Intercom: Letter from the President

Brian Shuppy

Thanks again for all the participants in the RMAIR conference in Coeur D’Alene. I dare say that the accommodations and program were the best! Ray Wallace organized a terrific social Wednesday night, including a full-moon eclipse and Red Sox victory. The Thursday night banquet—complete with a comedian—loosened up even the most serious data minds. A heartfelt thanks to our program chair Marcia “the time keeper” Belcheir, who gently reminded us that staying on time is a virtue. And lastly, congratulations to Serge Herzog from the University of Nevada-Reno for best paper presentation.

If you missed this year, please consider coming to Edmonton next year for a joint conference with the Canadian Institutional Research and Planning Association (CIRPA). We will be staying in the Fantasyland Hotel located at the West Edmonton Mall. These conferences are wonderful opportunities to explore new methods, network with colleagues, AND reward ourselves.

Congratulations to Wendy Kappy from the University of New Mexico, who was elected vice president of RMAIR. She will continue to serve as Panorama editor until the demands of the president become too unbearable. In other election news, I hope that you all voted for our own Fred Lillibridge and Dawn Kenney for national AIR positions. They are both extremely qualified and will represent RMAIR well.
RMAIR Vice President Election Results

Wendy Miley

RMAIR had two excellent, well-qualified candidates running for the office of vice president—Greg Smith of Central Arizona College and Wendy Kappy from the University of New Mexico. Based on the RMAIR by-laws, “winners of the election for officers shall require a simple majority of those voting providing the vote includes at least 20 RMAIR members from 5 of the 10 Rocky Mountain states or provinces.” Exceeding the by-law requirements, Wendy Kappy was voted in as the next vice president of RMAIR. The results of the election were announced at the RMAIR conference in Coeur d’Alene.

Congratulations Wendy Kappy!

Many thanks to Brian Shuppy for building an official site for RMAIR elections. The process will now have consistency from year-to-year. This represents our continued efforts to have an efficiently run organization so we can devote more time to build on our ever-growing effectiveness.

Letter from the Editor

Wendy Kappy

Greeting fellow RMAIRians. This newsletter is full of interesting news about what is going on in higher education in the Rocky Mountain region. I hope you are able to take some quiet time out of your busy day and bring yourself up-to-date on new and ongoing developments.

You will also find past and future news about our organization, especially about the meeting in Coeur d’Alene and our meeting next year in Edmonton, Canada. Future newsletters will keep you up-to-date on upcoming conference developments.

I want to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me as your new vice president. I am deeply honored and will work hard to serve you. I only hope I can begin to serve the organization as well as those who have come before me. Believe me, it’s a tough act to follow.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and a sane and productive new year!

RMAIR Business Meeting – Coeur d’Alene

October 29, 2004

by Ellen McGregor, Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Shuppy, RMAIR president, chaired the meeting. Wendy Miley, past president, announced that Wendy Kappy was elected vice president. Wendy Kappy will remain editor of Panorama. Brian presented Wendy Miley a plaque noting her service to RMAIR as president and past president. Brian also acknowledged the work of our location chair, Ray Wallace, and our program chair, Marcia Belcheir, and presented each with a gift.
Ellen McGregor presented the treasurer report:

Balance as of April 30, 2004 - $22,549.66 (reported at the AIR Forum)
Deposits since AIR Forum:

- Mail in dues - $42 (3 new members)
- Donation of $14.00 – Cel Johnson

total of 91 dues paying members
Ending Balance: $22,605.66 (September 30, 2004)

Ellen had several questions for the members to address, resulting in the following decisions:

- The members decided that the Executive Board should get a credit card for RMAIR, linked to our Wells Fargo Bank Account.
- The members decided to continue to support both the train-the-trainer program and the presentation at the AIR Forum of the RMAIR Best Paper. It was agreed to support both at the $500 level.
- It was also agreed to explore investment options. It was suggested that our bank could provide assistance.

Susan Jones has been approved for emeritus status.

One of our members, Steve Chambers, is the forum program chair, and Cel Johnson, one of our emeritus members, is the location chair for the upcoming AIR Forum. We are all encouraged to attend.

