Save the Date RMAIR turns 40!
2010 RMAIR Annual Conference
Denver, Colorado October 20-22, 2010

This year RMAIR is celebrating 40 years! Please join us as we celebrate this year’s theme of “40 Years of Moving Higher Education Forward.” The fall RMAIR conference will be held Wednesday through Friday, October 20-22 at the Curtis Hotel in Denver. The hotel is in the heart of downtown, within walking distance of museums, theatre, restaurants, shopping, and the light rail (public transportation.)

We are looking forward to hearing from two keynote speakers at this year’s conference. David Skaggs, Esq. (former Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education and U.S. Representative) will be the guest speaker for the Thursday luncheon. He has extensive knowledge of government relations and higher education. Dr. Matt Gianneschi (Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management at the Community College of Aurora and former Senior Policy Analyst for SHEEO) will be our featured speaker on Friday morning. Dr. Gianneschi has extensive knowledge of data sharing among governmental agencies and educational institutions.

In addition, the conference will include IPEDS training (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 Curtis hotel. This will be an opportunity to catch up with colleagues and welcome new members to the conference. Generous donors have provided items for a drawing that will be held during the reception.

The Thursday night event will be a great celebration of 40 years of RMAIR. We will visit the King Tut Exhibit at the Denver Art Museum, then gather for dinner at Maggiano’s Little Italy. Pre-registration is required. We will also celebrate 40 years of RMAIR at the luncheon on Friday, so this year’s conference promises to be a combination of opportunities to gain new insights from expert presenters, to network with peers, and to celebrate RMAIR.
Intercom: Letter from the President
Archie George

As the 2010-11 academic year begins many institutions find themselves dealing simultaneously with higher enrollments and continuing budget shortfalls. Costs have been shifted to students, faculty and staff. I find myself engaged in many routine exercises, completing state and federal reports, responding to ad-hoc requests, training staff and seemingly going to more meetings than ever before. However, there seems to be something surreal about this year. The weeks of the school year have been as calm as the eye of a hurricane, at least for me. There was intense interest in enrollment numbers and the associated impending press releases, closely tied to uncertainty about student revenue that had been budgeted higher than ever. After the first day of classes, however, the pressure dropped, both meteorologically and emotionally. With suddenly cooler weather and light rains came a renewed engagement in the actual conduct of the business of higher education. The experience reminds me of running a marathon, with prereace jitters followed by a sense of relief and purposeful, practiced activity that can’t be rushed. We’re back in our comfort zone, doing what we know best. The challenges remain, but not the sense of uncertainty that seemed to dominate the last part of summer.

As I plan for the RMAIR fall meeting I reflect on the value of coming together with like-minded individuals to share experiences, challenges, frustrations, success, as well as tips and tricks of the trade. In spite of the days of lost productivity, these fall regional meetings provide a unique chance to gain perspective. I have found it perpetually surprising to discover that my institution and my local challenges are more similar to others than seems possible. Our presidents, chancellors, provosts and legislators must have all gone to meetings together! Where did they pick up the same new inspirations and aspirations, shared phrases and mannerisms? How is it possible that what your president/chancellor/provost is requesting, for the first time ever, is the same as what mine suddenly needs to know? So, what did you have to say about that? What were your sources? And how was that received? Besides all that, the RMAIR fall conferences are a lot of fun! I encourage you to make every effort to be there. While looking at King Tut’s burial excesses, we can contemplate what kind of data might the boy king have needed to run the kingdom so long ago.

Letter from the Editor
Lisa Muller

Greetings RMAIRians.

Our 40th conference sounds like a dynamite conference. There have been lots of Colorado planning participants which is great to hear about. For those unable to join us in Colorado don’t forget that our RMAIR dues are still incredibly reasonable at $20.00. RMAIR has been a conference that has really had an impact at the national level and we should all be thinking about nominations for fellow RMAIRians.

Since I have been elected Vice-President of RMAIR we need an editor for Panorama. I note that we now have several models for gathering state data. Models include multiple people in the state reporting to a central state reporter, a student assigned to researching an individual state news, to the single person following state & institutional level news over the past several months model. They are all effective models and I believe that we are more informed institutional researchers by knowing what our neighbors are doing. We also still need a state reporter in Nevada (Diane Muntal reports UNLV news in Nevada). Thank you to Kay Schneider for volunteering to be the Colorado State Reporter and for also stepping up to take on the temporary role of RMAIR secretary. Please consider nominating yourself or someone in your office for a turn at writing up your state events. Many thanks to our state reporters.
RMAIR Business Meeting Minutes
RMAIR Meeting Notes Kay Schneider May 31, 2010

Meeting held at that Association for Institutional Research Annual Forum

Archie George called the meeting to order. Folks introduced themselves, there were approximately 35 members in attendance, including those who drifted in during the meeting.

