Panorama
July 2005

• Intercom: Letter from the President
• Letter from the Editor
• Call for VP Nominations
• RMAIR/CIRPA Joint Conference Update
• Tours Available During CIRPA/RMAIR Joint Conference
• Report on RMAIR SIG at AIR Forum
• Treasurer’s Report
• San Diego AIR Forum Reflections
• News from the States
• Transitions
• RMAIR Officers and Panorama Staff

Intercom: Letter from the President
Brian Shuppy

It was great seeing everyone in San Diego! The accommodations and program were exceptional, and largely due to RMAIR members holding national leadership positions. If you weren’t able to make it, you’re really missing out on great opportunities. Please plan on joining us in the future.

My apology for running out of time in the RMAIR SIG meeting, so let me take this opportunity to cover a few items. First of all, everyone is encouraged to make sure their membership is current. This is done by either attending the annual fall conference where the fee is included in the registration OR by filling out the form located at rmair.org and sending $14 to Ellen McGregor (emcgregor@pima.edu). Membership dues are used to support the organization and provide members with tangible benefits such as:

• Supporting annual conferences
• Networking with world class researchers
• Access to rmair.org
• Panorama (quarterly newsletter)
• Listserv access
• Ability to apply for select AIR grants
• Collectors edition membership pin
Yes, you can still get most of these benefits without being a member, but having a guilt free conscience is worth the price. I truly think we can double our membership numbers by each of us making sure WE are current, as well as encouraging everyone in our office to become a member.

Secondly, the CIRPA/RMAIR conference in Edmonton is almost here. I’ve heard some people say that it’s too far and too costly. If you add up the savings from great hotel rates, exchange rates, conference registration fee, and quality of program, this equals a great value. Please see Ellen McGregor’s (co-program chair) comments below for more details. I also understand that budgets are tight, and opportunities for travel are limited. If there is anything I can do to encourage your supervisor/director/VP to support you, please let me know how I can help.

I hope you’re having a great summer, and I’ll see you soon.

Letter from the Editor
Wendy Kappy

Greetings RMAIRians! This issue contains a wealth of information on our upcoming meeting in Edmonton. Ellen McGregor has provided detailed information on the pre-conference workshops. Instead of our usual two pre-conference workshops, our partnering with CIRPA is enabling us to offer eight workshops—with topics including data warehousing, the IPEDS Peer Analysis System, surveying, and strategic planning. There will even be a workshop for those of you who are new to the institutional research profession, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity if you are relatively new to the field. We were fortunate to receive a Building Institutional Research Capacity (BIRC) grant from AIR for our pre-conference workshops. Thank you Ellen for writing the grant.

This issue also contains information on our three keynote speakers—Michael Skolnik, Patrick Terenzini, and Harvey Krahn. Included are details on the talks they will deliver and on their professional background and research interests. The keynote addresses look very promising.

VP nominations are upon us again. Please consider stepping forward and placing your name into nomination or the name of another RMAIR member. It is an excellent opportunity to serve RMAIR. The 3-year term—serving first as vice president, then as president and immediate past president—ensures adequate support and training and a smooth transition in leadership.

I certainly hope each of you will seriously consider attending the Edmonton meeting in October. Registration materials, as well as other information on the conference, should be coming out soon.

Call for VP Nominations
Wendy Miley

Please give some time and thought to considering yourself or nominating a fellow RMAIR member to serve as vice president of RMAIR.

As a member of the executive committee, the president would be committing to a 3-year term with one year serving as vice president, one year as president, and one year as immediate past president.
The deadline for nominations is August 12th. The RMAIR nominating committee will review all nominations and have two candidates posted for electronic election in September. The results of the election will be announced at the RMAIR conference in Edmonton, Canada.

Please submit your nominations to me, Wendy Miley. My phone is 520-621-5717 and my email is miley@oir.arizona.edu.

---

**CIRPA/RMAIR Joint Conference Update**

**Ellen McGregor**

Co-chair and RMAIR representative on the Planning Committee

RMAIR has received funding from AIR via the Building Institutional Research Capacity Grant Program (BIRC Grant). The money is being used to support the pre-conference workshops. The workshops are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Transportation Provided</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W1</td>
<td>Data Warehousing</td>
<td>8:30 to 4:30 pm</td>
<td>John Rome (Arizona State University)</td>
<td>$75 (including lunch)</td>
<td>computer lab, MacEwan City Centre Campus</td>
<td>provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W2</td>
<td>Technical Training for Web-based IR Data Delivery using Visual Basic</td>
<td>8:30 to 12:00 pm</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>computer lab, MacEwan City Centre Campus</td>
<td>provided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W3</td>
<td>IPEDS 1: Introduction, Basics and New Tools</td>
<td>8:30 to 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Kimberly Thompson (Community College of Denver)</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>computer lab, MacEwan City Centre Campus</td>
<td>provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is the primary postsecondary education data collection system for the US National Centre for Education Statistics (NCES). It is a comprehensive system that includes all institutions and educational organizations that provide postsecondary education and collects institutional data including enrollments, program completions, faculty, staff, and finances. The IPEDS Peer Analysis System (PAS) is a powerful tool used to gather and disseminate this information. This session is intended for newer users of the system and will introduce participants to the IPEDS website and its Peer Tool, the Dataset Cutting Tool, and Executive Peer Tool. It will also review recent upgrades and changes to this system. For those interested in viewing the system, please review the IPEDS website: [http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/) Kimberly has participated in NCES/AIR workshops for trainers in IPEDS tools, and this training is supported by NCES.
### W4 - IPEDS 2: Advanced Use of the PAS  
**1:00 to 4:30 pm**

