Hello Everyone. I can’t believe it’s already August and that our conference is only two months away. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Missoula. Registration should be available very soon and the submission deadline for proposals is August 15, 2008.

There will be two keynote speakers: Christine Keller from the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and Alex McCormick from the National Survey of Student Engagement, who will talk about our conference theme of Accountability, with special emphasis on the Voluntary System of Accountability and student engagement. The Thursday night event will be a great evening -- starting with a reception at Missoula's famous carousel, followed by a casual art stroll through the downtown galleries, finishing with a delicious meal at the Missoula Children's Theater which will be catered by one of Missoula's finest restaurants, the Blue Canyon. More information about the conference can be found on the RMAIR webpage at www.rmair.org.

The 2009 meeting will be in Flagstaff, Arizona from October 21st through October 23rd. It will be held at the High Country Conference Center on the campus of Northern Arizona University. The conference center just opened this year and has been receiving great reviews. More information on the center is available at: http://www.highcountryconferencecenter.com/. The center is next to the NAU Historic District and is a short walk from historic downtown Flagstaff. Pat Hauser, conference chair, and Steve Chambers will be working on putting together a terrific program and are thrilled that RMAIR will be returning to Flagstaff after 20 years!

This is my last intercom before I pass the presidency to Mark Chisholm, your incoming president. It has been my honor to serve as president this year. Thank you and see you in Missoula!
Call for Nominations
Sue Koller Past President

Hi all. It is time to starting thinking about nominations for RMAIR vice president/president elect. Helping RMAIR in the leadership position is a great way to contribute to RMAIR and to have fun while doing it.

As a member of the Executive Committee, the person elected will serve three years-first as vice-president, then as president, and finally as past president. An appropriate candidate would be someone who has had some history with RMAIR and would like to contribute more to our organization. The time commitment is not overly taxing, and the payoff is working with great people.

Please give some thought to considering yourself or nominating another RMAIR member to serve in this position. Contact me at ssavor@uwyo.edu or (307)766-2896 for questions and nominations. Elections will be held in September. Take care and hope to see you in Missoula!

2008 RMAIR Annual Conference in Missoula, Montana
Contacts: Chris Fastnow (program) cfastnow@montana.edu
Or Liz Stotts (arrangements) Elizabeth.Stotts@mso.umt.edu

The conference hotel is the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park. They have guaranteed us the low, low rate of $109.00/night. Overlooking scenic Clark Fork River and majestic Northern Rockies the Holiday Inn Missoula/Downtown puts you in the center of action in the Garden City.

Holiday Inn
MISSOULA DOWNTOWN AT THE PARK
200 SOUTH PATTEE
MISSOULA, MT 59802 UNITED STATES
Hotel Front Desk: 1-406-7218550 | Hotel Fax: 1-406-7217427
**When making a reservation, please specify you are associated with RMAIR**

Visit the conference website: http://www.rmair.org/page.asp?page=1246!
Download a proposal form!
Submit a workshop, presentation, panel, or poster proposal!
Hone your skills at a workshop!
Start a discussion about our fabulous keynote addresses!
Learn something new at a presentation!
Connect with colleagues and friends!
Mark your calendar for October 15-17!

Email questions or proposals to RMAIR@montana.edu.

Letter from the Editor
Lisa Muller

Summer time greetings RMAIRians.

A big thank you to our state reporters and to our webmaster for your assistance in gathering the information and helping to put out a newsletter. Congratulations to Chris our newest Colorado state reporter and a new father! We still need a reporter in Nevada and also need a new Idaho reporter since Barbara Zuck is headed to Montana. Please consider nominating yourself or someone in your office for a
turn at writing up your state events. I hope everyone is considering the October RMAIR conference in Montana. The planning team is hard at work getting ready for the conference.

National News:

Association for Institutional Research webpage: http://www.airweb.org/raceethnicity.html

The Association for Institutional Research (AIR) announces the launch of a web site devoted to bringing the institutional research community information on the new IPEDS race/ethnicity (R/E) standards. On this page you will find links to recent relevant presentations, definitions, and resources, as well as a set of frequently asked questions. In addition, the web site includes a moderated BLOG where YOU can ask your own questions.