Annual meeting: The Fall 2010 RMAIR conference is the 40th anniversary conference. The event will be held Wednesday through Friday, October 20-22 at the Curtis Hotel in Denver. The call for proposals has been distributed via email and is available on the RMAIR website. Proposals are due June 30. Volunteers are needed for reviewing proposals. Members may contact Kay Schneider (kay.schneider@du.edu) or Alli Bell (ABell@sheeo.org) if they are interested in serving as a reviewer.

Registration costs will be determined soon; the cost of the conference is usually $100-$125. Prior to the conference, an IPEDS training event will be offered; Archie George has a list of the topics that could be offered (see http://www.airweb.org/?page=1999). Attendees can attend the IPEDS training without attending the conference. NCES has funding available to support attendees’ participation. The 2011 meeting will be held in Albuquerque and the 2012 meeting will likely be held in Laramie. The 2010 Colorado Association of Planners and Institutional Researchers (CAPIR) meeting will be held (unofficially) in conjunction with RMAIR.

2. Treasury: Lisa Muller provided a treasury update and indicated that we are on solid ground and will remain stable even if the fall conference does not do as well as we had hoped. Scholarship funds to attend the AIR conference were provided to Bonnie Steele, who will offer Excel dashboard training at the RMAIR regional conference in Denver this fall. Lisa and Archie also reported that they will explore options for earning a higher rate of return on the RMAIR budget surplus.

3. Non-profit status: The California association had its 501(c)(3) status revoked and CAPIR received IRS notification that it failed to file the required forms needed to maintain non-profit status. We have an employer identification number, but have not been able to verify whether RMAIR has previously filed for not-for-profit status. Benefits of having this status include exclusion of payment of sales taxes and the ability to accept charitable contributions that are tax deductible to the donor. If we are tax exempt, we need to report unrelated income (i.e. t-shirt sales) to the IRS. We also need to ensure we are complying with regulations regarding awarding of grants to members. The regional associations have requested that AIR provide legal advice regarding tax status. It is possible that we might obtain non-profit tax status as an affiliate of AIR rather than as an independent organization.

4. Panorama: The newsletter is accepting contributions; state reporters are encouraged to submit content. Updates regarding changing personnel should also be included in the newsletter.

5. New Directions for IR: The July 2010 edition of New Directions for Institutional Research is authored by four RMAIR members. This edition will focus on homeland security issues.

6. Enhancing our presence within AIR: We need a process for ensuring our representation at and within AIR leadership. Dawn Kenney was on the nominating committee and several RMAIR members are past presidents. Dawn’s one-year appointment ended with the Chicago conference. However, we need to be more intentional regarding nominating RMAIR members for AIR leadership positions and should think about who to nominate for the next nominating committee go around or any other committee. Members can get involved by serving on an AIR committee or by reviewing proposals. Interested members may contact Fred Lillibridge flillibr@nmsu.edu.
May 2010 Treasurer’s Report

Beginning balance as of Oct 19, 2009 $32,052.47 (Flagstaff Conference)

Expenses:
- Flagstaff conference center: $13,245.20
- Flagstaff tour: 180.00
- Other conference costs: 2,194.86
- Best Paper: 500.00
- Train the Trainer: 1,190.00
- Denver Conference deposit: 1,375.00
Total: 18,685.06

Revenue
- Conference and memberships: 2,801.06

Savings Accounts: $750.52 for scholarship
- $10,580.47 business market savings account (no CDs)
Checking Accounts: $4,837.48

We have 107 members as of May 15.


ISSUES: Scholarship Account was set up in memory of our departed colleagues. We need to have guidelines and procedures for spending this money. Donations are accepted, made out to RMAIR and in the memo field, note In Memory of or In Honor of – so we can keep track. We have $750 in this fund.