Our next RMAIR conference will be in Edmonton, Alberta, in collaboration with the Canadian Institutional Research and Planning Association (CIRPA). Jeff Donnelly, CIRPA’s vice president, treated to a video of the West Edmonton Mall, where the meeting will take place (http://www.westedmall.com/home/default.asp). Jeff assured us of the warmth in the mall. The conference dates are October 23-26, 2005 at the Fantasyland Hotel (http://www.fantasylandhotel.com/home/wemindex.asp). Our members agreed to provide an honorarium of $2,000 to our keynote speaker, Dr. Patrick Terenzini. Our theme is “Crossing Borders: Evolving Challenges for Post-Secondary Institutions” and we hope to have a wonderful conversation about all of the borders we face.

Brian Shuppy reminded us of the 2007 RMAIR conference, which will be in Park City, Utah. He also expressed our appreciation to Jeff Donnelly for joining us, directly from his attendance at the 2004 CIRPA Conference in Montreal.

**CIRPA/RMAIR Conference**

by Ellen McGregor

October 23-26, 2005 at the Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta
Theme – Crossing Borders: Evolving Challenges for Post-Secondary Institutions

The planning committee has been meeting. I have been attending via the phone.

It has been agreed that the RMAIR business meeting will be a luncheon on Monday the 24\textsuperscript{th}. Dr. Patrick Terenzini will be the Monday keynote speaker.
There are several differences with our traditional conference:

- Start date is a Sunday, with pre-conference workshops held on Saturday and Sunday. (We usually have a Wednesday for workshops, and the conference runs 1-½ days, ending in the early afternoon on Friday.)
- Wednesday has been added this year for meetings of special interest groups and to continue the discussion of panels that have evoked interest. Attendees requested the additional time to discuss issues in a less formal setting.
- Social evening will be Monday (we have done events on Thursday), and it sounds a lot like what an evening out at the AIR Forum is like. Opportunities are being explored.
- Proposals will be due earlier. (RMAIR usually has a closing date of July 1 for the October conference; CIRPA usually has it May 1.) We will use the May 1 date as a target and get the RFP out in January.

I will be responsible for the American registration and handle the exchange rate issues. I will keep you update on conference news.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Since we will be crossing an international border, as residents of the United States, we will need proof of citizenship (official birth certificate or US Passport) or proof of legal residency (“Green Card”).

News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor  (Pima Community College)

Public higher education in Arizona has been in the reformation stage. Dr. David Longanecker prepared an “Analysis of Arizona Higher Education Finance Compared to Nine Comparison States.” His full report is available on the Board of Regents web site ([http://www.abor.asu.edu/](http://www.abor.asu.edu/)) under the heading University System Redesign Study. He noted that redesign is mandated since there is a need for a more cost-effective approach to higher education—a stronger funding base and a means to address the increase in demand for education that Arizona will face in the future.

Community Colleges

This is the second year without the State Community College Board, and the community colleges are working with the Arizona Community College Association to meet the reporting obligations that had been handled by the Board. Growth in enrollment and in the number of campuses within the community college system is expected. For example, Central Arizona College—which serves Pinal County—has an enrollment of 14,000 students at three campuses and two educational centers; it hopes to make room for 50,000 students and have two additional campuses within the next 15 years.
Collaboration of ASU and UA

In numbers per capita population, Arizona’s healthcare workforce ranks 50th in nurses, 49th in pharmacists, and 41st in physicians. While the national average for the number of physicians per 100,000 population is 229, Arizona has only 179. And Phoenix, the 5th largest city in the nation, lacks a fully-developed public research-grade teaching medical school. University of Arizona President Peter Likins and Arizona State University President Michael Crow have committed to work together to expand medical education and research in Phoenix. Through their universities’ collaboration, the Phoenix Biomedical Campus of the Arizona University System (PBCAUS) will be established in downtown Phoenix, and the UA College of Medicine will expand its program in Phoenix. Governor Napolitano, the Board of Regents, the City of Phoenix, and the Flinn Foundation are key players in developing the vision and plans for making PBCAUS a reality. On December 14, 2004, the first of four buildings of the Biodesign Institute opened in Phoenix. It will be the home of 285 researchers focusing on the convergence of biology, computing, and engineering.