IPEDS Resources webpage: http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/reic/resource.asp

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) announces a new IPEDS Race and Ethnicity website. This site contains resources to assist institutions and state agencies with the transition to the new race and ethnicity categories, including the IPEDS implementation schedule, and links to background information, definitions, example question, FAQs, a webinar, and more. AIR Race/Ethnicity Task Force

“HEA: A Huge, Exacting Accountability Bill” 08/01/2008

“If a bill’s impact or importance were measured by its length or the amount of time Congress spent working on it, the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HR 4137) would be one for the ages. At more than 1,150 pages, the bill is about 20 times longer than the Higher Education Act of 1965 that it modifies, creating 64 new programs and touching on issues as diverse as the availability of Pell Grants and illegal downloading of digital music and video. And the legislation, which finally passed both the House and the Senate by overwhelmingly margins on Thursday, has been in discussion on Capitol Hill, in one form or another, for most of this decade. It is five years overdue.” http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/08/01/hea

RMAIR Business Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2008 - Seattle, Washington
Farah Thompson, RMAIR Secretary

Welcome and Instructions
Dawn Kenny welcomed everyone to the RMAIR Business meeting and asked that all attendees please stand and introduce themselves.

Treasurer’s Report
Dawn indicated that Ellen McGregor wasn’t able to attend this conference so there was not a report available.

Montana Conference
Dawn wanted to remind everyone of the 2008 RMAIR Conference in Missoula, Montana. Dates for the conference will be October 15 - 17, 2008. The theme for the conference will be “Accountability”.
Two keynote speakers have been arranged; Christine Keller and Alex McCormick. In approximately one week, a call for proposals will go out on the Listserv. Dawn also said that they had arranged for some new vendors and a fun Thursday night activity is in the works.
Location of RMAIR 2009 and 2010

The 2009 RMAIR Conference will be in Flagstaff, AZ - Steve Chambers is the conference chair. It was determined that 2010’s conference will be in Colorado.

Hans L’Orange said that IPEDS hoped to get to all of the regional conferences (if they have the money) to talk about the race/ethnicity issues.

Other Issues?

Dawn indicated that a company had contacted RMAIR to do the local arrangements. She wanted to know from past conference chairs if it was a burden to do the local arrangements? Should RMAIR be looking at a company to make these types of arrangements? Hans suggested that Dawn contact peer presidents and see if any of them had any experience in using this type of service.

Fred Lillibridge indicated that no one from RMAIR is currently serving on the AIR Board. He said that RMAIR has always had representation. Fred indicated that we need (as a group) to be coordinated on a person on the ballet and we all vote for that person so that RMAIR is represented. Denise Sokol said that individuals need to get involved in their state and regional groups - then become involved in national committees. She said that you need to have the credentials for being involved and her personal experience of being involved has been invaluable both personally and professional. Dawn Kenny seconded by saying that it has been a lot of fun to be involved and encouraged everyone to do so.

Dawn asked if there was anything else. Since there was no additional discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer’s Update

Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)

December, 2007
Conference – Reno

Revenue as of 12/15 – (includes memberships) - $14,752.70
Expenses
- Keynote Speaker - $893.04 (Includes travel expenses of $393.04)
- Workshop presenters - $300
- Materials/supplies - $300.53 (paid to Board of Regents)
- Silver Legacy - $1,234.91 (dinner, tip, entertainment)
- Circus, Circus - $! 0,753.62
- Circus, Circus - $50.21 (extra bar tab)
  Total - $13,532.31

CD was due November 24 – created a new CD for $15,000 for a 5 month term
Checking account - $1,935.21
Savings account - $4,206.40
Total - $21,231.61

Treasurer’s Update – August, 2008

Memberships - $40 (2 new ones)
Expenses:
- Conference – Missoula
  Missoula Children’s Theatre - $50 (deposit for Thursday Night Event)
  Travel Reimbursement to Alexander McCormick - $732.48
- Conference – Flagstaff
  Conference Center - $4000.00 (deposit)
  Supplies – envelopes and pens - $12.98

CD – March 27, took out $5000 and transferred it to checking; renewed it for $10,267.91 (interest earned was $267.91) for 5 months (interest rate of 2.3%)
Checking account - $4,662.26
Savings account - $1,813.89
News from the States

ARIZONA
State Reporter: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)

Arizona News

The next AZAIR Conference (2009) will be at Arizona State University West Campus, April 2-3. The last conference was held at Yavapai Community College. [http://www.azair.org/](http://www.azair.org/)

Dan Anderson, Assistant Executive Director for Institutional Analysis in the Academic and Student Affairs area of the central office of the Board, was named 2007 recipient of the [Commitment to Excellence Award](http://www.azair.org/) at an annual all-staff gathering. Congratulations, Dan.