Ellen McGregor, RMAIR Treasurer

News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)

Arizona News

21st Annual Conference

Rio Salado Community College hosted the 21st Annual Conference of AzAIR on May 14, 2010. The keynote address was made by Dr. Karen Nicodemus, former President of Cochise Community College. Her presentation was titled “Arizona Higher Education Architecture.” A panel, representative of the sectors in Arizona discussed the presentation and noted the need to increase the number of bachelor degree recipients in Arizona.

A panel on conducting IR and Assessment in non-public institutions of higher education added a new dimension to the conference which tended to focus on public identities. Dan Anderson, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Analysis of the Arizona Board of Regents, gave an update of the legislative session and statewide initiatives (note – this presentation was before the voters approved overwhelmingly the 1% sale tax to support education). A panel led by Ellen McGregor of Pima Community College, with
Donna Silber and Dan Anderson, gave an overview of the changes in reporting due to the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Donna is an IPEDS trainer who works in the District Office of the Maricopa Community College System. Next year the annual conference will be at Pima Community College, at the new Northwest Campus.

The preconference workshops, held on May 13, focused on Perkins Reporting and IPEDS training in addition to the Arizona State System for Information on Student Transfer (ASSIST) user group meeting. The IPEDS training covered the new net price calculator as well as changes in the surveys. Donna Silber provided the training.

**Updates from Arizona State University (ASU)**

Nancy Dickson left the University Office of Institutional Analysis (UOIA) during the last academic year to become the key data analyst for the ASU Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering housed in the college’s Academic and Student Affairs office. Her new position is as a Principal Planning Analyst. Starting with the new fiscal year, UOIA has moved from the Executive Vice President for Business and Finance Office to the Executive Vice President and Provost Office. In May, Lap-Pun Lam, the former Assistant Director of UOIA, became the Director of Management Analysis in the Office of the Associate Vice President for Planning and Budget with a focus on resource management and analyses. A new analyst, Yujun Mei starts in September as a Senior Management Research Analyst (coming with experience in the Undergraduate Admissions Office and Student Financial Aid Office).

**Maricopa Community College District Board Member Resigns**

Colleen Clark announced that she is stepping down from her seat on the Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board. Ms. Clark cited her need to maintain full-time employment in a challenging job market. She said she could no longer maintain the commitment of time required by her Governing Board position. Board members are elected by district and a successor to Ms. Clark will be made by Dr. Don Covey, the Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools.

**COLORADO**  
*State Reporter: Kay Schneider (Denver University)*

Strategic Planning: The Governor on December 17, 2009 announced a strategic planning initiative to assess the state’s higher education system and develop a master plan for the public colleges and universities. On January 26, 2010, he appointed a steering committee to lead the effort. The Governor has charged the steering committee with:

- Defining state higher educational needs and examining institutional missions;
- Reviewing the governance and structure of the system of higher education;
- Addressing higher education funding; and
- Increasing and improving student access and success.

Strategic planning community forums are being held at various Colorado locations in September and October. The group hopes to submit its recommendations to the Governor in early November, 2010.

**IDAHO**  
*State Reporter: Chris Lighty (University of Idaho)*
The University of Idaho achieved an 80% retention rate of last year’s record freshman class. Overall graduate-student enrollment was up 5% and dual-credit enrollment was up 10 percent from last year. One-third of our new students are first-generation this year. Also:

- The University is one of the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges, according to The Princeton Review, which ranked U-Idaho as one of the nation’s top 286 green colleges in 2010.
- The Corporation for National and Community Service has named the University of Idaho to the 2009 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts. It is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. This year 2,200 students at Idaho engaged in some 136,600 hours of service. This is the fourth year the University has received this recognition.
- The U of Idaho has been included in the 2011 edition of Princeton Review’s “Best 373 Colleges” putting us in the 15% of the nation’s colleges that are included in the ranking of nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education. The U of Idaho was selected as a finalist for the national C. Peter Magrath University/Community Engagement award as a result of its partnership between the Coeur d’Alene tribe and its reservation communities working to help them create a long-term vision to achieve prosperity.

Around the state:

**Boise State University** With a record enrollment of 19,993 students, Boise State University has posted a 5.6 percent increase (1,057 students) from last fall. The numbers, based on enrollment from the 10th day of classes, are a testament to Boise State’s increased focus on attracting and retaining high-ability students.