COLORADO

State Reporter: Stephen Chambers (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs)

IT TAKES COURAGE TO UNSNARL A TWISTED PICKLE
by Steve Chambers

By now, I am sure that devoted Panorama readers have been closely following the blow-by-blow reports from yours truly about the bad-turned-worse budget crisis in Colorado. Just to get you back up to speed where our saga left off, public higher education appropriations in the state have plummeted like a rock tossed off of the summit of Pikes Peak, down 35% over the past several years. Even before this descent into the abyss, Colorado ranked 48th of the 50 states in state support for higher education.

A constitutional twisted pickle that the political leaders of the state have been hesitant to come to grips with has fueled the shrinking morsels of public support for higher education. There is TABOR (which quaintly stands for Taxpayers Bill of Rights) that limits increases in the state budget to 6% a year and Amendment 23 that requires the traditionally under funded K-12 system to receive inflation plus 1% from the state. These opposing forces have come together to squeeze on higher education over the last several years.

Only a constitutional referendum passed by the voters, and some say a constitutional convention, is needed to reform these bi-polar mandates. Many had hoped that such a referendum would be proposed prior to the November election. However, no group, individual, legislative body, or governmental agency was willing to propose a solution to unsnarl the pickle.

But, at last, it was announced this week that a private university, the University of Denver (known as DU around here), possessed the courage and foresight to attempt a twisted pickle unsnarling. According to the University’s web site (http://www.du.edu/news/12_7ColoEconomics1.html), Chancellor Daniel L. Ritchie has formed a “Colorado Economic Futures Panel to analyze the state’s difficult fiscal situation and provide a platform for informed discussion and possible solutions.” DU has put $200,000 from its own resources into operation of the panel for the first year. James Griesemer, professor and dean emeritus of DU’s Daniels College of Business, chairs the panel.
We will keep *Panorama* readers apprised of the progress made by Griesemer and the Colorado Economic Futures Panel in future issues. Happy Holidays everyone!

**IDAHO**

**State Reporter: Archie George (University of Idaho)**

A variety of indicators confirm that the Idaho economy is slowly growing. Unemployment is down, and personal income is up. However, the state legislature seems determined to allow a temporary 1% sales tax increase implemented to support education a couple years ago to expire with the start of the new fiscal year. This will result in lower revenue, of course. We expect college and university budgets to be several percentage points lower due to the lack of funds.

College and university academic enrollments were very flat this fall, up only 0.6% over last fall. Vocational enrollments at the college and universities were down 0.2%. In the community colleges, academic enrollments were up 0.7% while vocational enrollments were down 2.2%. The number of Idaho high school graduates each year is projected to be very flat for the next decade. There is concern that it will be difficult to maintain growth in enrollments, especially as funding cuts and a hold-the-line attitude on student fee increases prevails in the legislature and state board of education.

Three state agencies—Idaho State University, Boise State University and the Idaho Historical Society—have joined forces to revive publication of *Idaho Yesterdays*. The popular journal devoted to the history of the Gem State debuted in 1957 and served as a valuable academic journal of Idaho history for 45 years. Due to state budget cuts, the Idaho State Historical Society suspended publication in 2002.

The Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor and a variety of Idaho State University, business, and government leaders attended a dedication ceremony for a $1.8 million expansion of the Idaho State University Idaho Accelerator Center on August 4. The expansion will help the center complete more Homeland Security research projects and provides additional facilities for private companies to use. The IAC expansion corresponds with the opening of a test facility at the Pocatello Municipal Airport that will use accelerators developed at the IAC to scan cargo containers for nuclear materials.