State Budget Impacts Higher Education

The Arizona Board of Regents held a special meeting Thursday to decide how to split up a $50 million reduction in state funding for the Arizona university system and to allocate $1 billion for new construction and building renewal projects. The fiscal year 2009 budget passed by the Arizona Legislature reduced the amount the system receives from the state's general fund by $50 million. Under the regents' plan for distributing the cuts, The University of Arizona will have to trim $19.6 million the regents also decided that the UA will receive $170 million of the $1 billion that was approved for construction and building renewal under a separate plan passed by the legislature, the Stimulus Plan for Economic and Educational Development, known as SPEED. The legislation designated $470 million of the total for the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, some of which will support growth of the UA's College of Medicine campus in Phoenix, known officially as the UA College of Medicine-Phoenix in partnership with Arizona State University.

Northern Arizona University also received $170 million, while Arizona State University received $190 million.

Transfer Cohorts – A State-wide Effort to Define Transfer Rates

In April 2008 following a discussion at the AZAIR Conference, a workgroup of researchers from across the state convened to design a meaningful measure of the rate of community college student transfers to the public university system. The group included representatives from rural and urban community colleges, universities, the Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona Transfer Articulation Support System and the Governor’s P-20 Council.

The need for a common statewide method to measure community college transfer was highlighted by a capacity study conducted by NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems) and commissioned by P-20 Council of the Arizona Governor’s Office. One element of the NCHEMS model predicted the transfer of community college students to the university based upon the ratio of average annual community college transfers to four year institutions to the annual unduplicated credit headcount in community colleges. Many community colleges felt that the resulting ratio understated the transfer rate of community college students in the State of Arizona and that, therefore, a more meaningful measure should be developed.
The students, who were new to higher education per IPEDS definition, were selected from the state database and placed in a transfer cohort based on their first year of attendance and meeting the following criteria:

- Completed 12 credit hours and
- Declared an intent to transfer or obtain a transfer degree and
- Completed at least one core course from the Arizona General Education Curriculum

Each group of entering students is evaluated three, four, five and six years after their first experience in the community college (depending on their year of entry) to determine if they met the criteria for transfer intent and to determine if they transferred to an Arizona public university within the specified timeframe.

Application of the methodology yielded the following observations:

- After six years, 35.5% of the 21,562 community college students with transfer intent had transferred to a state university.
- As expected, transfer rates are higher for cohorts who have more time in the community college system. More than a quarter (26.2%) of the most recent cohort transferred within three years.
- Data represent transfer to Arizona public universities only. The statewide transfer rate would be higher if private and out-of-state institutions were taken into consideration; however, these data are not available for the analysis.

COLORADO
State Reporter: Chris George (who has been out on paternity leave)

Sonia Brandon sent the following report to CAPIR (Colorado Association of Planners and Institutional Researchers) from the June Washington, DC IPEDS conference. CAPIR next meets in February.

Proposed IPEDS changes:
1) Financial aid disaggregation of loans/grants
2) GASB/FASB changes to make reporting more similar
3) Modification of degree categories for formerly known as "1st Professional" degrees
4) Race/Ethnicity changes (note with this change, there are implications with the GRS Survey AND NCAA reporting that HAVE NOT been resolved)

Proposed SOC 2010 updates:

NCES has also hired a program manager for CIP 2010.

Other discussions on Capitol Hill:
1) Possibility of relating state appropriations to federal financial aid funding (very important to Colorado in light of the fact that publics no longer report ANY state appropriations - Diane from CDHE has also been given a heads-up on this one).
2) What are the IR ramifications to the current higher education authorization bill that will come through Congress?

