Greetings to all.

In a little less than a month from now, many of us will be heading off to Chicago for the AIR Forum. I hope to see many of you in Chicago, especially at our RMAIR special interest group (SIG) meeting. The RMAIR SIG will take place on Tuesday, May 16, from 5:00-5:40 pm. This time should work well for us. The last session of the day will end at 4:50 pm, and the Mardi Gras on Michigan Avenue evening event will not start until 7:30 pm. This should even give us some time to rest up before the evening’s festivities.

During the SIG, Gary Levy will bring us more information about our next annual meeting, which will take place in Park City, Utah, on October 18-20, 2006. The theme of our next conference is “Opportunities for Improved IR Effectiveness,” and Gary Levy and Brian Shuppy have been working hard putting together a great program. Keep a lookout for a promising set of pre-conference workshops. Please remember that proposals are due June 5, 2006. The call for proposals, which Gary sent out about a month ago, provides details. In the event you have misplaced the document, a copy—in the form of a pdf file—is accompanying this newsletter.

At the SIG, we will also have some information about our 2007 meeting, which is currently in the formative stage. Stay tuned!

We plan to have a RMAIR information table at the AIR Early Bird Reception and AIR Bazaar, which will take place on Sunday evening, May 14. Come on by and say hello, and bring a few folks along with you. You can do your part in helping build and strengthen RMAIR by encouraging your colleagues to become members of RMAIR. You might even encourage them to make a bid on the 2006 RMAIR conference...
registration package that RMAIR is donating to the Katrina fundraiser, and which will be auctioned off during the Tuesday evening event. The package will include conference registration, a ticket to the annual dinner, and membership for one year. In addition, you might want to consider donating an item to the fundraiser yourself. Go to http://www.airweb.org/page.asp?page=385 for more information about donating items and to view the items that have already been donated.

As past president, Brian Shuppy will send out a call for nominations for the next vice president in May. We will also have emeritus nominations. Please start thinking about who you would like to nominate.

Best wishes to each of you. I’m looking forward to seeing you in Chicago and in Park City.

**Online RMAIR Membership Dues Processing is Here!!!**

With the assistance of AIR, we now have the capability to process credit card payments online. Yes, that’s right! No more waiting for PR paperwork to snail through your accounting and purchasing offices. No more frustrations about spending hundreds of dollars processing a $20 payment. No more lying awake at night wondering if you are a valid RMAIR member or not. To register, please go to rmair.org and click on the membership link on the grey horizontal bar, follow the instructions, and POOF a receipt is ready for you to print.

Of course you can still pay the membership dues the other ways via PR, check, or pay with your fall conference registration. Thank you for your membership and willingness to support RMAIR activities. The membership dues are the main source of revenue for the train-the-trainer and best presentation awards.

Thank you Brian Shuppy for your hard work getting this set up. It will certainly make our lives easier.

**News from the States**

**ARIZONA**

State Reporter: Ellen McGregor  (Pima Community College)

**New CEOs**

Northland Pioneer College (NPC) will be getting its sixth president as of July 1. He is Ralph Orr, currently president of Tillamook Bay (Oregon) Community College. Prior to moving to Oregon in 2002, Mr. Orr served as dean of Institutional Advancement at Eastern Arizona College (EAC) in Thatcher. He holds a certificate of Higher Education Leadership from Harvard University and earned his master of Business Administration and bachelor of science from Arizona State University. He is a community college graduate, having earned his initial associate of arts in Business Administration at EAC.

Robert N. Shelton has been selected as the next president of The University of Arizona (UA), succeeding Peter W. Likins, who is retiring June 30. “I am pleased with the appointment of Robert Shelton,” said Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano. “I realize the board was very fortunate to have a strong candidate pool. I look forward to working with Dr. Shelton as we move the UA forward.” Dr. Robert N. Shelton is
currently serving as executive vice chancellor and provost and professor of Physics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has been in that post since 2001; prior to that he was at the University of California, Davis, for 14 years serving successively as chair and professor in the Department of Physics and vice chancellor for Research. From 1996 to 2001 he served as vice provost for Research for the University of California system out of the president’s office. His other academic appointments have been professor of Physics at Iowa State University (1978-1987) and assistant research physicist at the University of California, San Diego (1975-1978). As executive vice chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Shelton is the chief operating officer and is responsible for the University’s budget. As provost, he is the chief academic officer, responsible to the chancellor for the conduct, coordination, and quality of the University’s academic and research programs. He has been active on external boards and councils, including the following: the Space Telescope Institute Council that advises and provides oversight and advocacy to NASA for the Hubble Space Telescope; the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, responsible for policy decisions for the residential school for high school juniors and seniors; and the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of Research Triangle Institute, an organization with a distinguished history in scientific research and technology development. His doctorate and master’s degrees in physics were earned at University of California, San Diego, and he earned his bachelor’s degree in physics at Stanford University in 1970. The effective date of Dr. Shelton’s appointment is July 1. His total compensation package will be $550,000.