**Kimberly Thompson** (Community College of Denver)  
Maximum 30 participants

This workshop is designed for more experienced users of the IPEDS Peer Analysis System. Participants will work with the instructor in the advanced uses of the system to gather information on groups of peers. It will also review recent upgrades and changes to this system. Kimberly has participated in NCES/AIR workshops for trainers in IPEDS tools and this training is supported by NCES.

**Fee:** $40  
**Location:** computer lab, MacEwan City Centre Campus.  
(transportation provided)

### W5— So You Want to Do a Survey?  
**8:30 am to 12:00 pm**

**Brad Babiak** (Statistics Canada)

Decision-makers, planners, and researchers rely heavily upon surveys for critical information. Whether you conduct, use, or commission survey research, you will benefit from learning the elements of successful survey design. This half-day workshop will take you through the survey process step-by-step from planning, to questionnaire design and sampling, through to processing, interpreting, and presenting survey results. You will learn how to avoid common pitfalls and design an effective questionnaire for various collection methods. You will receive guidance on how best to summarize and graph survey data. The workshop will include hands-on exercises for questionnaire development and data interpretation.

**Fee:** $125  
**Location:** Fantasyland Hotel

### W6- Creating and Administering Web Surveys  
**1:00 to 4:30 pm**

**William Brown** (Central Arizona College and RMAIR trainer)  
Maximum 30 participants

This workshop will take participants through the process of creating online Web survey, including a discussion of some of the pitfalls and best practices in the use and administration of online surveys. Free survey development software is provided. William participated in the AIR Train the Trainer program in this area and has used web surveys in his work at Central Arizona College.

**Fee:** $40  
**Location:** computer lab, MacEwan City Centre Campus.  
(transportation provided)

### W7– Institutional Strategic Planning  
**8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

**Alan Vladicka** (Grant MacEwan College), **Carl Betke** (University of Alberta)  
and **Philip Stack** (University of Alberta)

Fee: $50 (including lunch)  
**Location:** Fantasyland Hotel

### W8- New to Institutional Research  
**9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**Tricia Knisley** (Grant MacEwan College) and **Anna Burke** (Nova Scotia Community College)

This workshop is designed for conference attendees who are new or who feel new to the world of Institutional Research. It will provide a forum to meet and to share experiences with institutional research including key challenges, best practices, and measuring success.

**Fee:** none  
**Location:** Fantasyland Hotel
Isn’t this a good selection of pre-conference workshops? As you can see, RMAIR is well represented in this part of the program. In addition to the grant support, the IPEDS training is partially supported by AIR/NCES training program.

We are in the process of finalizing the program. Our three keynote speakers—Michael Skolnik, Patrick Terenzini, and Harvey Krahn—have been confirmed, and as you can see, they form an impressive “line-up!” Their presentations will address the conference theme of “Crossing Borders” from a variety of perspectives and reflect a considerable body of research in both Canada and the United States. These plenary sessions alone will make attendance at the conference well worth it.

We are looking forward to the conference, and I am excited about the workshops, the keynote speakers, and the presentations based on the excellent proposals submitted. Thanks to all of you who submitted proposals. It should be a grand time in Canada. Please check the tours also. The registration materials should be in your hands by the end of the month.

**Sunday Keynote Address:**

In this keynote address, Michael Skolnik will present an overview of the ways in which ideas about borders have been used in the study of higher education, giving particular attention to recent literature on the concept of borderless higher education. Within that context, he will summarize recent trends whereby many community colleges have begun to offer baccalaureate programs, and he will discuss the issues that have arisen in conjunction with institutions crossing this traditional border in higher education. He will also contrast the nature and implications of recent developments regarding the crossing of institutional borders between Canada and the United States.