IDAHO
State Reporter: Barbara Zuck (University of Idaho)
The Idaho State Board of Education named Steven-Daley-Laursen as Interim President of the University of Idaho. In July 2008, Daley-Laursen succeeded Dr. Timothy P. White who took a position of Chancellor of the University of California at Riverside. Prior to being named Interim President, Daley-Laursen served as Dean of the University of Idaho College of Natural Resources and Professor in the Department of Forest Resources. He has twenty-eight years of experience working in land grant universities and brings experience from the University of Idaho, Montana State University, the University of Montana and the University of Minnesota. As reported in the press release, Timothy White stated: “Steven Daley-Laursen has a strong grasp of both the University of Idaho and the needs of the state of Idaho. The Board of Regents’ choice of Steve is brilliant. He is recognized and respected strongly the faculty, staff and administrators of the university, and will be well-received by the donor and political communities both in the state and nationally.” Daley-Laursen studied international relations at the College of William and Mary, and earned a bachelor's in conservation and resource development from the University of Maryland. Daley-Laursen will lead the University as a proud alumnus; he earned a master’s in forest resources management and a doctorate in forest science from the University of Idaho in 1979 and 1984, respectively.

The University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene Dr. Jack Dawson leaves an education legacy and retires after 26 years as dean of the University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene. In 1982 when Jack Dawson began his tenure, the University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene offered a smattering of teacher education and recertification programs, but no degrees. It now offers six undergraduate degree programs, four undergraduate minors, 10 graduate degree programs and five certificate programs. Courses are offered through the College of Education, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, and the College of Graduate Studies. To support a growing faculty, curriculum and students, the U Idaho Coeur d’Alene leases a 29,000 square-foot Harbor Center facility. The Center opened its doors in 2002 and currently serves as a hub to 48 University Idaho faculty, staff and administrators supporting 1,200 students a year. As reported in the press release, Bloem stated: “It has been an honor to work with Jack on a variety of community projects over these many years….Linking his long-term commitment to education to his current leadership role at the University of Idaho Coeur d’Alene, the legacy he leaves will be his fierce dedication to making higher education a quality experience – one that is accessible to everyone.”

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

Biennial budget discussions have begun
Campus and System representatives have begun meeting with the Governor’s budget officers to hammer out the framework of the next biennium’s budget. Small details like inflation rates, raises, and energy cost projections need to be agreed upon. The State’s budget director is letting us know that we are likely to be asked to do more with less. Montana continues to run a budget surplus.

Deputy Commissioner of two-year education named
Mary Sheehy Moe, dean and CEO of the Great Falls College of Technology for the past seven years, has been named the deputy commissioner of two-year education for the Montana University System. The Board of Regents for the University System has made a commitment to more affordable college access through two year programs. Dr. Moe brings 36 years of experience to her new position, 18 years of which were at Montana's colleges of technology.

University of Montana to break ground on Native center
UM will soon have a new Native American Center; a ground breaking ceremony on April 19 kicked off construction of the multimillion-dollar venture. The 19,900-square-foot center is said to be the first-of-its-kind center on any U.S. campus. It will house the Native American Studies Department, American
Indian Student Services and other related campus programming. Individuals, foundations, corporations and tribes from Montana and throughout the United States contributed $6.6 million toward the center.

MSU-Northern puts focus on enrollment
Interim chancellor Rolf Groseth told the Board of Regents the university is continuing to establish enrollment goals after several years of declining enrollment and budget problems at the university in Havre. Groseth took over as Interim Chancellor after Chancellor Alex Capdeville announced his retirement effective at the end of December 2007. Groseth said the area around the university is seeing fewer high school students, making recruitment tougher. Montana is projected to have a declining number of high school graduates and that population pattern is very evident in north central Montana where MSU Northern typically recruits its student body.

Montana Tech College of Technology names Oklahoma professor as new dean
Montana Tech College of technology has a new dean. John Garic has accepted the position of dean, at the Montana Tech College of Technology in Butte. Garic replaces Jane Baker, who retired at the end of June. Garic comes from University of Central Oklahoma where he was a professor in the College of Business.

