President Buchanan stated that "We will endeavor to retain positions most closely aligned with the university's core mission and our areas of distinction identified in UW's strategic plan."

The University Of Wyoming Board Of Trustees approved 2 percent resident and 4.5 percent for nonresident increases in tuition and fees for 2013 and 2014 fiscal years. Board president Jim D. Neiman encouraged his fellow trustees to revisit the issue next year. “Due to the financial conditions in this state, I want the board of trustees to be aware that it could be reviewed again next year,” Revenues will go to support university libraries, classroom technology and instructional excellence.

The University of Wyoming budget included new, re-occurring funds for medical and dental education, an ongoing agreement with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and UW libraries funding with the goal of progress towards Greater Western Library Alliance membership. One time funding continues to get approval so University buildings continue to be remodeled. Next up are the Fine Arts building remodel, the Student Recreation Center remodel, Arena Auditorium remodel, and an Outreach facility in Sheridan.

A joint facility to be shared by the University of Wyoming and Casper College has just broken ground. The building will house a new student union, student classrooms, as well as offices, meeting spaces, food service and a wellness center. The facility is the result of several years of discussion and planning to consolidate all of UW's Casper academic operations. Funding was approved in previous years by both the state of Wyoming and Natrona County. For those of you planning on coming to RMAIR in Laramie we have several lovely new buildings to share. The most recent building is our Fine Arts Building that opened for classes January 2012. The Fine Arts Building is easy walking distance to the conference center.

**Wyoming Community Colleges Report (Ann Murray LCCC)**

This year Wyoming community college IR professionals are collaborating on several projects to improve state accountability reporting. The Wyoming Community College IR Committee, which consists of staff from all seven community colleges and the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC), has been meeting to implement common codes for data elements used in state reporting in order to ensure data consistency and to facilitate the coming transition to an SQL version of Datatel’s Colleague, used by all community colleges in the state. As part of this work, we have been working to substantially revise the WCCC MIS handbook. This document, being renamed the Data Collection and Reporting Handbook, describes every report that the colleges regularly submit to the WCCC and includes a data dictionary of the elements used in these common reports.

We have also implemented revisions to the annual performance report, which presents student success information related to several indicators specified in Wyoming Statute. The report now includes comparison data from the National Community College Benchmarking Project, in which all seven colleges participate.
Transitions

Arizona

Lap Lam, former Director of Management Analysis in Planning and Budget at Arizona State University left to become Director of the Office of Institutional Research at Washington State University this spring.

Colorado

Ali Walton has been named Director of Institutional Research and Analysis at the University of Denver.

Meghan Gallo was promoted from Research Analyst to Senior Research Analyst in Institutional Research and Analysis at the University of Denver.

Mike Furno was hired as a Research Analyst in Institutional Research and Analysis at the University of Denver.

Katherine Schroeder was hired as Survey and Evaluation Coordinator in Institutional Research and Analysis at the University of Denver.

Catherine Dixon was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Faculty and Compliance Coordinator in Institutional Research and Analysis at the University of Denver.

Montana

Jim Rimpau, Vice President for Planning at Montana State University will be moving across campus to become the Vice President for Student Success. Chris Fastnow, Associate Director of the Office of Planning and Analysis is being promoted to Director of Planning and Analysis and will chair the University Planning Council.

New Mexico

Glenn Damiani, was promoted from Senior Research Analyst to Senior Director of Enrollment Services at Central New Mexico Community College. The office is now searching for a new Senior Research Analyst.

Jacqueline Virgint retired from the position of Vice-President for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at Santa Fe Community College as of June 30, 2012.

Dr. Sheila Ortego will be retiring as President of Santa Fe Community College effective August 31, 2012. The College is well into the search process and has completed final interviews with its top six candidates. (see our website - http://www.sfcc.edu for details).

Yash Morimoto (previously with NM Higher Education Department) has worked for Santa Fe Community College as part of their Title V team since last September. He was recently hired as a permanent Senior Data Analyst in the Office of Planning and Institutional Research. He began his duties on June 8, 2012.

San Juan College temporarily assigned a 10-month Research Analyst this year, 2011-12. Seth Abrahamson began August 1, 2011. He is temporarily assigned from a Mathematics faculty position. The temporary assignment was originally for one year, but it has been extended for the 2012-13 year. So, Seth will begin his second year on August 1, 2012.
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