- Boise State University’s Technology and Entrepreneurial Center (TECenter) has been awarded a $1 million grant by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Agency (EDA) to continue creating jobs in the Treasure Valley.
- The funds will be used to complete an additional 10,000 square feet — about a third of the TECenter’s total space — that was left unfinished when the center opened eight years ago. The resulting 30 percent increase in client space is expected to help center clients create 75 new jobs per year. The TECenter, located in Nampa, is home to 14 resident companies and also offers business resources to 10 non-resident clients.

**Idaho State University** students are taking more classes, and the number of students advancing toward a degree has increased this year compared to last fall, according to the 10th-day enrollment report for fall semester. The report also shows a 3 percent increase in the number of total student hours being taken.

- The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) wants to ensure that teachers are given the kind of foundation that will make them successful in classrooms and programs. NAEYC’s Commission on Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation has granted Idaho State University’s College of Technology Early Childhood Care and Education Associate Degree program full accreditation. The ISU program is one of nine associate degree programs sponsored by eight institutions of higher education to receive this status.

**Lewis-Clark State** College’s healthy and sustained enrollment growth continues with another record enrollment of 4,542 and a full-time equivalency of 3,225 for the 2010 fall semester, according to the college's 10th day report. The growth continues a trend of strong and record-breaking enrollment growth. Last fall, LCSC's enrollment topped 4,000 students for the first time at 4,200. The 2010 fall enrollment is an 8.14 percent increase from a year ago. The increase also marks the seventh straight semester LCSC has set and an all-time attendance record for either the fall or spring.

- The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced that Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) athletics director Gary Picone has been named the 2009-10 NAIA-Athletics Director Association (ADA) Athletics Director of the Year. The award recognizes Picone's leadership, vision and commitment to intercollegiate athletics.

**North Idaho College**'s overall total population served is now well in excess of 21,500 with this fall’s 12.16 percent increase in enrollment compared to last year. NIC’s total credit enrollment is 6,347 students for fall 2010, up from 5,659 students in fall 2009. NIC’s total population served includes Workforce Training Center and Adult Basic Education/GED students as well as those served by the
Aging and Adult Services and the Head Start programs. “This fall’s enrollment increase underscores NIC’s ability to meet the education and training needs of the region. Since the fall of 2007 our enrollment has increased by 36.5 percent and we have not turned away any applicant due this unprecedented growth. Our faculty and staff have performed above and beyond their normal workloads and tasks to meet the needs of all our students,” said NIC President Priscilla Bell.

Members of the American Indian Student Alliance (AISA) saw a need for additional scholarships for American Indian students at North Idaho College, so they rose to the challenge. The students spent the 2009-10 school year hosting various fundraisers, ranging from fry bread sales to an American Indian art silent auction, raising a total of $2,000 to fund scholarships for American Indian students.

Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) This fall at EITC, the new Energy Systems Program will be launched. Classes will include, Electronics Theory and hands-on lab, Applied Mathematics and a chosen general education course. EITC is excited to provide the first year of this two year program here at the Idaho Falls EITC campus. After completion of the first year, students will then be qualified to enter the second year program at Idaho State University. The lab facilities for the second year at ISU are second to none in the country. Students will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience in many facets of the energy world. Coupled with their first year experience here at EITC, the student will be prepared to enter into the energy solutions workplace.

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

Budgets

The budget situation continues to look bleak for the upcoming biennium. The most optimistic projections that we are seeing suggest that there will be a decrease of about 10% in state funds. It remains to be seen how that number will translate to our campuses but even breaking even seems unlikely at this point. We continue to watch the monthly revenue reports.

Some positive money news

Montana State University received $109.5 million in research funding for the fiscal year ending June 30, beating its 2006 record of $101.3 million. After a couple of years of declining research expenditures, MSU Bozeman got back on the growth track. That helps the campus in a lot of ways.

Leadership changes

Several Montana University System campuses have or are searching for new top administrators. Montana State University has a new President. Dr. Waded Cruzado began the job as President in January 2010. Dr. Cruzado is MSU’s twelfth President and is the first woman and first Hispanic to hold the position. She comes to MSU from New Mexico State University where she was the Provost.

After serving as President of the University of Montana for 20 years, Dr. George Dennison has announced his retirement. A search is underway for his replacement and candidates will interview on campus during the fall semester. President Dennison has agreed to continue as President until his replacement arrives.

Dr. Ron Sexton, Chancellor at Montana State University Billings has announced his retirement after serving as Chancellor for fifteen years. A search is underway for Dr. Sexton’s replacement and candidates will interview on campus during the fall semester.