Clinton and Obama made campaign stops at Montana Universities
Sen. Hillary Clinton, Former President Bill Clinton, and Sen. Barack Obama all visited Montana during the recent Democratic primary. It had been decades since a US President or (serious) candidate for President had visited Montana but as Montana’s primary drew closer the democratic campaign turned its head toward our state looking for one more win. Several of our campuses got a taste of life in the national political spotlight – an experience that our three electoral votes don’t bring us very often.

NEVADA
State Reporter: Open position
No report. Please contact Lisa Muller if you are interested in serving as Nevada state reporter. Her contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

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

Ortega Named UNM Provost
Suzanne Trager Ortega was hired as University of New Mexico’s new Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Ortega previously held the positions of Vice Provost and Graduate Dean at the University of Washington. After 15 years on the Sociology faculty at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Trager Ortega was named to a succession of senior academic positions before being named Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in 1995, a position she held for five years. She was Vice Provost for Advanced Studies and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Missouri – Columbia, and most recently served as Vice Provost and Graduate Dean at the University of Washington, where she was also Chair of the Graduate Record Exam Board. She is also a member of the Council of Graduate Schools Advisory Committee on Graduate Education and American Competitiveness. Throughout her administrative career, she has continued to teach research and publish in the field of Sociology. In an open letter to the UNM community, President David Schmidly stated that “Dr. Ortega has been a champion of diversity at each of the universities that have been fortunate to have her in major leadership positions; each of them nationally recognized AAU institutions. She’s an inquisitive and tireless researcher, an award-winning teacher, and a respected contributor to countless university committees and professional associations. I think she’ll be a perfect fit for UNM as we build on our position as one of the
nation’s leading centers for Hispanic and Native American learning to achieve AAU recognition ourselves.” Ortega officially assumed her role as Provost on August 1.

**UNM Regents Approve 4.85 Percent Tuition Increase**
Praising the openness of the budget process and the promise of long-term planning for tuition, University of New Mexico Board of Regents unanimously approved a 4.85 percent tuition increase for the 2008-09 academic year. UNM President David J. Schmidly proposed the increase after a number of frank discussions with students, faculty and staff leadership. He said the increase lays the foundation for a frugal yet targeted budget.

“With this increase, we can prepare a budget that funds initiatives important to student success, such as a scholarship portfolio, faculty retention and extended library hours,” Schmidly said, adding, “However, we did not want to pass all charges on to students.” One million dollars in scholarships will come from endowments. In addition, $3 million is being reallocated from existing university resources.

The total student and fee increase is 5.75 percent, or an average increase of $262.79 per student. There was no increase in fees other than what is mandated by the institutional bond issue and decisions made by the Student Fee Review Board. The tuition increase also includes the two percent tuition credit approved by the New Mexico Legislature.

In addition, regents approved compensation increases of an average three percent for faculty and two percent for staff. They also approved raising the minimum wage to $9 per hour, giving five percent increases to employees earning less than $30,000 and increasing graduate student assistantships.

**UNMH Named Most-Wired Nationally for 6th Time**
UNM HOSPITAL has been named one of the 100 most-wired hospitals and health systems in the United States for the fifth consecutive year, and for the sixth year out of the 10 years the list has been compiled. Only nine organizations in the 10-year history of the Most-Wired program have made the "Most-Wired" list six times. According to the American Hospital Association, this year's accolade is based on a national survey of 1,327 hospitals that measures the use of information technology to accomplish key goals, including: safety and quality; customer service; business processes; workforce; and public health and safety.

**UNM Promotes Five Faculty Members to Rank of Distinguished Professor**
Five professors have been promoted to the rank of University of New Mexico distinguished professor. Distinguished professors are individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievements and are nationally and internationally renowned as scholars. They are C. Jeffrey Brinker, Chemical and Nuclear Engineering; Patricia Crown, Department of Anthropology; Suleiman Kassicieh, ASM Endowed Chair in Economic Development and Regents' Professor of Management of Technology; Barbara McCrady, psychology and director of the Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions; and Gerald Vizenor, American Studies.

**New Mexico State University**

**NMSU Regents name Cruzado as interim president**
New Mexico State University’s Board of Regents selected Waded Cruzado as interim president of the university during their most recent meeting. Cruzado, currently the executive vice president and provost at NMSU, will assume her new duties on Aug. 1. When Cruzado takes office, she will be the first woman, and only the second Hispanic, ever to lead the university in its 120-year history.

