



Rocky Mountain Association
for Institutional Research

Panorama

November 2009

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

Contact: Greg Appling

Letter from the Editor

Lisa Muller

Winter time greetings RMAIRians.

Congratulations to Nicolas A. Valcik and Dawn Kenney for best paper *New Directions for IR: IR and Homeland Security* at the October RMAIR conference. RMAIR allocates \$500 for best paper, to assist in the cost of the travel for the primary author/presenter. The 2009 conference had outstanding presentations and good attendance. There is always a concern that a conference will not be successful and in a year of economic uncertainty it was great that the conference happened to be in a state with travel restrictions outside of state boundaries. The support from Arizona was great and the planners did a good job of keeping costs as low as possible. The IPEDS workshop as a pre-conference workshop was filled and very successful at reaching a large group.

James Applegate from the Lumina Foundation was the 2009 Conference Keynote speaker. He talked about the foundation goal to increase the percentage of Americans who hold high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by 2025. Applegate spoke of shining a spotlight on state aid programs that focus on the financial need of students and “incentivize focus on need-based aid with consequences for those who do not”. In addition Applegate spoke of a need for all states to create unit record data systems linking P-12, higher education and workforce data. Changing funding approaches to increase higher education productivity included the concepts of rewarding student completion especially for underserved and underprepared students and encouraging innovative technology.

Since I have been elected Vice-President of RMAIR we need an editor for Panorama. We still need a state reporter in Colorado and Nevada. Thank you to Diane Muntal for reporting on UNLV news in Nevada . Please consider nominating yourself or someone in your office for a turn at writing up your state events.

I'm sharing a new report from "The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities(A·P·L·U)" titled Coping Strategies of Public Universities During the Economic Recession of 2009. "Strategic reviews of core activities are underway or planned by two-thirds of the nation's public research universities according to a survey of chief academic officers by the A·P·L·U. The survey focused on depth of budget cuts, strategies to close deficits, and impact on institutions and students at the nation's 188 public research universities. The results indicate A·P·L·U universities are striving to protect the core education mission of their institutions, with administrative units, professional and support staff, facilities and support operations experiencing the most intense scrutiny and deepest reductions."

<http://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=1998>

AIR 50th Forum Anniversary Task Force

RMAIRians Fred Lillibridge (chair), Nicolas Valcik (co-chair), and emeritus RMAIR member Denise Sokol (co-chair) are leading the AIR 50th Forum Anniversary Task Force (AIR50) to celebrate the 50th institutional research forum in Chicago this year. The task force has been in existence since 2005.

One important project is collecting old photos/electronic images of AIR/ RMAIR members. AIR50 wants to use them to create an AIR Hall of History. Please send in your top three AIR photos of people or past events. Send your photos to AIR50@airweb.org<<mailto:AIR50@airweb.org>>. Please help if you can.

RMAIR Business Meeting Minutes

RMAIR Business Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2009

Flagstaff, Arizona

Flagstaff Conference Notes

Mark Chisholm welcomed everyone to the Business Meeting and shared with everyone that he felt the conference was a great success and thanked the conference chairs for a job well done. After introducing the Executive Committee, he thanked everyone for staying for the Business Meeting.

Thank you for Outgoing President

Mark told a cute story about getting the thank you gift for Dawn Kenny. He then presented the thank you gift for Dawn. He then presented gifts to Steve Chambers and Pat Haeuser for being conference chairs. Ellen McGregor said that she also had a gift for Caprice Schneider because she contributed so much to making the conference a success.

Introduction of New President

Mark then acknowledged the in-coming president Archie George.

Announcement of New Vice-President

Dawn Kenny announced that Lisa Muller is the newly elected Vice-President.

Treasurer's Report

Ellen McGregor said we have not fully paid for the Flagstaff conference, but wanted to acknowledge the great job by the local arrangement people. Ellen indicated that the ending balance for RMAIR currently is \$32,052.47. She has made wise investments in certificates of deposit and we earned approximately \$171 in interest. She also said that RMAIR has a good relationship with Wells Fargo Bank and RMAIR is classified as a non-profit organization – thus there is no charge for our checking account. She indicated that approximately \$12,000 was still owed to the Flagstaff conference.