Free Education

Arizona State University is being hailed as the first college in the West to jump on a trend of offering a free education to low-income students. In 2001, Princeton University became the first university to implement such a program, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill became the first public university to offer a similar program in 2003. This year, Arizona State rolled out ASU Advantage. The university’s growing size (it now is the nation’s largest university), along with the demographics of the student body, helped inspire the program. “Any program that can target low-income students catches our attention, because we want to see if those sort of initiatives can work here,” said Craig Fennell, ASU director of student financial assistance. ASU Advantage is for Arizonans from households in which the family income is $18,850, the federal poverty level, or less. Applicants must meet all normal ASU admissions standards, but the program takes care of all direct costs such as tuition, fees, room, board, and books. Despite attempts to make ASU affordable, Fennell said many prospective students have not applied, possibly assuming they could never afford the cost of the education. He said the program is designed to “help them get the message that they can do it.”

17th Annual AZAIR Conference

On March 30 and 31 at the Pecos Campus of Chandler-Gilbert Community College, 60 participants attended the annual AZAIR Conference. Mary Day coordinated the local arrangements. Dr. John Fulginiti of Pima Community College assumed the office of vice president/president-elect. Dr. Richard Kroc of the University of Arizona was elected last year as our first president and served as program chair of the Friday meeting. Other officers are Paul Zuzich of Arizona State University West Campus who has been our treasurer and Dr. Ellen McGregor of Pima Community College, AZAIR secretary. We officially elected officers for the first time at the 16th Annual Conference. Rick and Paul have been handling the duties of liaison with AIR and treasurer respectively for our organization for years. Del Dawley, formerly of Arizona Western College and now at Pima Community College, is our webmaster. We will work on by-laws at the 18th Annual Conference, to be held in Tucson.

Our keynote speaker on Friday was Dr. Victor Borden, associate vice president for University Planning, Institutional Research, and Accountability at Indiana University. His topic was “Weaving Assessment
and Accountability into the Institutional Fabric: What if Everyone Actually Bought In?” He spoke of organization learning. Vic, a recent president of AIR and a frequent presenter at webinars and IR seminars, discussed the issues with humor (he is a noted performer) and great insight. His power point is available at the AZAIR home page (http://www.azair.org/). A panel discussion followed. After table topics, lunch and a business meeting, there were three interesting presentations that truly showed the diversity of our research: John Fulginiti presented on developmental education, Rick Sears discussed the “Joys and Sorrows of Net Tuition Revenue Analysis,” and Marcel Nzeukou presentation was on detecting gender salary discrimination in the presence of within gender salary inequities. Thursday was devoted to an update on Perkins reporting, training on pivot tables and the Peer Analysis Tool of IPEDS, and updates on the statewide database, ASSIST. Our next AZAIR meeting will be at the AIR Forum.

P-20 Council

In order to bring business leaders, policy makers, and educators to the table, the P-20 Council, chaired by Governor Napolitano and co-chaired by Dr. Rufus Glasper, was established by Executive Order No. 2005-19 on July 8, 2005. “P-20” is an education policy term that refers to the full range of child education from preschool through post-graduate work (or the 20th grade). The primary goal of the P-20 Council is to improve education in Arizona, as well as to ensure more students graduate from high school, succeed in college, and are ready for the modern workforce. The P-20 Council will work to achieve this goal by:

- Striving to align high school, college, and work expectations to meet industry-specific skill sets in high-growth, well-paying occupations that will bring economic prosperity and industrial diversity to Arizona;
- Helping students at all levels meet higher standards and prepare for formal education and workforce training beyond high school;
- Giving all students the excellent teachers and leaders they need, particularly in the areas of math, science, and literacy;
- Strengthening high school and postsecondary accountability systems to better prepare students for college and increase enrollment and completion rates;
- Improving middle school and elementary school standards to ensure high school preparedness for math and science; and
- Ensuring clear pathways for all students to obtain college degrees, regardless of point of entry.