Cruzado congratulated current President Michael Martin on the progress at NMSU under his direction and said her priorities include putting together a management and faculty team to start implementing the recommendations made by the Regents Professors’ task force, relating to developments last spring in the College of Health and Social Services.
Cruzado said that in the event she was appointed interim president, she had invited College of Education Dean Robert Moulton to consider serving as interim executive vice president and provost. Moulton had held that position in an interim status until last August, when Cruzado was selected for her current role.

Regents also finalized contractual issues with President Martin, who has accepted a position as chancellor of the Baton Rouge campus of Louisiana State University. His final day at NMSU was July 31.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

New Mexico Tech took center stage at an international conference for optical engineering in Marseilles, France, in late June. Magdalena Ridge Observatory’s interferometry team presented several posters and papers, including an invited talk by project scientist Michelle Creech-Eakman. The MRO team also included talks by Tech students and researchers, Cambridge scientists and the Belgian company building the telescopes.

Central New Mexico Community College

CNM, UNM Sign Liberal Arts Agreement to Ease Transfer Process

CNM and UNM representatives signed agreements in June to help ease the transfer process for thousands of liberal arts students. The signing marked the fourth “2+2” program agreement between CNM and UNM. This one will make it easier for CNM students who earn an associate’s degree in liberal arts to seamlessly transfer to UNM. The “2+2” model allows students to attend CNM for the first two years of coursework and then move on to UNM for the final two years in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in a particular field of study.

Students Shine at National SkillsUSA Championships

CNM students continued the college’s tradition of excellence at the 2008 National SkillsUSA Championships that were held June 23-27 in Kansas City, Mo. The event, which drew more than 5,000 students in 93 events, is the largest showcase in the nation for outstanding career and technical college students. CNM students won two gold medals, nine silver and one bronze, while seven others were top-10 finishers.

UTAH

State Reporter: Steve Jones (Weber State University)

A new Commissioner of Higher Education has been appointed for Utah. William A. Sederburg, age 60, takes office as Commissioner in August, 2008. Essentially, he will be the CEO for the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). Prior to his new appointment, Dr. Sederburg, had been the President of Utah Valley University. Under his leadership, Utah Valley State College recently transitioned to Utah Valley University. In 2008, Utah Business Magazine named him “CEO of the Year – Public Sector.” President Sederburg (as quoted in a USHE press release) commented, “It is my intent to work with all parties to create a higher education governance system based on collaboration and innovation.” The future of Utah depends on strengthening higher education's role in workforce development, research and development, a strong K-16 system, and providing affordable educational opportunities for our citizens.” Additional details can be found at http://www.utahsbr.edu/PressRelease/PR_2008/PR_Jul_08_2008B.pdf.

Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) has lowered tuition and fees by 22 percent for certain vocational programs. The programs are offered through the SLCC Skills Center, which last year had 1,900 students. According to an article in the Salt Lake Tribune, these programs include training for medical billing specialists, truck drivers, mechanics, computer and electronics technicians, and other skilled trades. The tuition cuts align SLCC’s rates with those for similar programs at Utah College of Applied Technology campuses. The move is targeted at making post-secondary education more affordable for Salt Lake citizens who are considered among the most impoverished. The cut did not affect academic programs.
offered at SLCC, which rose nearly five percent this year in a trend seen at other state colleges and universities as well. More details can be found at http://www.sltrib.com/ci_9964547?IADID=Search- www.sltrib.com-www.sltrib.com.

WYOMING
State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

Wyoming is in the third year of a federal GEAR-UP grant, administered by UW, the Wyoming community colleges, and the Wyoming Department of Education which provides $21 million in federal dollars over a six-year time frame with a $21 million match from the state of Wyoming for the purpose of increasing college access. GEAR-UP provides a means for students to become connected early with the college experience to help increase college access. The director of the grant is located on the Laramie campus, with the majority of staff hired statewide. The community college partners are working to reach the required 2,000 student participants statewide. In addition, ACT has informed GEAR-UP-Wyoming that Wyoming is the only state in the United States offering statewide ACT Online Preparation. ACT Online Prep was initiated in early fall, and completes one of the statewide initiatives for GEAR-UP-Wyoming.