Finally, MSU Bozeman is in the final stages of a search for a new Provost. Former Provost David Dooley left MSU to become the President at the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Joe Fedock is serving as the Interim Provost while the search is conducted.
Enrollment

Most of our campuses are just beginning their fall semesters as I write this. We don’t officially count enrollment until the 15th class day in Montana but everything I am hearing about enrollment across our campuses is positive.

NEVADA

State Reporter: Open position
Diane Muntal (University of Nevada Las Vegas) sent us the following report

The good,
The folks in IAP have been working intensively on an enterprise data warehousing implementation for several months, complementing UNLV’s implementation of the PeopleSoft student information system. Organizationally, UNLV formalized its business intelligence structure early in 2010, and placed the responsibility for the development and evolution of the institutional data warehouse and OBIEE reporting platform in the Office of Institutional Analysis and Planning. The IAP Director of Data Management & Business Intelligence Reporting coordinates with central IT on issues of technical infrastructure, and leads two data warehouse/business intelligence developers in building and maintaining the warehouse. As an early priority, the office is focused on developing reportable daily snapshots of student data, to support census reporting, point-in-time comparisons, and trend analysis.

UNLV is poised to lead an initiative that will put Southern Nevada on the map as a resource for solar energy development and innovation with its proposed Solar Solutions Center. The goals of the center will be to facilitate a rapid expansion of economic innovation for solar energy leading to new jobs in the region, to advance sustainable solar deployment, to expand research and development capacity, to create a new resource for analysis of national and regional energy policy, and grow a workforce and future leaders who support a clean energy economy through the creation of new education programs. UNLV’s president recently traveled to Washington to discuss the initiative with the White House Chief of Staff and Chief Energy Advisor.

…..the bad,
The worsening economic conditions in Nevada continue to weigh heavily on higher education and UNLV. UNLV’s state base budget was reduced $44 million since FY08. In the most recent special session of the legislature the budget was cut an additional $3.7 million for the balance of FY10, and another $10.7 million (6.9%) through FY11. This represents a staggering 30% reduction in UNLV’s state funding in three years.

In the most recent round of budget cuts, UNLV was forced to implement vertical (programmatic) cuts. Programs eliminated include Educational Leadership, Sports Education Leadership, Recreation and Sports Management, Informatics, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Urban Horticulture.

Over the past two years, hundreds of faculty and staff positions were eliminated or frozen. Those still employed are subject to unpaid furloughs representing a 4.6% salary reduction. As the result of a 20% cut in state health insurance subsidies, in addition to the unfunded 12% increase in health care costs, the cost of insurance is shifting increasingly to faculty and staff, increasing premiums, deductibles and total out of pocket costs. A new Consumer Directed Health Plan option has been proposed for FY12 requiring the participant to pay every dollar of every claim until they’ve met the $2,000 deductible, increasing co-pays and drastically reducing dental, vision and health insurance benefits.

…..and the ugly.
The next legislative session will be more painful than the last, with no federal stimulus funds or rainy day funds available to save the day and fill the $3 billion dollar predicted state budget shortfall. However, the candidates for governor from both parties have plans to improve the dismal state of education in Nevada without raising taxes.

A new tax study, narrowly approved by the last legislature, was cancelled in July, leaving legislators with the results of the previous five tax studies (the first of which dates back to 1959) strongly recommending
the diversification of the state’s economy and overhauling a tax structure heavily dependent on taxes on gaming, hotels, restaurants and sales.

The Nevada Board of Regents just approved a budget that includes a request for a nearly 25 percent increase in state funding, despite Gov. Gibbons call for an additional 10% cut in spending among all state agencies. Chancellor Klaich stated the call for a cut was premature and “identifying cuts now and experiencing one or more cutting exercises in the future would be ruinous to higher education. “

NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Carol Bernhard (University of New Mexico)

Budget Cuts
Across the state, revenue projections have continued to worsen over the course of the past year. Earlier this month, Governor Richardson ordered a cut of 3.2% to be applied to the FY 2011 budgets of state universities, which is in addition to reductions already in place.