Ellen said that there is a check due from AIR for those individuals whom paid their registration fee via credit card (which is a great help to RMAIR). Ellen said that we have 84 conference attendees. There were a few who only attended the Keynote Address (they were charged \$20) and we signed them

up as members and we will send them information regarding the RMAIR conference. So overall, we have approximately 120 current members.

Ellen said that over the last four years we have lost several members to death. Rather than donate to some cause – Ellen would like to set-up a \$500 scholarship fund to encourage students to come to a RMAIR conference. Ellen also said that those Emeritus members are very important. Ellen asked Archie George to talk about a scholarship fund. Archie said that he fully supported setting up a scholarship fund and asked people to please donate to this fund.

Panorama Editor Report

Lisa Muller said that since she has been elected to Vice-President we will need a new Editor of Panorama. She said that she would be willing to do the next issue, but would really encourage someone to think hard about accepting being the editor. Lisa wanted to thank all those who contributed to the next Panorama issue by writing a comment about the Flagstaff conference. She again asked for someone to please volunteer and if you have interested, to please let herself or Archie George know.

Secretary's Report

Mark asked Farah Thompson if she had anything to report regarding minutes. Farah said that all the minutes have been posted to the Panorama and you can locate those issues out on the RMAIR website.

Emeritus Members

Mark said that he looked through the minutes and noticed that no one has been nominated for Emeritus status for the past two years. Mark indicated that he would like to nominate the following:
Jacki Stirn: Community College of Denver, Regis University, University of Colorado, WICHE,
Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

Connie Brizuela: University of Wyoming

Ron Jernigan: San Juan College, New Mexico

Ellen McGregor motioned for acceptance of these nominations.

Ken Brown seconded.

Scholarship Fund

Archie George talked about the AIR scholarship money. He indicated that he would like to set-up some policies and guidelines for the application, and a replenishment concept. Kari Coburn said that RMAIR should continue to keep a slush fund in case a conference “goes down”, but would like to possibly take a reasonable percent of proceeds from conferences for scholarships. Archie said it would be nice to tie the scholarship to the profitability of a RMAIR conference, but also have one-year operating expenses in reserve.

Ellen indicated that \$20 as a membership fee is quite low for the regional groups. Because of cuts in travel budgets maybe we are being too restrictive to just have the scholarship for students – perhaps members could use some of this money too. Archie said that sometimes the travel costs for a conference comes out of our own pockets.

Best Paper

Mark Chisholm said that tallying of the Best Paper will be in about one month.

Conference Schedule

Mark indicated that the next conference will be in Denver, Colorado. The 2011 conference can either be held in New Mexico or Wyoming. It was decided that New Mexico will host the 2011 conference. It would be held right in Albuquerque in Old Town. There are lots of galleries and art museums. The 2012 conference can be held in Wyoming, but the final decision will be made at the 2010 conference in Denver.

2010 AIR Forum in Chicago

Archie George asked how many would be going to the AIR Forum in Chicago. Ellen reminded everyone that the winner of the Best Paper will get \$500 toward their attendance to the AIR Forum for their presentation of the Best Paper. The 2010 AIR Forum deadline for submitting proposals is October 30th of this year. She encouraged everyone to attend the forum it always has good pre-conference sessions and excellent presentations. Everyone should think about submitting a presentation.

Other Issues?

Steve Chambers indicated that RMAIR has a long tradition of providing leadership for AIR. He encouraged everyone to please nominate a fellow RMAIR colleague or nominate yourself. RMAIR has excellent leadership and current there are no RMAIRians serving at the national level. It used to be that so many individuals from RMAIR were on the national board that they called it the "RMAIR Mafia".

Serving is an important part of professional development

Ellen McGregor wanted to acknowledge the continuing membership from individuals from Texas and Washington. She said they support the conference by being active members and submitting presentations.

Mark thanks everyone for attending the conference and wished everyone a safe trip home.

Archie thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting was adjourned.

November 9, 2009

Submitted by Farah Thompson

RMAIR Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

Lisa Muller started the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Lisa indicated that the president, president-elect, past president, and treasurer all were unable to attend the 2009 AIR Forum this year due to budget cuts. Lisa said that this was not a formal meeting but a meeting to inform RMAIRians of what is happening.

IPEDS Workshop

Lisa stated that AIR has provided hundred of IPEDS Workshop over the past seven years. AIR has won a new contract to continue to expand our IPEDS training.