University of Wyoming

An emphasis on energy resources

An energy summer institute, new faculty positions, clean coal proposals and conferences are part of the latest University of Wyoming emphasis on Wyoming energy resources.

“In its 2008 session, the Wyoming State Legislature appropriated $3.8 million to the Clean Coal Research Account. This money funds the Clean Coal Technologies Research Program, which was created to stimulate research to enhance and improve clean coal technologies. Proposals were solicited from academic institutions and private industry. The proposals are to be evaluated based upon their probable benefits to the State of Wyoming through improved use of Wyoming’s coal resource.” UW School of Energy Resources

One UW conference center event this summer was on the development of hydrogen's potential as an environmentally clean energy fuel. The Mountain States Hydrogen Business Council's annual Hydrogen Implementation Conference featured international experts speaking on the global importance of hydrogen energy. Technology experts, industrial leaders, researchers, financial investors and policy supporters shared information. http://www.uwyo.edu/ser/showrelease.asp?id=24423

Record levels of private donations continue and are partially spurred by the state matches on major gifts.

Building, building, building

Major maintenance projects are in full swing this summer with full building window replacements, sidewalk replacement and repair, and building wide remodels. The 3rd named outdoor plaza areas of the core campus is underway. Visitors mention that the skyline of the small town of Laramie has changed with so many different buildings in progress at once. The college of business has been relocated for the next couple of years to the first two floors of a “21 and older” dormitory to allow the current building to be doubled, remodeled and updated. Other offices in temporary spaces include faculty and staff from the teaching and learning center and from international programs.

Transportation

A Transportation Study was completed spring 2008 and the study suggested immediate and visible results. For fall 2008 the University of Wyoming is implementing several short-term goals and requesting legislative funding for the more expensive suggestions of the study. Two new bus routes, a remodeled entrance to campus, more visibility for crosswalks, and a change in freshmen parking options will be in place for the beginning of the fall semester.
Outdoor sculpture
“The University of Wyoming Art Museum is mounting a major exhibition of large-scale sculpture for the Laramie, Wyoming community this summer. Sculptures were scheduled to be placed or created on location between May and July, 2008. Sculpture: A Wyoming Invitational will be on view from August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2009.”
http://www.uwyo.edu/ArtMuseum/display.asp?exhibitid=571&imageid=987

Wyoming Community College Commission report

There are two new presidents in the Wyoming community college system. Dr. Karla Leach replaced retiring Western Wyoming Community College President Tex Boggs. Boggs held the post for the past 20 years. The Eastern Wyoming College Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Dr. Thomas Armstrong.
http://www.ewc.wy.edu/pr/2007-08/pr080707.cfm
http://www.wyomingbusinessreport.com/article.asp?id=92014

Transitions

Arizona:
Irene Semeniuk is back at Cochise Community College after being gone for 11 months. She has returned to Arizona.
Heather Tilson has moved from Executive Director for Planning and Institutional Research to Division Dean for Workforce and Business Development at Pima Community College. The change allows Heather the opportunity to work with the local community and with program development.

Colorado:
Katie DeBoer is the new Director of Institutional Research at DU. She comes to DU from Walden University in Minneapolis.

Idaho
Barbara Zuck has accepted a tenure-track faculty position at Montana State University-Northern.

Utah System of Higher Education:
Farah Thompson writes that we have a new position and hire: The position is Director of Institutional Research and this position was filled by Joe Curtin formally of BYU. Joe has been a member of RMAIR for several years. Congratulations Joe! We also have a new co-worker. His name is Paul Shupe and he is our new Research Analyst.

Wyoming:
Nicole Novotny from the Wyoming Community College Commission writes that they “welcomed Dr. James Heck from the Florida Community College System to the WCCC as our Deputy Director six months ago. Commissioner Selina Hoflund of Cheyenne left the Wyoming Community College Commission in early July because she moved to a neighboring state, but her vacant post was not left to cool for long since Larry Atwell of Cheyenne was appointed to the Commission two weeks ago. We are excited to have Larry aboard and sincerely wish Selina all the best in her new endeavors!”
RMAIR 2007-2008 Officers

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