University of New Mexico

UNM Regents Hear How University Will Handle Current Budget Cut
The Board of Regents for the University of New Mexico got a progress report from UNM administrators Tuesday on how the most recent 3.2% rescission in state funding will be handled by campus units. For main campus, this rescission equals to just under $6 million in cuts to the state appropriation for instruction, student and academic support, and the administrative support of academics. In contrast to previous recessions, these reductions are predicted to be permanent to base budget allocations. However, while there have been cuts to the budget, so far there have been no mandatory furloughs, layoffs or salary cuts.

HISPANIC BUSINESS MAGAZINE recently named the UNM Anderson School of Management as the sixth-best Graduate Business School for Hispanics in the nation.
Each year Hispanic Business magazine measures and ranks the effectiveness of the nation’s universities in attracting Hispanic students, and providing them with the academic support they need to be successful. The school was also ranked sixth last year.

Eastern New Mexico University

ENMU's Enrollment Surpasses 5,000 for First Time
Eastern New Mexico University in Portales has surpassed an enrollment of 5,000 for the first time in school history with 5,080 students. The previous record was 4,685 students in the 2009 fall semester, so this semester's enrollment is an increase of 8.4 percent over that number. Before that, the previous record of 4,342 in the fall of 1972 had stood for 37 years.

Central New Mexico (CNM) Community College

National Initiative to Improve H.S. Grad Rates Holds Event at CNM
The National Youth Listening Tour, part of President Barack Obama’s American Graduation Initiative, will hold an event on CNM’s Main Campus in the Smith Brasher Hall auditorium on Thursday (Sept. 16) from 5:30- 8 p.m. The event is part of a national effort to engage youth, families and communities in improving schools.

CNM Enrollment Surges to All-time High
As of Sept. 15, CNM's enrollment was at 29,776 students. It's the highest enrollment ever at CNM, continuing a three-year trend of record-setting enrollments. It's also the highest enrollment for any higher education institution in New Mexico. Enrollment for many late-start classes continues through the fall term.
**TRiO Student Support Services Earns New Funding**

CNM’s TRiO Student Support Services will continue to receive federal funding to support the success of CNM students. The CNM TRiO program recently received a $255,505 federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the first annual allotment in a five-year award that exceeds $1 million.

**UTAH**

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

Author Michael Nguyen

*Utah’s student loan default rate slips as nation’s rises (9-13-2010)*

Coming in at 1.9 percent, Utah has the lowest student loan default rate in the nation. Elsewhere in the country, student loan default rates continue to climb. Utah’s default rates are now less than one-fourth of the national average which rose from 6.7 to 7 percent. David Feitz, executive director of the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority, considers “low student-debt load and the state’s special program to service student borrowers” as factors for the difference. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan pointed out for-profit schools as contributing to the growing default crisis as “[they] are saddling students with debts they cannot afford in exchange for degrees and certificates they cannot use.” Among for-profit schools, default rates were about two times the amount at public nonprofit and almost three times the amount at private nonprofit institutions. The article in its entirety can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50275492-76/default-rate-percent-students.html.csp.

*U. panel: why not more women in science? (9-8-2010)*

Yoky Matsuouka presented the University of Utah’s annual Gould Lecture on Technology and the Quality of Life at J. Willard Marriott Library on September 8. Matsuouka was a guest lecturer from the University of Washington who was recently awarded the MacArthur “Genius Award” Fellowship for her studies linking neuroscience and robotics. Panelists were also on hand to discuss the lack of women in the science field. Matsuouka found that girls lose as much as 40 percent interest in becoming scientist in the span between fourth and eighth grade. Other presenters spoke of difficulties with raising kids. The University of Utah has plans to implement a program that brings females and minorities onto campus a full two months earlier to help engender confidence. The article can be found at: http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700063972/U-panel-why-not-more-women-in-science.html?s_cid=rss-30.

*Business community proposes education changes (9-8-2010)*

Utah’s business community met to discuss draft proposals to the Prosperity 2020 movement at the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. Recent research by Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce has revealed that come 2018, over 65 percent of Utah employment opportunities will have postsecondary education as a prerequisite. Chamber advisor and former Utah Commissioner of Higher Education, Richard Kendell, puts it simply, “We’ve got to be better educated.” The Prosperity 2020 movement believes better education will start with implementation of “state-funded optional preschool for at-risk kids, statewide optional all-day kindergarten, giving the ACT to all students, and setting goals of 90 percent of sixth-graders and ninth-graders reading and doing math at grade-level.” These proposals reflect the need to invest early for the future as Utah is rated nationally as funding the least amount of money per student in the public education sector. More details can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50238700-76/education-chamber-percent-state.html.csp.