The new contract provides funding for 20 IPEDS Workshops to be delivered in 2009-2010. Affiliated Groups are encouraged to apply for one of these workshops which may be arranged as an add-on to an existing meeting or as a stand-alone event. The first selections will be made on July 10, 2009. Additional selections will be made through the year, but applying early is highly advised as AIR expects considerable competition for the workshops.

In addition to a revised selection process, this year's IPEDS Workshops will feature a new curriculum based around three institutional research tasks; 1) managing the IPEDS collection cycle, 2) using IPEDS in reaccreditation self studies, and 3) understanding IPEDS data as consumer information for parents and prospective students. Special topics may also be considered, such as understanding the new race/ethnicity categories or exploring new reporting requirements for specific IPEDS surveys.

AIR understands that travel funds are in short supply all across higher education and so the new contract allows AIR and each co-hosting organization to provide a travel assistance program of up to \$500 for each of 30 participants to underwrite travel costs to attend the event. AIR anticipates that up to \$15,000 in travel funds will assure that the IPEDS workshops – and any adjacent meetings – will be able to reach out to participants who might otherwise not be able to attend.

Co-hosting for an IPEDS Workshop will require assistance to inform and recruit your members, but carries no financial obligation from the co-hosting organization. AIR will provide the workshop leaders and their travel costs, handouts, exercises, internet connections, lunch, refreshment breaks, extensive marketing of the event, and evaluation materials. AIR anticipates that a minimum of 12 weeks of planning will go into each event.

Program details will be announced at the 2009 AIR Forum and soon afterward on the AIR web page for the IPEDS workshops.

Lisa indicated that it is up to leadership to make the decision to apply for an IPEDS Workshop. We could, if approved by AIR, have the IPEDS Workshop on Wednesday, October and move the rest of the conference to full days on Thursday and Friday. Ellen McGregor has volunteered to write the proposal. Lisa asked for a vote from those attending to see if they felt that writing the IPEDS Workshop proposal would be a good idea. It was agreed upon that it was a good idea and everyone seemed quite excited about the idea because RMAIR is one of the few AIR associations which have their annual conference in the fall (most of the associations have their meetings in the spring). Many felt that this gave RMAIR an advantage.

Arizona Conference Update

Lisa told everyone that Dr. James Applegate, VP for Program Development at the Lumina Foundation, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. As you may know, the Lumina Foundation for Education has stepped forward as a generous sponsor of ground breaking work to reinvigorate American higher education.

Lisa then told everyone that June 15 was the deadline for submitted your presentations. Ellen McGregor was able to get the hotel conference rate of \$129/night from Sunday, October 18th through Sunday, October 25th so the members can enjoy Flagstaff, Sedona, and the Grand Canyon.

Colorado Conference Update

The Colorado Conference committee does not yet have a location or dates for the 2011 conference, but wanted to know if people would like to see the conference in Denver or perhaps in Estes Park. Estes Park has the lake, walks, and shops and is the gateway to the Rock Mountains. Denver has easy access, sports, and the zoo. The attendees were split on where to have the conference so the committee said they would look into both locations and make a determination.

Hawaii Group - PACAIR

Joseph Curtin said that he has talked with several members of PACAIR and they have again invited RMAIR to join them at their next association meeting in Hawaii. A lot of attendees indicated although they would love to go to Hawaii for a conference, it would be nearly impossible for them to attend mainly due to the perception of the conference being held in Hawaii. It was agreed upon that Joseph would relay the concerns to the PACAIR group and assure them that we appreciate the invitation, but feel that the perception is too large of a hurdle in getting approval. Lisa said that she could put a notice of PACAIR's conference in the Panorama Newsletter to let those individuals know who may be able to make arrangements to attend.

Treasurer's Report

Ellen McGregor had sent the treasurer's report and Ellen reported that the budget was in good shape with a total of \$19,051.41. As of May 28, 2009, RMAIR has 67 members.

Other Issues?