The P-20 Council will work to systemically address educational alignment in programs and policies from pre-school, K-12, and post-secondary education into life-long learning opportunities.

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

A Glimmer of Light at The End of a Long Twisting Dark Tunnel

As of this writing, the appropriations bill to fund Colorado state government for fiscal year 2006-07 (descriptively called the “Long Bill” here) has passed the State House of Representatives and may be voted on by the State Senate as early as this Friday. If approved by the Senate and signed by Governor Bill Owens, funding for higher education will increase by $60 million. This amount is not a sizable sum to most other Rocky Mountain states, but in Colorado it carries enormous weight in symbolizing the end to a succession of draconian budget cuts. Total higher education funding carried in the Long Bill is $688.1 million, a 9.6% increase over last year.
Few of these dollars will actually be counted as direct state appropriations to colleges and universities. That is because Colorado essentially eliminated direct state appropriations last year. That’s right, on the state appropriation line on the IPEDS Finance survey, you’ll find big fat goose eggs ($00.00) on Part B, Line 11. That is because in-state full-time undergraduate students received, at least on accounting paper, a stipend of about $2,800 a year through the Colorado Opportunity Fund. No typo here folks, it’s only worth $2,800!

Funding of graduate programs is handled through a “fee-for-service” agreement between each governing board and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Most of the additional $60 million for next year will be earmarked for enrollment increases in both of these non-appropriation based funding mechanisms.

Even with this enrollment growth, Colorado higher education was poised to take the brunt of an additional $140 million in budget cuts. These cuts would have been made in the coming year, if it had not been for a bare majority of voters who favored Referendum C last November. Referendum C allows the State to keep about $800 million of the revenue it collects annually for the next five years. This amount would have otherwise been returned to taxpayers.

Another teeth-clinching episode during this year’s legislative session had to do with adopting uniform tenure standards across all Colorado public institutions. Fortunately, that proposal never saw the light of day.

Lastly, keep a look out for sparks to fly when conservative commentator David Horowitz debates Colorado professor Ward Churchill at George Washington University on April 6th. One topic that is likely to come up during the debate is Horowitz’s new book *The Professors: 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America*. Yes, you guessed correctly. No book on that subject by that author would be complete without including Professor Churchill, himself.

**IDAHO**

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

No report.

**MONTANA**

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

Facilities planners on the MSU Bozeman campus have hired a consultant to help with updating the physical master plan for the campus. Open meetings are being held to gather input from the campus community. The goal is to develop a plan with a 25- and a 50-year horizon.

Administrators at the University of Montana’s Missoula campus are concerned about maintaining affordable tuition for Montana resident students. To that end, they have developed a new aid program called “Montana Partnering for Affordable College Tuition,” or MPACT. The program cobbles together federal, state, and institutional aid that students will not have to repay. The program is being piloted at the Missoula campus this coming fall.
The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education is looking for new space in Helena. They are currently in leased space in downtown Helena (which is—no kidding—known as Last Chance Gulch). They hope to construct a new building on the campus of the University of Montana-Helena College of Technology. Negotiations are underway.

There is still a lot of statewide interest in transfer of credit issues between campuses of the University System. The state actually has money to spend to “fix the problem,” but it has proven difficult to define exactly what the problem is. It is an area rich in anecdotes and, we can certainly expect to see some kind of activity related to the transfer of credits.

Board of Regents Chairman John Mercer resigned from the Board after the March meeting. Regent Mercer served five years on the Board. Mr. Mercer was a long time Republican legislator who, during his years on the Board, became an outspoken advocate for increased funding for higher education. The governor (Brian Schweitzer, Dem.) has yet to appoint a replacement.

Very preliminary figures suggest that student in the Montana University System might face tuition increases in the range of $300 to $400 or about 6.9% in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 academic years. Of course the final figures will vary from campus to campus and depend on the Governor’s budget and the action of the 2007 Legislature.

The recent Carnegie Foundation classification of universities has placed MSU Bozeman in the top tier of research universities (Very High Research Activity) along with 93 other US institutions. MSU research expenditures for FY2005 were just under $100 million.