Michael L. Skolnik is a Professor of Higher Education and occupies the William G. Davis Chair in Community College Leadership at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. He has been a recipient of both the Research Award and the Distinguished Member Award of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education. He has held senior administrative positions in both university and government, and currently is a member of Ontario’s Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board and a member of the board of the Community College Baccalaureate Association. His recent publications include chapters in two books that he co-edited: D.L. Floyd, M. L. Skolnik, and K.P. Walker, *The Community College Baccalaureate: Emerging Trends and Policy Issues* (Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing, LLC, 2005), and G. A. Jones, P. L. McCarney, and M. L. Skolnik, *Creating Knowledge, Strengthening Nations: The Changing Role of Higher Education* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005); and in the book *Higher Education in Canada* (John Deutsch Institute, Queen’s University, 2005). He also prepared a commissioned background paper on the structure of postsecondary education in Ontario for the Rae Review of Postsecondary Education.

**Monday Keynote Address:**
**Patrick T. Terenzini – “Crossing Borders: Going Places We've Never Been”**

Patrick Terenzini and Ernest Pascarella recently published *How College Affects Students (Vol. 2): A Third Decade of Research.* This book begins where Volume 1 left off and reviews research published since 1990 on the effect of post-secondary education on students. In his keynote address, Dr. Terenzini will review key findings of this research that are of greatest relevance to, and have implications for,
institutional researchers, faculty members, and administrators. In the main, the implications are for broader thinking and conceptual foundations: crossing boundaries in the way we think about colleges and universities, about how students learn, and beginning to “live in another's land” conceptually, organizationally, and methodologically.

Patrick T. Terenzini is Distinguished Professor of Education and Senior Scientist in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the Pennsylvania State University. He is co-author (with Ernest T. Pascarella) of How College Affects Students (Jossey-Bass, 1991), an award-winning synthesis of twenty years of research on the impacts of the college experience on students, recently selected as “one of the 100 most important and influential books about U.S. colleges and universities published in the 20th century.” The second volume of this review has recently been published. Terenzini has also published more than 100 articles in refereed journals and made more than 150 presentations at scholarly and professional conferences. His research examines the effects of college on student learning and development; persistence and educational attainment, and the college experience and outcomes for low-income and first-generation students. He is a former editor-in-chief of New Directions for Institutional Research, associate editor of Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research, and editorial board member for The Review of Higher Education. He has been a consulting editor for Research in Higher Education for more than twenty years. He has received the research awards of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, the Association for Institutional Research, the American College Personnel Association, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and the student personnel associations of the states of New York and Pennsylvania. He is a three-time winner of the Forum Best Paper Award from the Association for Institutional Research. Most recently, Terenzini (with A. F. Cabrera, C. L. Colbeck, J. M. Parente, and S. A. Bjorklund) received the William Elgin Wickenden Award from the American Society for Engineering Education for the best paper published in the Journal of Engineering Education in 2001. He is also a past president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.


Tuesday Keynote Address:
Harvey Krahn – Crossing Generational Borders: Implications for Post-Secondary Planning

The Edmonton School-Work Transition Study has tracked the education, employment, family, and community experiences of a large cohort of Edmonton youth from 1985 through to 1999. This “generation” was raised by Baby Boom parents who benefited greatly from post-WWII economic (and related post-secondary system) expansion, went through high school when youth unemployment became a significant social problem in the early 1980s, participated in the post-secondary system while the economy rebounded in the late 1980s, and then entered the adult labour market just as the devastating recession of the early 1990s settled in. Did this birth cohort become a cynical and disengaged “Generation X,” a “scarred generation” as some economists have observed, or a “generation on hold” in developmental psychological terms? Or have the many media and scholarly commentators on the post-Baby Boom cohorts misread their values and behaviours and the consequences? In this presentation, Dr. Krahn will recount the life-course story of the Edmonton high school graduating “class of 1985,” comment on the similar or different experiences of subsequent cohorts, and discuss the implications of inter-generational change in values and behaviours for post-secondary planners.

Harvey Krahn is the Landrex Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of Alberta and an Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Strategic Management & Organization and Rural Economy. He
Dr. Krahn’s research and teaching interests are in the sociology of education, the sociology of work, immigration studies, public policy, and public opinion. His core research program for the past two decades has involved a wide range of longitudinal and cross-sectional studies of school/work transitions, and satisfaction with and skill acquisition in the post-secondary system. Other research projects examined refugee settlement experiences, workplace literacy requirements, trends in part-time and contract work, and shifts in political attitudes and voting behaviour. He has conducted research for various provincial and federal government departments, among them Alberta Advanced Education, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. His publications include a 4th edition textbook on the sociology of work (with Graham S. Lowe), several other research monographs, more than 70 (single or co-authored) research papers in journals and edited books, and several dozen research reports. He is currently completing a book on the mythologies surrounding “Generation X”.