Lisa thanked Mike for his efforts on the website and having everything available to members. Lisa asked if anyone had anything they would like to discuss. No one had anything. Lisa thanked everyone again for attending the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

June 25, 2009

Submitted by Farah Thompson

November 2009 Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance as of May 28, 2009 - **\$19,051.41 (AIR Forum)**

Expenses:

\$438.75 water bottles

\$10 stamps and envelopes

Owe money to conference center and for materials

Current Balances as of October 19, 2009 (cashed out 2 CDs in October and got \$171.62 in interest for the two \$5,000 CDs and deposited into checking on October 2):

Checking (non-profit) -	\$25,455.28
Business savings -	1,079.99
Business/Scholarship savings	500.10
CD (taken in April, matures in January)	5,027.10
Total	\$32,052.47

We have 101 members as of October 19 and 84 registrations for the conference. I counted as members those individuals who registered for the Keynote address at a cost of \$20.

Ending balance - \$32,052.47 as of October 19, 2009 reported at RMAIR Conference

New revenue - \$908.00 (still will get more money from AIR for registrations in October) plus interest on savings (.06) and 5.34 for the CD

Expenses

Conference center -	\$13,245.20
Tour	180.00
Conference reimbursements	<u>1,147.51</u>
Total	\$14,572.71

As of November 12:

Checking (non-profit) -	11,790.57
Business savings -	1,080.03
Business/Scholarship savings	500.12
CD (taken in April, matures in January)	<u>5,032.59</u>
Total	\$18,403.31

Ellen McGregor, RMAIR Treasurer

News from the States

ARIZONA

State Reporter: Ellen McGregor (Pima Community College)

RMAIR Conference

Flagstaff (Northern Arizona University and Coconino Community College) hosted the 2009 RMAIR Conference. Registration, including those opting to attend the Applegate Keynote address, was 95. Special thanks for our fabulous co-chairs, Steve Chambers and Pat Hauser. Congratulations are in order for our best paper presentation on New Directions for IR: IR and Homeland Security by Nicolas A. Valcik and Dawn Kenney. The weather was perfect for the conference and by the following week, there was snow.

State Budget

The finalized 09-10 budget for the State of Arizona is still waiting action from the legislature and governor. Governor Brewer has directed state agencies, including the public universities to plan for a 15% reduction in funding, which is in addition to the reductions already in place. Stimulus money has helped but there are major concerns regarding the funding for education in Arizona.

Enrollments Up!

With the sour economy and the problems with funding, it seems we all have to do more with less. The undergraduate headcount for the public universities (Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona) increased by 3% from the prior fall and full time equivalent (FTE) grew 4.8%. Headcount and FTE enrollment in the last five years have grown 11.3% and 15.5% respectively. Headcount enrollment is reported as of the 21st day and FTEs as of the 45th day.

Community Colleges, in general, also had gains in enrollment. At Central Arizona College which serves Pinal County, the enrollment grew by 37.2% over the last two years, going from 4,951 to 6,795. Like the universities, the major growth were in FTEs, which students taking more credit hours when compared to a year ago.

ASU President Makes Time Magazine's List of Top College Presidents

Laura Fitzpatrick wrote the following in ranking President Crow, number 4 on the list of the top 10 College Presidents:

Arizona State has long owned a spot in rankings of American party schools, but on Michael Crow's watch, the university is clambering up another kind of list. He rode into office in 2002 vowing to build a New American University that embraced students with a wide range of backgrounds and abilities while giving elite public schools a run for their research money. "We need to find some way where you can match excellence and access in the same institution," he says. Crow has found several: during his tenure, the university has more than doubled its yearly research spending, boosted its roster of National Merit Scholars 61% and claimed a spot on three separate rankings of America's best colleges. Meanwhile, the number of low-income Arizona freshmen enrolling each year has grown nearly ninefold and the population of minority students has jumped 62%. Crow admits his more-is-more philosophy goes against the grain in a sector where low acceptance rates and small class sizes are icons of excellence. But he says the results have brought the skeptics around. "We're done with trying to raise money for putting brass buttons on the back of our chairs," he says. "What people really want from their university is, 'Help us with these things that are most important to us.' "

COLORADO

State Reporter: Open position

The 2010 CAPIR meeting will be held at the University of Colorado at Boulder on April 19, 2010

Please contact Lisa Muller if you are interested in serving as Colorado state reporter. Her contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

IDAHO

State Reporter: Chris Lighty (University of Idaho)

University of Idaho

The University of Idaho has inaugurated Dr. M. Duane Nellis as its 17th president. Educated in the Pacific Northwest, recognized nationally and internationally for his research using satellite data and geographic information systems to analyze various dimensions of the Earth's land surface, he comes to the U of I from Kansas State University where he served as provost and senior vice president since 2004. The University of Idaho has named Keith E. Ickes Executive Director of Planning and Budget. He assumes his new role Nov. 16. Ickes will lead the new Office of Planning and Budget's strategic, operational and capital planning processes, and will create a sustainable budgeting model for the university and unite the elements of resource allocation, including planning, budget, research and assessment.