A play at Lewis-Clark State College sets a dramatic tone this week as it explores the dangers of racism and political correctness in today’s society through Rebecca Gilman’s production of “Spinning Into Butter.” The story is of Sarah Daniels (played by LCSC Theatre Instructor Nancy Lee-Painter), dean of students, who tries to help an African-American student who is receiving threatening, racist notes. Several intriguing issues surface as the campus is thrown into a bewildering frenzy of “race forums” and boycotts as many try to prove their own acceptance of diversity while ironically revealing their racist sides. Sarah Daniels especially must face her inner demons while receiving pressure and criticism from her co-workers: Ross Collins (played by University of Idaho Professor of English Gordon Thomas), Dean Catherine Kenney (played by LCSC’s president Dene Thomas), and Dean Burton Strauss (played by LCSC’s Provost Tony Fernandez).

The financial challenges of the past few years at the University of Idaho are being addressed. Our new financial VP has made progress in filling space in the controversial new buildings UI built in Boise—bringing in much needed revenue and savings on rented space. In other news, after 53 years, Student Media has revived *Blot* magazine. *Blot* replaces the student yearbook, which was discontinued after the spring 2004 semester. The first issue of “The Blot” includes an interview with Donald Trump. The 48-page student-run magazine is available at all university bookstore outlets, Hastings, BookPeople of Moscow, and Starbucks. Cost is $2.
The Fine Arts Department at the College of Southern Idaho is now accepting reservations from the general public for next spring’s annual Cultural Field Trip to San Francisco. Most of the student seats on the trip are already secured. Art professors Bill and Sheryl West will host the trip. The bus will depart the evening of Thursday, March 17 and return the night of Tuesday, March 22. The group will attend an American Dance Theater performance of the Alvin Alley Dancers. They’ll visit the Asian Art Museum, which will be featuring “The Kingdom of Siam: The Art of Central Thailand” and “Sleep of Reason,” an exhibition of sculptures by contemporary artist Sui Jianguo. The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art will have “Matisse and Beyond: The Painting and the Sculpture Collection” on display. A Broadway style production of “Evita” will be at the Orpheum Theater, and the group will see an exhibit including Courbet and other French realists at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Other stops may include a sketch trip to Golden Gate Park and the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

Think “Really BIG” this Christmas and purchase your loved ones the chance to win a $200,000 custom house in the North Idaho College Foundation’s Really BIG Raffle. Tickets are $100 each, and only 4,500 tickets will be sold before the July 6 drawing. The grand prize custom home is currently under construction by NIC carpentry students at 1374 Coquille Court in Post Falls. Located in the Montrose subdivision, this year’s house is a rancher with a full basement and more than 3,500 square feet of living space. Other prizes include the first prize $20,000 car or boat, the second prize $3,500 travel package, or the third prize $2,000 shopping spree. Those who purchase tickets before May 31 will also be eligible for the early bird prizes, a DVD/VHS player and color TV. Proceeds from the Really BIG Raffle benefit important educational needs at NIC.

A search for happiness on the Eastern Idaho Technical College web site produced no results. But a search for learning had multiple hits, among them the “RAD Experience.” The “RAD Experience” trailer is a traveling educational tool—a mobile classroom that has exhibits and activities that explain the sources and nature of radiation and helps the general public understand radiological fundamentals. The “RAD Experience” provides accurate information about the safety of radioactive material transportation, and gives participants a “hands-on” experience with naturally-occurring radioactive sources.

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

Outgoing republican Governor Judy Martz has proposed a $33 million increase for higher education in Montana for FY06 and FY07. The proposal includes $5 million in one-time funding for initiatives in work force development, agriculture, natural resource and rural development, and business and economic development. There is $2.3 million for community college growth, $1 million for distance education, $16 million for deferred maintenance, and $5 million for equipment at two-year institutions. The governor is also proposing a 3% per year pay increase for all state employees.

For the first time in many years, Montana has elected a democrat as governor. Governor elect Brian Schweitzer has said he expects to make some changes to Governor Martz’s proposed budget but as yet, it is not clear what those changes might be. The Martz budget only funds 80% of the fixed cost increases on the campuses and less than half of the proposed pay increases. It seems certain that we will continue to face our share of fiscal challenges. The discussion about the level of tuition increases looks to be particularly difficult.

MSU Bozeman students approved a fee hike to fund $27.6 million in facilities improvements to the Union Building, the Recreation Center, and a campus theater. Construction on the projects begins this summer and will take about 30 months to complete. At the same time, construction will begin on a $23 million
chemistry building. Funding for that project will come from bonds based on indirect costs recovered on grants and contract awarded to chemistry and biochemistry researchers.