### Tours Available During CIRPA/RMAIR Joint Conference

Ellen McGregor

Some of you are will be taking your families with you to Edmonton and may be interested in these opportunities to enrich their time here. Or maybe you would like to take in one of these yourself. Here are some tour opportunities during the conference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tour</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **T1 – Art Walk & Talk with Lunch** | Saturday, October 22  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm  
Walk down 124th Street and get in touch with the artistic pulse of Edmonton. Seven galleries in a walking distance of six blocks feature native, Albertan and contemporary art in every medium. Savor some of the exquisite fares at one of the cozy cafes and restaurants nestled among the galleries on 124 St. and on nearby High Street, another unique shopping experience. Just steps from High Street, the Provincial Museum of Alberta rounds out this tour with unique cultural, artistic and historical displays. This 4-hour tour includes transportation, sightseeing, shopping, a great lunch, and admission to the Royal Alberta Museum. |
| **T2 - Wildlife Tour to Elk Island National Park** | Saturday, October 22  
1:30 to 6:30 pm  
An adventure to Elk Island National Park. Explore the Beaver Hills and learn when the first nations arrived in the area and why they battled for control of the rich resources. View moose, bison, deer, elk, and over 250 species of bird, and learn what role these animals played in the lives of the first people. Observe and handle native artifacts found in the area and learn of the changes to the native culture with the arrival of the European and the fur trade. Following the tour you will have the opportunity to sample some bison stew. This 5-hour tour includes transportation, admission to Elk Island National Park and a great meal. |


**T3 - Heart of Edmonton & River Valley Tour**  
Sunday, October 23  
1:00 to 5:00 pm

Explore the cultural landmarks and heritage sites of Edmonton and learn of the early fur trade in the archaeological rich North Saskatchewan River valley. Travel to Historic Old Strathcona, the University of Alberta, the city centre, ethnic areas, and prominent residential communities of Edmonton. Stroll the grounds of the Alberta Legislature, site of Fort Edmonton, and the scenic river valley where discoveries suggest evidence of burial grounds, campsites, and trading posts. This 4-hour tour includes transportation and beverage.

**T4 – Dinosaur Country**  
Wednesday, October 26  
7:00 am to 8:00 pm

This is a unique opportunity to visit the badlands on a 1-day adventure to Dinosaur Country. Visit the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller, Alberta to view some of the world’s most impressive fossils, and then travel along the scenic Red Deer River valley along the Dinosaur Trail. View the famed Hoodoo’s and Dry Island Buffalo Jump, a historic location where the Plains First Nations stampeded bison over the steep cliffs. This full-day tour includes transportation, breakfast, sightseeing, and admission to the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

**T5 – Jasper National Park**  
Thursday, October 27  
7:00 am to 9:00 pm

Explore Jasper’s majestic mountain scenery and view a variety of wildlife on this full-day tour. Visit Maligne Canyon, Athabasca Falls Pyramid Lake, Jasper Park Lodge and the town of Jasper. This full-day tour includes admission to Jasper National Park, breakfast, sightseeing and transportation.

---

**Report on RMAIR SIG at AIR Forum**  
Ellen McGregor

We held a meeting on May 30, 2005 at the San Diego AIR Forum. Thirty-seven attendees signed in. Members introduced themselves.

Brian Shuppy, RMAIR President, chaired the meeting. He distributed membership pins. The design is the same as the new web site (http://www.rmair.org/). Brian encouraged everyone to visit the site. We discussed dues and memberships. Dues are traditionally collected with the conference registration fee. It was decided to add a line to the conference registration form that indicates that an individual is not planning to attend the conference but is paying dues. We will not raise dues at this time.
Ellen gave the treasurer’s report. That report is included in this issue of Panorama. Two issues were discussed regarding the budget. Ellen would like to have a proposed annual budget presented at the conference.

Another budget issue is the $500 awarded to assist both the RMAIR conference best paper for presentation at the AIR Forum and the Train-the-Trainer Program. It was noted that the idea behind the funding was to enable members who needed it to augment institutional funding. For example, the member selected to attend the Train-the-Trainer Program would need to arrive earlier at the Forum and have additional hotel expenses. It was noted that NCCCRP has a best paper selection, and the funding is only for costs not covered by the institution. Ellen will present options and recommendations at the next business meeting. The money was not intended as an award but a means to assist the members in presenting or for training.

Ellen gave an update on the preparations for the CIRPA/RMAIR Conference to be held in Edmonton, Alberta.

Brian noted the RMAIR contributions to the Forum and to AIR. We acknowledged Steve Chambers, the AIR Forum Chair and a member of RMAIR for all his work at the Forum.