NEVADA
State Reporter: Vacant

No report.

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

2006 New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference by Fred Lillibridge

Nearly 300 people from 12 states participated in the 2006 New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention conference in Las Cruces in February 2006. This year’s two-day conference featured more than 60 assessment and retention presentations in eight concurrent sessions.

The conference theme was “Unfinished Business: Connecting Assessment, Retention and Student Success.” The conference provided an opportunity for faculty, staff, and administrators to share ideas about assessment and retention initiatives that promote student success. Most importantly, presentations featured what higher educators have done, how it has worked, or how it has not worked.

The conference featured three expert speakers. Dr. Jeffrey A. Seybert, director of Research, Evaluation, and Instructional Development at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas presented the pre-conference workshop on “The Institutional Portfolio: A Performance-Based Model for Assessment of General Education.” Dr. Peggy Maki, an international voice on assessing learning in
higher education, presented the post-conference workshop. Dr. Lynn Priddy did a series of presentations on the Higher Learning Commission’s new accreditation criteria.

The 14th NMHEAR Conference will be held February 22-23, 2007 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference hotel will be the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. Room rates should be around $66 a night, and the conference registration will continue to be $75. More information can be found on our website at: http://www.nmsu.edu/NMHEAR/. The call for proposals will be made this summer. We anticipate record attendance of more that 400 attendees.

UTAH
State Reporter: Valerie Stegeman (Weber State University)

DIXIE STATE COLLEGE – DSC Announces New Tennis Program, Coach

ST. GEORGE, UT – Mar. 1, 2006, As Dixie State College continues to prepare itself for NCAA Division II competition, the college’s athletic department today announced the creation of a women’s tennis program and the hiring of Andy Fitzell as coach of the new program, which will begin competition this fall.

The college will also soon add a program in either women’s golf or cross country, bringing Dixie State into compliance with the NCAA’s 10-sport requirement. Previously, the college’s athletic department has included programs in football, men’s basketball, baseball, men’s golf, women’s volleyball, women’s basketball, women’s soccer, and softball.

“This is an important step as we enter our first full year of competition at the NCAA Division II level this upcoming fall,” said DSC athletic director Dexter Irvin. “Coach Fitzell brings with him all of the attributes to build a successful tennis program, and we’re very pleased to have him onboard.”

http://www.dixie.edu/pr/news.htm#tennis030106

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF UTAH – Dr. Steven Bennion Announces His Retirement from His Presidency at SUU

Dr. Steven D. Bennion, president of Southern Utah University, publicly announced Monday afternoon, his plan to retire, effective mid-June.

He gave the news to a 500+-group of SUU employees called together at 4 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Haze Hunter Conference Center on campus.

Bennion states, on behalf of his wife, Marj, and himself: “After serious reflection, Marj and I have decided to retire and conclude our service at SUU in the middle of June of this year. We have loved serving at the University, seeing it grow and develop, working with outstanding students, faculty, staff and administration, and with so many terrific alumni and friends of the University. We are grateful for the leadership and support of many board members (Regents, Trustees, and Fellows), legislators, governors, and many friends, supporters and community members who have made a pivotal difference during our tenure at SUU. This is a wonderful University and we have been honored to be a part of it for nearly the past decade.”

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY – Four Percent Tier Two Tuition Increase Proposed at Student Public Hearing

Utah State University proposed a 4 percent tier II tuition increase during a student public hearing March 9 in the Taggart Student Center’s Sunburst Lounge.

The hearing, attended by less than a half dozen students, is held annually to seek input from the student body regarding proposed tuition increases.

The amount asked, which will increase student tuition $125 per year, is at the low end compared to increases being asked by other colleges and universities around the state, said USU President Stan Albrecht.  http://www.usu.edu/ust/index.cfm?article=7474

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH – U of U Announces Appointment of Vice President for Institutional Advancement

March 6, 2006 – U of U President Michael K. Young announced today the appointment of Fred C. Esplin as the University’s first vice president for Institutional Advancement. This newly created position combines the roles of the vice presidents for University Relations and Development to bring together under one person the development, communications, and alumni relations areas in an effort to more strategically advance the University’s mission and goals.