The Montana University System (MUS) has published a 23-page document “Montana Invests” that illustrates how the State’s $150 million investment in higher education stimulates local economies by approximately $500 million. The report includes a brief section for each of the System’s eight campuses.

MSU Billings officially opened a downtown campus this semester. The university has moved the College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning—taking along a number of programs including conferences, workshops, and seminars; distance learning and online classes; customized training for businesses; and other outreach programs.

University of Montana President George Dennison has been nominated by U.S. President George Bush as a candidate for the 13-member National Security Education Board. The four-year appointment must be approved by the U.S. Senate. The volunteer board is comprised of seven senior federal department administrators, most of Cabinet rank, and six non-government appointees.

NEVADA
State Reporter: Pat Casagranda (University & Community College System of Nevada)

UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NEVADA (UCCSN)

The third quarter of 2004 was again very busy time at the UCCSN. The Board of Regents unanimously approved the selection of Dr. Christine Chairsell as interim chancellor for academic and student affairs. As vice chancellor, Chairsell is responsible for coordinating the major academic, research, and student issues among the UCCSN’s two universities, four community colleges, research institute, and a state college.

A major reorganization of the UCCSN legal staff took place, creating a new position of chief legal counsel. Daniel Klaich was named to the position in October. The new position of chief legal counsel will oversee legal activities throughout the UCCSN.

Finally in November, the Nevada State College Presidential Search Committee announced the five finalists for the position. The candidates are from California, Washington, Connecticut, and Texas. The committee plans to deliberate on December 15th and to make their recommendation before the full Board of Regents at a later date.

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

This fall, UNLV’s headcount was 27,344—an increase of 6.2% over 2003. The 2004 headcount places UNLV in the nation’s top 45 public doctoral universities in terms of overall enrollment. FTE enrollment increased 7.1% to 19,887. This is the fourth consecutive year of FTE growth above 5% for UNLV.

According to the newly released report “The Status of Women in Nevada,” Nevada’s women are among the least likely to have a college education when compared to women in states across the nation, and their
median annual earnings are lower than women in 30 other states. The report, published by the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Women’s Policy Research, is the culmination of the partnership of IWPR, UNLV’s Women’s Research Institute of Nevada, and the Center for Applied Research at UNR.

A few examples of the mixed results for Nevada’s women include:

- In economic health, Nevada ranks first in the region and seventh in the nation for percentage of women living above poverty. Yet, the median annual income of year-round, full-time workers falls in the bottom third of the list of U.S. states.
- In education, only 16.7% of women in Nevada completed college (four or more years). The national figure is 22.8%.
- In politics, Nevada ranks ninth among the states in the percentage of women holding office. Yet that ranking has declined in the past five years, and women’s voter registration and rank is extremely low, at 48 and 49th respectively.

UNLV President Carol Harter, Lt. Gov. Lorraine Hunt, and June Beland (founder and president of the state Women’s Chamber of Commerce), some of the highest-ranking female policy makers in Nevada, point to education as key to raising the status of Nevada’s women.

Institutions of higher education in Nevada hope to benefit from the state’s booming economy that has produced about $141 million more than the $2.1 billion in projected tax revenue for fiscal year 2005. The state reaped $47 million more in sales taxes, $41 million more in gaming taxes, and nearly $37 million more in real estate taxes than predicted last year. Not surprisingly, the big windfall caused critics of the record $833 million two-year tax increase of the last legislative session to complain taxpayers deserve a rebate, while supporters say the state needs the money to keep up with growth. You can guess what side UNLV is on.

Taxpayers are also feeling the effects of exploding property values. California real estate speculators earned a good deal of money last year buying residential properties as rentals—escalating home prices and reducing availability. Homeowners let out a collective gasp when they received their property tax bills last month as taxes increased dramatically, especially in Clark County. The Clark County Assessor has proposed a plan to cap annual tax increases at 6 percent, and there are initiative petitions circulating proposing even lower caps.