*Utah’s gender degree gap is widest in U.S. (9-4-2010)*

When compared to women nationwide, Utah has more women in the workforce per capita, however, they are not earning as much as men do—only an average of 69 percent. Lecia Parks Langston, a Utah Department of Workforce Services economist, blames the problem on women’s low college graduation rate. She explains, “There’s a cultural expectation in Utah that women will marry, have children and their
husbands will support them, but many of them will end up working.” To this end, many do not start or finish their postsecondary education. In the years leading up to 1980, women in Utah had a higher rate of college completion when compared to the nation as a whole. Langston points out that although this is not the case anymore, “Women nationally are more likely than Utah women to go into higher paying jobs that used to be male-dominated occupations, particularly ones that require math and science.” The complete article, as well as further details, can be found at: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50189708-76/utah-women-gap-percent.html.csp.

**Students continue to flock to Utah campuses (9-2-2010)**

The return to college fueled by a bleak job market is now a common country wide sensation. Students in Utah enrolled at schools such as UVU are faced with wait lists for requisite courses that might offer terrible schedules even if spots open up. The increase in enrollment spells bad news in other departments as six-year graduation rates have declined to 23 percent causing the school to make an appearance as a so-called “dropout factory” on Washington Monthly. In response to budget cuts, SLCC is no longer renting its Sandy campus. Enrollment problems there have worsened as capacity is 2,700 less with students being forced to attend at any of the other 13 satellites. Further compounding the situation, SLCC and UVU are not only receiving the least amount of funding, they also lack the most space for students. More available at: http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50172206-76/students-uvu-enrollment-classes.html.csp.

**Little change in Utah ACT score (8-18-2010)**

Over the past five years, Utah’s average ACT score (21.8) has changed little. However, it is still under the proposed benchmark—22 for math (21.1), 24 for science (21.7). William Sederburg, Utah’s commissioner of higher education said, “The pressure to provide remedial education is a challenge and a distraction for colleges. Two-year schools such as Salt Lake Community College are required to subsidize remedial education, but four-year colleges have to charge students the full cost, giving the schools a moneymaker they don’t necessarily want.” He argues that it is most likely the amount of time that passes between graduating high school and engaging in postsecondary education that causes such difficulties. Utah’s high population of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also adds to this situation as large number of students serve missions anywhere from 1.5 to 2 years. The numbers speak for themselves as ACT statistics show that 3 in 4 students who take the ACT will end up needing some remedial assistance to be successful in higher education. More details can be found at: http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700057997/Little-change-in-Utah-ACT-scores.html?pg=1.

**WYOMING**

State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

**Tuition Increases**

The University of Wyoming's increase in tuition and fees has been softened by the use of stimulus funds (Wyoming did not need to use these in 2009-2010). Also Wyoming residents who were awarded Hathaway scholarships have increased and at most selective Honors level Hathaway pays $3200 enough to pay the full amount of tuition for most students. The total number of Hathaway scholarships for Wyoming high school or transfer students has continued to grow in size over its 5 years history. The program rewards eligible Wyoming students with scholarship money to attend the University of Wyoming or a Wyoming community college. http://www.uwyo.edu/hathaway/eligibility.asp

**Retirement Programs**

Employee retirement contributions increased September 1 to a total of 14.12 percent following concern that the state guaranteed pension program was underfunded. The increase requires employees to be responsible for paying the increase in their contribution, or 1.43 percent of the employee's salary. The University will now contribute 12.69 percent of each employee's salary to a retirement account of the employee's choice, either to the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) or TIAA-CREF. (Previously the entire amount was paid by the University 11.25 percent). The goal is to secure WRS ability to pay
benefits promised to current and future retirees. "WRS participants will have more assurance that a guaranteed pension will be available when they retire," according to the Human Resources benefits manager. "TIAA-CREF participants will have more money invested that will hopefully grow over time."

Areas of Distinction

Work began in June 2010 on a Supercomputing Center partnering the University of Wyoming, the State of Wyoming, Cheyenne LEADS (Cheyenne–Laramie County Corporation for Economic Development), Cheyenne Light, Fuel, and Power, the Wyoming Business Council and the National Science Foundation (NSF), with the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and its managing organization the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR).