---

**Treasurer’s Report**

**Ellen McGregor**

**Report for RMAIR’s Business Meeting, May 30, 2005**

**Membership:** Based on last year’s conference and mailed in dues, we have 69 dues paying members.

**Balance as of September 30, 2004:** $22,605.66 (reported at the RMAIR Conference)

**Deposits:**
- Mail in dues - $42 (3 members)
- Conference dues - $896

**Expenses:**
- Conference appreciation gifts - $83.14
- Conference refreshments - $323.69
- Conference charges not covered by registration - $1,526.95
- Total Conference costs - $1,933.78
- Best Paper award - $500
- Train-the-Trainer award - $500
- Total expenses - $2,933.78

**Balances:**
- Checking - $5605.88
- Savings (includes $1.54 interest) - $5001.54
- CD (includes $0.43 interest) - $10,000.43

**Ending balance:** Total - $20,607.85

**Other activity:** Set up savings and CD accounts in late March

**Issues for discussion:** Membership – dues level and collection process for non-conference attendees
UPDATE Information since RMAIR SIG:
- Received 6 memberships since May 30th for $84
- Received $1,981 from AIR, the BIRC grant in support of pre-conference workshops (RMAIR applied for and was awarded a BIRC grant; Ellen McGregor wrote the grant)
- Expenses since May 30: $465 for 300 pins and $4.30 for postage
- Set up a separate account to track the BIRC grant

San Diego AIR Forum Reflections

Mark Chisholm, University of New Mexico

Each year at the Forum a new topic seems to emerge as one of the new “hot topics.” This year it seemed to be dashboards. I went to three excellent sessions and brought back useful ideas that will help us as we develop our new internal dashboard. I suspect that at next year’s Forum there will be several additional dashboard presentations, and possibly even a SIG meeting focused on dashboards.

Ellen McGregor, Pima Community College

- Cool temperatures and wind that doesn’t burn – 30 degrees cooler than home
- People – over 1,700 of them, and I think I know most of them. Does that make me old???
- Honors – three colleagues were honored, and their selection was just perfect
  - Susan Broyles, who spent decades helping us cope with IPEDS reporting, was the 2005 recipient of the AIR Outstanding Service Award. She has retired from the US Department of Education.
  - Richard Howard, who is leaving our region for the Midwest, received the John E. Stecklein Distinguished Membership Award.
  - Clifford Adelman, our keynote speaker in Coeur d’Alene, received the Sidney Suslow Award to recognize “distinguished scholarly contributions to institutional research over a period of time.” Cliff’s most recent work looks at community college enrollment.
- RMAIRians everywhere – Steve Chambers chaired a wonderful forum. It seems that our region has a strong presence in AIR.
- Community Colleges seem to be more important, nay, more visible. There were numerous presentations focusing on issues involving community colleges. At most times, there was something about community colleges ranging from transfers from to transfers in, to remediation concerns, and also enrollment patterns.
News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor  (Pima Community College)

AzAIR Conference

The 16th Annual Meeting of AzAIR was held at Arizona State University, East Campus on April 7 and 8. There were 82 members attending. The conference planning committee members were Georgia Gudykunst, Mary Day, and P J Boone-Edgerton Longoni. David Berliner, our keynote speaker, noted that American schools are achieving, and that data often can be manipulated to hide information. Mary Day entertained us at lunch with slides of the recent archeological dig she participated in that was held in Egypt.

A business meeting was held, and it was agreed that officers would be appropriate; so we held our first election. Richard Kroc, who has been serving as a liaison with AIR and who has traditionally chaired our business and Forum SIG meeting, was unanimously elected as president. Paul Zuzich, who has been handling the conference finances, became our official treasurer. Ellen McGregor, who has been writing the AZ news, became secretary. We opted to elect our vice president via the web. We noted that some members had to miss the annual conference due to the NCA meeting in Chicago. It was tentatively agreed to hold the next conference in Yuma.

AzAIR SIG Meeting

We had a meeting at the AIR Forum. Richard Kroc chaired the meeting. He gave up an update on opportunities we have with AIR. It was noted that Bill Brown from CAC attended the training on web surveys as a representative of RMAIR. There were concerns expressed about having the annual conference in Yuma, due to the travel considerations. We will set up web communications.

News from Around the State

President Peter Likins, who has served as UA president since the fall of 1997, has announced his intention to retire on June 30, 2006. Fred T. Boice is chairing the search committee. The diverse search committee of 31 members includes two students, UA student body president, and the student representative to the Board of Regents. Two elected officials are also on the committee: Mayor Bob Walkup of Tucson and State Senate Chair of the Education Committee Senator Toni Hellon.

The legislature did not approve a bill supporting the offering of bachelor degrees in selective subject areas by community colleges. The House bill would have allowed community colleges to offer four-year degrees in health professions, teaching, law enforcement, and fire science. It also would have converted Eastern Arizona College, a financially struggling community college in Thatcher, into a four-year liberal arts college. The House did approve that bill, but it was defeated in a Senate committee and also on the Senate floor. Community colleges in Florida now offer bachelor degrees.

Arizona State University’s new downtown campus has received additional support from the Phoenix City Council for $1.5 million. The latest expenditure brings the current total to about $7 million. When ASU
has completed the construction projects at the Tempe Campus, the Mesa Campus, West Phoenix campus, and downtown Phoenix, the integrated university will be serving 95,000 students according to ASU President Michael Crow.