Two UNLV professors have been awarded Fulbright Scholarship grants for 2004-05. Martin Geer, a clinical professor of law at UNLV’s William S. Boyd School of Law, will lecture on international human rights and clinical law at the Indian Law Society Law College in Pune, India. Michael Sullivan, a professor of finance at UNLV, will conduct an empirical study on the determinants of the capital structure of Philippine firms at De la Salle University in Manila, Philippines.

What better place than UNLV for a B.S. degree in gaming management! The program, which began this fall, is designed for students interested in careers in casino operations, casino accounting and finance, and gaming regulation and controls. So for all those mathematically-endowed institutional researchers who are looking for a new and exciting career change, the future is yours!
WNCC’s 2004 fall FTE increased by 5.4 %, an impressive percentage considering growth of its service area population was just a little over 1%. This increase is seen as a direct result of increased recruiting efforts and curriculum enhancements. The Foundation had a really good year as well, raising $914,000 in fiscal year 2004; that’s more money than any other Nevada system community college or state college.

Western Nevada Community College’s well-regarded associate degree nursing program earned nods of approval last week by state and national agencies. Representatives from the Nevada State Board of Nursing and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission each recommended full approval and re-accreditation, respectively, for the associate degree nursing program. Among the many program strengths cited:

- Strong faculty focus on student learning and needs
- Strong administrative and faculty leadership and support
- Strong faculty focus on student learning and needs
- Strong administrative and faculty leadership and support
- Support for the college’s mission, particularly for rural students and their needs
- Well-qualified faculty
- Openness to new ideas and techniques
- Support for students by college financial assistance and counseling services

Western Nevada Community College’s Office of Financial Assistance has been awarded renewal of a $40,000 EDSHARE grant from EDFUND, the nation’s second largest provider of student loan services. EDSHARE is a competitive grant program offering colleges up to $40,000 per year to develop borrower education, debt management, and default prevention programs. The second year approval was based on the success of the first-year program. WNCC’s Office of Financial Assistance has created an electronic loan process, developed a comprehensive default prevention program, and educated campus staff in the outlying service areas about student loan availability and the loan application process. New programs include:

- WNCC is in the second year of a partnership with Nevada State College to offer upper-division courses in WNCC’s service area for students seeking a bachelor’s degree in elementary education.
- Western Nevada retail businesses and their employees will benefit from a new Western Nevada Community College academic program, the Retail Management Certificate of Achievement. The new 30-credit program begins this spring semester, and many of the classes are already scheduled. Required classes are in business and business communications, accounting, information systems, management, and marketing; and many serve as a ladder to business degrees.
- The College is setting its sights on playing baseball and women’s soccer in the Scenic West Conference, college officials said today. The college is making application to join the conference and compete beginning in the 2005-2006 school year. Dan Neverett, dean of Student Services, said, “I anticipate that the addition of our baseball and women’s soccer teams to the Scenic West conference will further enhance what is already a nationally recognized athletic conference. It’s the perfect environment in which our teams could be challenged.”
NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Dawn Kenney (ATVI Community College)

No report.

UTAH
State Reporter: Valerie Stegeman (Weber State University)

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY – Utah State University’s proposed tuition increase

During the past six years, Utah State University has worked diligently to keep students and the community informed of funding challenges facing the university and proposed tuition increases. Throughout this time, we have fostered open discussions toward appropriate solutions. Utah State University has also worked in tandem with the state of Utah Board of Regents, as well as Utah’s other public universities, to determine the best use of scarce state resources. The Board of Regents formulates “Tier I” of proposed tuition increases, which are sent to the legislature for approval. Tier I funds go into a common fund supporting higher education throughout Utah. All Tier II funds, raised through tuition increases, stay at the institutions. The Board of Regents supports each university in determining their own “Tier II” tuition increases—recognizing that each institution is unique and needs the opportunity to craft its own solutions.

Dr. Richard E. Kendell, Utah Commissioner of Higher Education, expressed his full support to President Hall and his “efforts to engage in a constructive dialogue with students at Utah State University and the larger community regarding tuition levels.”