Young made the announcement during the University’s Board of Trustees meeting today. “I am delighted Fred accepted this appointment. He is an exceptional leader who will play a pivotal role in moving the University forward as we prepare for a comprehensive fund-raising campaign. Following a highly competitive, broad-based nationwide search for the position, we have found right here at home the ideal person for the job. Fred is the perfect candidate to take over this enormously important responsibility.”

Young praised the work of the search committee, which recommended Esplin for the position. The committee, composed of campus and community representatives, was co-chaired by Robert Newman, dean of the College of Humanities and associate vice president for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Randall Olson, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and director of the John A. Moran Eye Center. http://www.unews.utah.edu/p/?r=030606-1

UTAH VALLEY COLLEGE UVSC – College Tuitions Soaring

Higher-education officials bumped up tuition across the state Friday, adding the caveat that schools can’t keep plucking from students’ wallets when state funds come up short.

The average 8 percent to 10 percent increases in the system stem from lower-than-expected funding from the Legislature. That was a disappointment in a year of surplus, Board of Regents Chairman Nolan Karras said.

“We can’t keep doing this just to keep bailing out the Legislature,” he said. “The Legislature decided it’d rather not face the facts and instead they’re taking money for roads. The students are paying to build those roads.http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635190916,00.html
WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY – New Award Honors Three WSU Professors for Excellence

OGDEN, Utah – The Weber State University Board of Trustees has approved the first group of Presidential Distinguished Professors at the University.

Microbiology professor Craig Oberg, History professor Gene Sessions and Zoology professor Sam Zeveloff are the first faculty members honored as part of WSU’s Presidential Distinguished Professors program. The trio will formally receive their awards at WSU’s spring commencement exercises.

Each will receive a cash prize of $16,000, payable over four years, which may be used to further professional academic goals. Honorees also will retain the Presidential Distinguished Professor title throughout their tenure with the University. Upon retirement from WSU, “Emeritus” will be added to the end of the title. http://weber.edu/WSU.Today/031506.distinguished.professors.html

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE – $10 Million Gift to Kick Start Westminster Science Lab

Westminster College science students will soon have a state-of-the-art lab, thanks to the largest donation in the school’s history.

The $10 million donation by John and Ginger Gore Giovale kick starts a fund-raising process for the 60,000-square-foot science center with a $30 million price tag.

“They understand that America is in grave danger of losing its preeminent position as the leading producer of scientific talent,” Westminster President Michael Bassis said of the donors during the announcement Monday. “This gift helps to address that problem, for it is a long-term investment in a program with a wonderful track record of preparing the next generation of scientists.”

http://www.westminstercollege.edu/westminster_in_the_news/index.cfm?parent=4597&detail=4623&content=5528

WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

The Wyoming legislative session will have long lasting impact for higher education in Wyoming over the next few years. The 2005 Excellence in Higher Education Endowment bill authorized two major programs. The Hathaway Scholarship Program is a $400 million program for most Wyoming’s high school graduates and will begin in fall 2006 at community colleges, technical schools, and at the University of Wyoming. The goal of the scholarship program is to increase the percentage of Wyoming high school graduates entering college immediately after graduation.

For additional information on the Hathaway scholarship fund please go to http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/SFA/Hathaway.doc

The 2005 Excellence in Higher Education Endowment bill also established a trust fund designed to hire outstanding faculty for the University of Wyoming and for the community colleges within the state. The University of Wyoming will receive $70 million and community colleges will receive $35 million.

University and Community College employees are getting salary funding increases of approximately 3.5% raises overall, and additional funding to maintain family insurance coverage at 85% of cost.
Primarily these will be distributed on the basis of merit and will take into account market and equity. Looking towards the future, the Wyoming legislature requested a study of retiree health insurance and overall compensations for University and community college employees.

State libraries received a $10 million appropriation. The funding for Wyoming community college libraries, Wyoming county libraries, and the University of Wyoming is specific to new collections.

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

The overall impact of the legislative initiative is to get new programs started quickly. Thanks to jump-start funds for both the Hathaway scholarship and for new faculty, the University is in gear-up mode. In addition, capital construction, renovations, deferred, and major maintenance projects are starting on the UW campus. Overall funding for capital facilities projects was approximately 66 million dollars.