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

Voters to Decide on Aid to Higher Education

Voters in November will decide whether the State of Colorado can keep about $3.1 billion in revenues over the next five years earmarked for higher education, transportation, and health care. If Referendum C, “the Colorado Economic Relief Act,” is approved, higher education may finally see some relief from the approximate 25% reduction in state funding seen in recent years. If Referendum C is not approved, these state functions may face reductions of another $200 million over this same period.

A majority vote of the citizenry to approve any increases in state taxes was mandated in 1992 by the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) constitutional amendment. TABOR stipulates that state revenues must be held to about 6% a year with any revenues above this amount to be returned to the taxpayers. The post 9/11 economic downturn along with the TABOR requirements, have made higher education a vulnerable place for lawmakers to cut funding in recent years.

Referendum C came out of the 2005 legislative process as a compromise between the Democratic-controlled state house and senate and Republican Governor Bill Owens. Owens said that the bipartisan referral to voters “was that spirit of doing what's right for Colorado that has driven us to this agreement,” http://www.colorado.gov/governor/press/march05/tabor.html

The war of words and accusations is heating up this summer with Governor Owens in the unusual position of advocating more government spending. Owens is an avowed champion of TABOR and has visited other states, most recently in Kansas, to promote passage of similar legislation in other states http://6news.ljworld.com/section/statebudget/story/198170. However, his record as a fiscal conservative has not kept Owens from critics who would like to see TABOR left alone. Former House Minority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) came close to calling Owens a flip-flopper, concluding that “Indeed, your governor has celebrated TABOR. Now, all of a sudden, in your great state of Colorado, you've got folks drinking backslider's wine by the gallon” http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8402977/. “We are in a real state of crisis,” retaliated Owens, adding “You just start to run out of ability to put it together with baling wire and bubble gum.” http://www.gazette.com/display_search.php?id=1308718&table=story_archive&sec=1

Coloradoan’s can expect more debate and gnashing of teeth as the November election day draws closer. Whether the voters will willingly give up a tax refund to help bail out vital state functions is anybody’s guess at this point.

IDAHO
State Reporter: Archie George (University of Idaho)

No report.
The Montana University System fared well at the 2005 legislative session. The Legislature approved a $6.5 million increase in operating funds, $40.5 million for major construction projects, $16 million for deferred maintenance, $5.4 million for workforce development programs, and $2 million in a scholarship fund. The $40.5 million for major construction is the first bonded capital program in many years. Much of the new funding is directed toward facilities and programs at 2-year campuses.

The Board of Regents is working to standardize the grading systems at MUS campuses. Some campuses currently use a +/- system and others do not. The campuses that use the +/- system don’t use the same values for the + and – (a B+ is 3.30 in some places and a 3.33 in others). The BOR intends to correct this “real lack of consistency.”

The Regents are also setting standards for minimum grades. The new standard is that only C- and better grades can be used to satisfy requirements in general education and within a major. D- is still acceptable in elective courses.

The Regents approved an 8% tuition and fee increase for the System. The increases vary considerably across the campuses and across types of students. During their discussion, the Regents noticed how different campuses have taken different approaches to the distinction between tuition and fees. Calling for “truth in advertising,” the BOR is considering adopting common student fee categories.

George White, dean of MSU Billings College of Education, has been named interim vice chancellor of academic affairs replacing Janie Park who is leaving MSU-B to become the president of Chadron State College in Nebraska.

The faculty at Montana Tech voted 31 to 25 in favor of joining a union. Engineering and Nursing faculty are excluded. The move leaves MSU Bozeman as the only non-unionized faculty in the state.

MSU Northern received a $1.2 million donation from Wilbur and Ila Hensler (the founders of Big Bud Tractors). It is the largest donation in Northern’s history.

The UM Missoula recently broke ground on a $14 million addition to the Skaggs Building. The addition will give more laboratory space to the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences.

The Department of Energy has awarded a $17.9 million grant to a multistate partnership headed by MSU Bozeman. It is the largest single grant in the institution’s history.

Finally – a college ranking you can believe in! MSU Bozeman is the number one university in the country for “undergrads angling for an education near trout streams.” This is according to the prestigious Fly Rod & Reel magazine. I hope it doesn’t get crowded around here now.

The second quarter of 2005 was especially busy for higher education in Nevada. At the system level, there were three important events.
During the 22nd session of the Nevada Legislature, the University and Community College System of Nevada’s name was officially changed to Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

On May 6, 2005, Nevada’s Board of Regents unanimously approved the selection of James E. Rogers as the ninth Chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada. Prior to his appointment, Rogers held the position of interim chancellor since May 2004. The Board approved a three-year contract for Rogers.