While recognizing that the Legislature faces many other high priority funding needs, Commissioner Kendell continues to aggressively advocate that the legislature prioritize higher education to increase funding to colleges and universities presently strapped for funds to meet even basic requirements, such as paying fuel and power. There is a link between the level of state funding and the amount of tuition increases. Lack of state funding will be made up in part by tuition increases, as well as continued efficiencies by colleges and universities. (http://www.usu.edu/tuition/)

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH – David Eccles School of Business EMBA Program in Top 75

November 1, 2004—The Executive MBA program at the David Eccles School of Business is among the top 75 in the world, according to the latest rankings released by the Financial Times. This is the first time the EMBA program at The University of Utah has been ranked in this prestigious listing, and it is the only program at a Utah school to be mentioned.

The Financial Times list of top EMBA Programs is the last major ranking of business schools for the calendar year. The popular British newspaper and website ranks the top 75 programs in the world based on a complex methodology. The David Eccles School of Business came in at 67th overall and 36th in the United States.

The David Eccles School appears in four of the major rankings that have come out this year—U.S. News & World Report (undergraduate), U.S. News & World Report (graduate), Wall Street Journal, and now the Financial Times (Executive MBA Programs). Even more impressive is the school’s standing in these surveys among western schools. The David Eccles School appears in the top 10 among western schools in all four rankings. (http://www.utah.edu/unews/releases/04/nov/emba.html)
UTAH VALLEY COLLEGE UVSC – Who’s Packing?

Without anyone realizing it, guns are brought onto the Utah Valley State College Campus every day. That is because since 1996 a law has been in effect stating that concealed weapons are allowed anywhere in the state of Utah except secure areas such as airports. Currently, the University of Utah is fighting for the right to ban guns on campus. But, since the University, like UVSC, is a state school, it must follow state laws. State laws conflict with the University’s 25-year gun ban, and also conflict with UVSC’s policy. “It is actually against student policy to bring guns on campus,” UVSC Police Chief Tracy Marrot said. http://www.netxnews.net/vnews/display.v/ART/2004/11/28/41ab503a826ba

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY – New BYU program allows baccalaureate graduates to certify in special education

18-month programs will certify and license graduates of accredited institutions.

The Department of Counseling Psychology and Special Education at Brigham Young University has developed a program to allow baccalaureate graduates of any accredited university to certify to teach special education.

Due to the shortage of special education teachers, local school districts came to the David O. McKay School of Education asking for a program to allow current teachers to receive a licensure to teach special education. The McKay School of Education and Utah State Office of Education approved an 18-month program that certifies and licenses participants to teach special education.

Local school districts are in need of a local licensure program because only a few schools even offer a licensure program and they are located in northern and southern Utah. http://byunews.byu.edu/release.aspx?story=archive04/Nov/special

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE – Westminster College Achieves Decade of Distinction In U.S. News & World Report

Westminster also named “Best in the West” by Princeton Review this week

SALT LAKE CITY (August 20, 2004) – U.S. News & World Report announced today that for the 10th consecutive year, Westminster College has been ranked as a top tier institution in its annually published guidebook, which highlights America’s top colleges and universities. This ranking is based on a weighted average of up to 15 different indicators of academic excellence.

For 2005, Westminster was named a “Great School at a Great Price” among universities in the West that offer a master’s degree. This rating was based on an institution’s ability to offer a quality education at a reasonable cost.

“I am pleased that for a ten years running, Westminster has continued to achieve national recognition for our deep commitment to student success and the challenging, supportive and unique learning environment that we offer,” said Westminster College president, Michael Bassis.
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY – Students prepare for 2005 Legislature

OGDEN – Student government leaders at the state’s colleges and universities are preparing to hit the 2005 Legislature with a platform supporting financial requests for faculty and staff compensation, capital facilities, and financial aid.

By investing money in these three areas, the quality of education will greatly improve, said Cody Jones, Weber State University student body president. It will help the students and the state, he said.

“Everyone will benefit from this. A better-educated society equals economic growth,” Jones said. “It’s our investment in Utah’s future.”


WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
Report from Lisa Muller

The state of Wyoming has a bigger than expected surplus, and so the Governor is in the enviable position of recommending multiple spending goals, as well as reinforcing rainy day account funds. This is a non-budget year, so pay raises were not the primary focus.

The focus instead is on bricks and mortar and fixing assorted long-standing maintenance concerns. A new state prison, new highways, electric transmission lines, building renovations, and large increases in the Department of Health budget are included in the recommendations. The K-12 recommendation includes 103.7 million based on 45 million to the Education Trust Fund and 45.2 million dollars in raises. The joint University of Wyoming-community college request for new sprinkler systems is included. (A major fire in a Northwest Community College dorm last spring led to this request.)

At the University of Wyoming President Dubois’ statement:

December 1, 2004 – I am gratified by Gov. Freudenthal’s support for the University of Wyoming as expressed in his Supplemental Budget Recommendations for the upcoming session of the 58th Wyoming Legislature.

In his message, Gov. Freudenthal recommended full funding for the University’s capital facilities request: $12,862,000 in state general funds for renovation of the Classroom Building; $4 million in state general funds for modernizing centrally scheduled classrooms; $2,074,250 in state general funds to install sprinklers in UW residence halls and apartments; and $45 million in state general funds for an addition to and renovation of William Robertson Coe Library. The Governor also recommended authorization for UW to issue $16 million in revenue bonds for planning and construction of a new Archaeologic and Anthropological Resources Facility to replace the existing Anthropology Building that will be razed to make way for the library addition.

Gov. Freudenthal also recommended increases to UW’s operating budget for $1,166,773 in support of the WWAMI medical education program; $2,067,650 in continued funding for the Casper Family Practice Residency program; and $244,781 to match a federal grant of $828,124 to convert Wyoming Public Radio’s signal from analog to digital.
These recommendations, if approved by the Wyoming Legislature, will allow the University of Wyoming to move steadily ahead in the quality of its teaching, research, and service missions to the state of Wyoming.

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION
Report from Andrea Bryant

The Wyoming Community Colleges take turns hosting a Rocky Mountain User’s Group Conference each year. This year Sheridan College hosted the conference, where colleges using Datatel’s Colleague can send staff to learn about new products and some great tips from some of the “pros.” The conference, held in beautiful Sheridan, Wyoming, was attended by staff from all of the Wyoming community colleges as well as Western Nebraska Community College, Regis University, and Colorado Mountain College. There was a specific “track” for institutional research, with presentations from National Student Clearinghouse and several of the Wyoming institutional researchers. Overall, the conference was well attended, hosted very well, and very informative!

RMAIR 2003-04 Officers

**President:** Brian Shuppy  
Manager of Institutional Research  
Office of Institutional Research  
Weber State University  
1031 University Circle  
Ogden, UT 84408-1031  
(801) 626-6114

**Vice President:** Wendy Kappy  
Institutional Researcher  
Office of Institutional Research  
1 University of New Mexico  
MSC05-3390  
Albuquerque, NM 87131  
(505) 277-7658

**Past President:** Wendy Miley  
Research Specialist, Principal  
Decision & Planning Support  
University of Arizona  
P.O. Box 210134  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
(520) 621-5717

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Ellen McGregor  
Research Analyst, Institutional Research Office  
Pima Community College  
4905C East Broadway Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85709-1275  
(520) 206-4934
Panorama Staff

Editor: Wendy Kappy
Institutional Researcher
Office of Institutional Research
1 University of New Mexico
MSC05-3390
Albuquerque, NM 87131
(505) 277-7658

Webmaster: Brian Shuppy
Manager of Institutional Research
Office of Institutional Research
Weber State University
1031 University Circle
Ogden, Utah 84408-1031
(801) 626-6114

State Reporters:

Arizona: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)
Colorado: Stephen Chambers (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs)
Idaho: Archie George (University of Idaho)
Montana: Jim Rimpau (Montana State University, Bozeman)
Nevada: Patricia Ann Casagranda (University & Community College System of Nevada)
New Mexico: Dawn Kenney (ATVI Community College)
Utah: Valerie Stegeman (Weber State University)
Wyoming: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)