**Faculty News Includes 55 New Faculty Positions**

The mandate is to start looking for outstanding faculty in strategic areas based on the University of Wyoming academic planning process and for the new Energy Institute/School of Energy Resources. There will be two pay raises for senior faculty this year. All faculty and staff will receive on average 3.5% plus additional funds into the insurance pool for each of the next two years. However senior faculty hired prior to the more recent state good fortunes will in addition get a second raise to bring salaries closer to national market levels for land grant institutions.

The University of Wyoming Foundation campaign using a state match was so successful that additional matching funds ($40 million) were added by the 2006 legislative session.

**Libraries Funding**

The 2005 funding of a major addition to the Information, Library, and Learning Center (IL2C) should begin in summer 2007, once the new Anthropological and Archaeological Resource Facility is completed. The current Anthropology building occupies the space of the new library addition. The 2006 Legislature provided the University of Wyoming with $4.3 million in one-time funds and $1.5 million in continuing biennial funding to pursue membership in two significant consortiums of university libraries—the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) and the Association of Research Libraries (ARL).

“The ability to join GWLA in the near future will put the resources of more than 30 top university libraries at the disposal of our clients on the UW campus and around the state,” says Maggie Farrell, UW dean of libraries. “As UW’s academic and research programs continue to grow in stature, UW’s libraries must be competitive with other land-grant institutions like Colorado State and Kansas State. We are excited about the opportunity to discuss with policymakers next year how we can assure membership in GWLA and finalize plans for eventual membership in ARL. Thanks to the generosity of the Wyoming legislature, the availability of knowledge to our residents will continue to increase and make UW an even better university.”

“It’s been great anticipating and planning for the IL2C,” says Farrell, “but this most recent legislative appropriation ensures that we will have a terrific collection of materials for students, faculty, and residents living throughout the state to use in Laramie and in their hometowns through interlibrary loan.”
Administrative Search

The presidential search process at the University of Wyoming ended where it began. The sitting president is Thomas Buchanan, former vice president for Academic Affairs at the University of Wyoming. The new vice president for Administration and Finance is Phill Harris the former vice president of Budget and Planning. The search process for the vice president for student affairs is still in progress and the search for a new registrar will begin in fall 2006.

Lisa Muller: University of Wyoming

WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMISSION

In February 2006, Wyoming Community College Commission staff installed new system servers at all seven community colleges. These new Hewlett Packard Integrity rx4640 servers replaced the existing Compaq Alpha DS20E administrative database servers. This upgrade was completed on four main levels: hardware, operating system, relational database management system (RDBMS), and administrative software. The operating system change is from Compaq Tru64 UNIX to HP-UX 11i V2 and the RDBMS upgrade is from UniData 6.0 to 7.1. The Colleague Release 17 Administrative Software is being migrated “as-is” to the new servers, though it will eventually be upgraded to Release 18 at a later date.

The Wyoming Community College Commission also approved enrollment figures for the 2005 summer term in February 2006. Enrollment reports from each college indicated a 16 percent increase in student enrollment—from 4,802 students in 2004 to 5,580 students in 2005. Since 2000, six of the seven community colleges have experienced increased summer enrollment overall. Demographically, women accounted for 61 percent and men accounted for 39 percent of community college credit enrollment.

Wyoming Community College Commission reports and information can be viewed online at:
http://www.communitycolleges.wy.edu

Transitions

A giant among institutional researchers has announced her retirement. After 28 years of service, DENISE SOKOL will be retiring from the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center at the end of May. She says, “I have really enjoyed my career here and especially the interactions with my fellow RMAIRians!” It’s likely that she will do some project work for the University over the next few years, but she is also looking forward to pursuing other interests, including jewelry making, travel, and spending more time with her family. Best wishes Denise.

DR. HEATHER TILSON was hired as the executive director for Planning and Institutional Research at Pima Community College. She started February 13 and had recently worked at Coconino Community College.

DELMAS DAWLEY joined the office of Planning and Institutional Research at Pima Community College in March. He is a principal analyst, with an information technology emphasis. He has worked at Western Arizona College and Cochise College.
ERIN M. MAGGARD, of the University of Wyoming/Casper College Center, was recently promoted from Computer Programmer to Information Specialist. Congratulations Erin!

DR. GREGORY P. SMITH has left Centrala Arizona College and is the executive vice president at Central Community College in Nebraska. Congratulations Greg; you will be missed at Central Arizona College. Greg’s contact information is below:

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