On May 31, 2005, the Nevada System of Higher Education was awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant totaling $13.5 million. The grant is comprised of $9 million in federal funds, with a $4.5 million state match provided by the EPSCoR Special Projects Allocation from the state’s general fund.

The grant will be shared by researchers at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the University of Nevada, Reno, the Desert Research Institute, and will also include faculty from community colleges in researching three major areas of concern to Nevada and its environment. For more information, please visit the following url: http://newsletter.dri.edu/2002/fall/computer.htm

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Diane Muntal

UNLV recently celebrated the rededication of John S. Wright Hall. The original Wright Hall, which opened in 1965, was partially demolished. The remaining wing was completely renovated, and a new 69,300 square foot addition was constructed, which includes state of the art-laboratories, smart classrooms, two large auditoriums, and student/faculty lounges and offices. When the building opened in 1965, it was the largest academic building on campus and housed almost all the disciplines in the College of Liberal Arts and Urban Affairs. Today it houses just three departments—a testimonial to UNLV’s growth.

It’s Christmas in July at UNLV. Thanks to Nevada’s better than expected economic expansion and the legislature’s favorable response to the Nevada Higher Education System’s request for capital construction dollars, UNLV received $9 million for a student services building expansion, and $9.8 towards the construction of the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Construction sites are plentiful on campus, with the building of the new student recreation center and student union, science and technology building, and the two-floor addition to the parking garage. With steady enrollment increases, reaching nearly 7% this past year, this is welcome news.

Christina Drum, in-house ethicist and programmer analyst extraordinaire, is the recipient of UNLV’s Graduate College Outstanding Thesis Award. Christina earned a Master in Ethics and Policy Studies after completing her thesis, which is entitled Power, Legitimization, and Drawing Distinctions: Renderings of “Public” and “Private” in United States Domestic Violence Policymaking. To further challenge herself, she is teaching two summer philosophy courses and investigating the possibility of publishing her chef d’oeuvre.
Western regional accreditation was reaffirmed by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities this spring. The college was commended for Institutional Research’s successful implementation of an administrative assessment process. Institutional Research has been given administrative responsibility for academic program assessment and granted a new position to handle all institutional assessment and program review activities at the college.

The college’s athletic program has experienced a great deal of progress over the summer. The Wildcats are new members of the Scenic West Athletic Conference and the Division 1 National Junior College Athletic Association. The “grass” is being laid at WNCC’s new baseball field, and the women’s soccer team has signed 18 players and begins competition in August.

The contract of Carol Lucey, Ph.D, our president, was renewed by the Board of Regents through 2009. “President Lucey has done a great job since joining the NSHE,” said Dr. Stavros Anthony, board chair. “She is one of our shining stars in the System and we’re fortunate to have her leading Western Nevada Community College.”

The college recently honored the people who worked so tirelessly to save the college and the community during last summer's Waterfall Fire. The “Waterfall Fountain” was donated to the College shortly after the blaze and was dedicated on Friday, July 15, at 3 p.m. The plaque next to the fountain is inscribed:

Dedicated to the first responders, firefighters, and volunteers who defended our community during the Waterfall Fire July 14-20, 2004. Their courage and determination saved our college and homes, and protected many lives.

NEW MEXICO
State Reporter: Dawn Kenney (ATVI Community College)

No report.

UTAH
State Reporter: Valerie Stegeman (Weber State University)

No report.

WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

Summer has been action packed with research and policy discussion of legislative initiatives impacting higher education. It is interesting that many of these ideas were not raised by the University of Wyoming or the community colleges and instead come from the legislature. The state conversations have included the creation of two endowments. The first is the “Hathaway” scholarship program of $400 million intended to be an incentive to Wyoming high school students to prepare themselves for higher education at any state funded institutions including the University and community colleges at both the associate degree level and the technical school tracks.” Initial estimates projected that accumulating the endowment
fund might take longer than the year 2008, but recent expressions of interest by legislators suggest that scholarships could be awarded as early as 2006.” (http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/newsletter/hathaway.htm) The second endowment includes $70 million for the University and $35 million for Wyoming's community colleges to attract and retain faculty with the goal of building stronger community colleges and universities. “The legislation requires that UW conduct hearings around the state regarding public interest in areas of excellence and provide survey data on career interest of Wyoming high school students. Results will be reported to the committee, which was charged by the legislature to submit by Oct. 1 an implementation plan to the Joint Appropriations Committee and Joint Education Committee.” (http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/GREATFACULTY/)

Conversations continue about a graduate school of business program in Jackson Wyoming (about 400 miles from the main campus) and even a conversation regarding a parking garage for the University of Wyoming continues. Parking is always the most intense conversation topic on this campus, especially since the University of Wyoming has recently gone to a non-parking central core after always having had parking close to work and school.

At the University of Wyoming there is Construction, construction, and more construction!!