In FY10, UW reached a new record in external funding, $101 million. This total includes 18.4 million in financial aid and student operations.

In the Arts, a recent bequest from Wyoming artist Neltje is the largest in UW history. The bequest includes land, financial holdings and a collection of contemporary, tribal and ethnic arts collected by Neltje over a lifetime of travel across the globe. The announcement came as the university broke ground for a new $33 million Visual Arts Center. Special Funding sponsored by the Wyoming State Legislature through the Excellence in Higher Education Endowment has allowed the University of Wyoming to establish Eminent-Artist-in-Residence programs. "Rattawut Lapcharoensap, is the fall 2010 Eminent Writer in Residence at the UW. Author of the best-selling collection “Sightseeing,” Lapcharoensap is in UW’s MFA Program in Creative Writing. In 2007, Granta, the magazine for new writing, named Lapcharoensap to its list of “Best of Young American Novelists.”

The University of Wyoming American Heritage Center received the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) 2010 Distinguished Service Award. It is the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed on an institution by the nation's primary organization dedicated to ensuring the identification, preservation and use of records of historical value.

UW has taken advantage of its extraordinary location in the Rocky Mountains by developing a credit transfer agreement with the Wyoming-based National Outdoor Leadership School, one of the world’s leading innovators in outdoor education.

Building, building, building

An expanded and renovated College of Business opened for classes in fall 2010, along with completion of the Kendall House, home to Environmental and Natural Resources. Both buildings are in the process of LEED certification. The Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center is scheduled for completion in fall 2010, along with War Memorial Stadium suites, and club seats. In January 2010 following a year of discussions and work with campus and community groups, the University of Wyoming approved a Long Range Development Plan (LRDP).

Wyoming Community Colleges

Ann Murray, Manager of Institutional Research, Laramie County Community College

The Wyoming Community College IR Committee, comprised of IR professionals from the seven community colleges and the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC), welcomed a new member in August when George Pitt began work as the WCCC Policy Analyst on August 23. The group is looking forward to the annual RMAIR conference in Denver this year and hopes to have all the colleges in attendance.

This fall is a busy time for the IR Committee, currently involved in several activities related to state-level reporting. IR representatives from three of the colleges are serving on a team that is making recommendations to revise and strengthen performance indicator reporting. The team, which includes college representatives from the Academic Affairs Council and the Student Services Council, is also making recommendations for meeting the reporting requirements of the recently adopted Wyoming Community College Commission Statewide Strategic Plan. College IR personnel are also active in the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Taskforce. The charge of this task force is to develop
recommendations for a K-20 SLDS in order to better measure, track, and improve student success. The taskforce has representation from several stakeholders in addition to the community colleges, including the University of Wyoming, local school districts, the Department of Education, and the Department of Workforce Services.

Four of the seven colleges participated in the National Community College Benchmarking Project (NCCBP) in 2010. The IR Committee is encouraging all Wyoming colleges to participate in 2011 so that state comparison data can be used for benchmarking performance indicators. For the third time, all seven colleges will be participating as a consortium in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) in the spring of 2011. Data from CCSSE are used in state reporting; the colleges are investigating ways to use the data internally for improvement in various areas such as retention efforts.

Transitions

Colorado
Candace Gilfillan moved from a Research Analyst at San Juan College in Farmington, NM to the Manager of Institutional Research at San Juan College.

Idaho
After three years with IR and Assessment at the University of Idaho, IR Analyst Eric Grulke has left us for a position with the Denver Public Schools.
Keith Ickes, formerly at Colorado State University and Boulder County, Colorado, is now Executive Director of Planning and Budget at the University of Idaho. In this capacity he reports to the University President and oversees the work of the Budget Office and Institutional Research and Assessment.

Utah
Farah Thompson's position was eliminated due to unexpected budget cuts. Farah was our very reliable RMAIR secretary and we wish her the very best in the future. She wrote that "I loved being a part of RMAIR and Institutional Research."

Wyoming
Arley Williams moved from New Mexico to become the new Assistant Vice-President for budget and institutional analysis at the University of Wyoming in February 2009. Williams' position was created from an existing job to integrate the work of the budget office, institutional analysis and central business analysis. These three units had previously worked independently of each other. In this capacity she reports to the Vice President for Administration Douglas Vinzant. Welcome Arley.

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**Needed for 2010 please contact Lisa Muller**  
**or Archie George to volunteer or nominate**

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