The newly remodeled Health Science building is starting to see boxes and furniture in preparation for occupancy, and the scaffolding is moving over one building so that the classroom building can be remodeled. Classroom space on the University of Wyoming campus is at a premium, of course, with a primary classroom building being unavailable for classes. In addition, dorm space is at a premium as the University focuses on remodeling. McIntryre dorm is close to remodeling completion and autumn occupancy, and Orr dorm is just starting the remodeling process. It is anticipated that all residence halls will be redone over the next several years. The new early childhood education building is close to being ready for a grand opening at the end of summer. Phase 2 of the central campus core landscaping project is also about to begin with a summers end completion goal.

The University of Wyoming was mandated to submit a plan for a proposed Energy Institute to a legislative committee on minerals, business, and economic development. This institute has multiple purposes, including the possible reintroduction of an undergraduate degree in petroleum engineering.

July 1st brought a change in presidents. Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Thomas Buchanan, has become the new president for the period of time the board of trustees conducts a national presidential search. Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Myron Allen, is now the current VP for Academic Affairs.

The Foundation campaign has continued to be successful and has gone over the original goal of $125 million and the $10 million (with a state match of $10 million) athletic campaign.

*Note: No additional report this month from the Wyoming Community College Commission.*

**Transitions**

JUDY BOSLAND TO SERVE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR: Judy Bosland, Associate Director of Institutional Research, will serve as Interim Director of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Outcomes Assessment at New Mexico State University, Main Campus following Dr. Miriam Meyer's
retirement on July 31, 2005. With the Search Committee already active, Judy is looking forward to a short experience as Interim Director.

BOBBIE DERLIN APPOINTED ASSOCIATE VP FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION: Dr. Bobbie Derlin, of New Mexico State University, was recently appointed Associate Vice Provost for Distance Education.

CHRISTINA FASTNOW PROMOTED: Dr. Christina Fastnow (Montana State University Bozeman) has been promoted from a Research Analyst in the office of Planning and Analysis to Assistant Director for Planning and Analysis. Congratulations Chris! Enjoy the extra meetings.

RICH HOWARD TAKES NEW POSITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA: Dr. Rich Howard (former president of AIR and long time IR practitioner) is leaving the Montana State University faculty after nine years in Bozeman. During that time, Rich was promoted, tenured, and elected as Chair of the Faculty Council. He is now ready to return from the dark side and has accepted the position of University Director of Institutional Research at the University of Minnesota. We will miss Rich here in Bozeman but look forward to his continued contributions to IR.

MIRIAM MEYER TO RETIRE: Dr. Miriam G. Meyer, Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Outcomes Assessment at New Mexico State University, Main Campus, has announced her retirement effective July 31, 2005. Miriam began her journey in Institutional Research in August 1983 as an intern in the Office of the Assistant to the Academic President, the office originally responsible for what has become institutional research. The role became official in December 1985 when she was given the title of Coordinator, Institutional Studies. For the past twenty years, Miriam has guided the growth of the Office from one person to a dedicated staff of nine, and the addition of planning and outcomes assessment. In addition to being a very “hands on” number-cruncher, Miriam has served NMSU through numerous committees and subcommittees, and as a source of support for numerous administrators and faculty who sought her advice and input on various issues. She has also assisted state-wide committees and subcommittees with her down to earth wisdom and extensive familiarity with university issues, policies and data incongruities. Although Miriam is cheerily preparing for her final two weeks at NMSU, she will be greatly missed by her staff and the university where she has dedicated her career.

CARMEN SANTANA-MELGOZA JOINS STAFF AT NMSU: Dr. Carmen Santana-Melgoza has joined the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Outcomes Assessment at New Mexico State University, Main Campus as Associate Director of Planning and Outcomes Assessment. She replaced Dr. Bobbie Derlin in the position who was recently appointed Associate Vice Provost for Distance Education. Carmen was a faculty member in the Department of Management at NMSU for several years, and joined the Office following four years at the Center of Institutional Research and Planning at the University of Texas, El Paso.

KIMBERLY THOMPSON TAKES NEW POSITION AT THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION: Kimberly Thompson recently left the Community College of Denver and has taken a position as Academic Policy Officer at the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

MARY BETH WORLY PROMOTED: In December 2004, Mary Beth Worly was promoted from Support Analyst II to Coordinator of Institutional Research in the office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning at Doña Ana Branch Community College. Congratulations!
RMAIR 2004-05 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

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

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

**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:** Valerie Stedman  
Office of Institutional Research  
Weber State University  
1031 University Circle  
Ogden, Utah 84408-1031  
(801) 626-7437

**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 (Nevada System of Higher Education – NSHE)  
**New Mexico:** Dawn Kenney (ATVI Community College)  
**Utah:** Valerie Stegeman (Weber State University)  
**Wyoming:** Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)