MyUIdaho Portal is a campus portal that will help transform the UI website into a highly responsive and productive workplace for the entire university community of users, including students, faculty,

administrative staff, prospective students, alumni, donors, partners, parents, and visitors. Each user will get targeted information and services when he or she needs them ...anytime...anywhere. Employee information channels will be rolled out November 16, 2009. Student access is scheduled for summer 2010, other groups will be added later.

Boise State University

Following a record-breaking year for research program grants in fiscal year 2009, Boise State University has recorded its highest quarterly total in school history with \$16.1 million in external grant awards for the first quarter of fiscal year 2010.

Boise State University is meeting the needs of a growing number of students with expanded online and distance education programs. The university now offers 225 different online courses and 13 full academic certificates and degrees that can be completed entirely online, including five graduate degrees. Boise State University will offer its first intersession term between the fall and spring semesters this year. The condensed session in December and January has 25 different classes ranging from one-credit workshops to three-credit upper-division and graduate classes. Students can begin registering on Oct. 26.

Idaho State University

Idaho State University professors continue to garner national and international recognition for their research. Researchers René Rodriguez and Joshua Pak, who worked with Idaho National Laboratory researcher Robert Fox, were honored with an R&D 100 Award on July 20 for their work with precision nanoparticles. These awards salute the 100 most technologically significant products introduced into the marketplace over the past year. Rodriguez and Pak were also honored with an Idaho Innovation Awards “Early-Stage Innovation of the Year” for their work.

In October, Idaho State University switched its e-mail system to Google’s Gmail as part of the suite of Google Apps. The university also unveiled BengalWeb for students, a web portal where students will be able to register for classes without a wait, check financial aid, check campus services, find important academic information, and conduct other business that helps them to succeed in their college career.

Lewis-Clark State College

Lewis-Clark State College has reached new heights this fall with a record enrollment of 4,200 students and a full-time equivalency of more than 3,001.47, according to the college’s 10th day report. It marks the first time in the college’s history that enrollment has been above 4,000 and the full-time equivalency has been above 3,000. It is also the fifth straight semester LCSC has set an all-time attendance record. LCSC’s enrollment is a 6.6 percent increase over last year’s total of 3,940 students and marks an increase of 806 students over the last three years, a 19.2 percent increase.

North Idaho College

Since North Idaho College implemented the Orientation, Advising and Registration Sessions (OARS) program in 2005, retention numbers have increased about 7 percent. The orientation process was revamped and OARS was implemented, bringing many of the parts together to ensure that the orientation, registration and advising pieces were of value to students and would make a positive impact on the start of their college career. With enrollment at an all-time high this fall, up 16.5 percent from last year, the OARS program passed more new students through the entrance system this summer than ever before, more than 1,800 students.

North Idaho College Idaho Small Business Development Center Regional Director Bill Jhung was recently selected as the 2009 State Star for the Idaho SBDC. Jhung was chosen by the Idaho SBDC for the award based on the criteria of being exemplary performer, making a significant contribution to the Idaho SBDC program, and delivering significant impact on business growth in north Idaho, even in a depressed economy.

Eastern Idaho Technical College

Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) reports an increase of 12.6 percent in their for-credit programs. EITC said in the past when the economy is bad, their enrollment increases because most of the students are seeking a higher education and more training to enhance their job skills. In fact, many of their programs are at full capacity. The total headcount for fall 2009 credit programs is 865. Last year, there were 768 students. Last fiscal year, EITC enrolled more than 15,000 students in a combination of short-term training, adult basic education, and community education courses.

MONTANA

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

Record Enrollment across the Montana University System

Campus leaders reported a welcome dilemma during the Board of Regents meeting at Montana State University in Billings. Enrollments are flying past historic highs at state colleges and universities. Montana State University showed a record breaking increase of 395 to top out at 12,764; University of Montana also had a record enrollment of 14,921. There is speculation that the increase is being driven by the recession, as people who have lost their jobs head back to school (although here in Bozeman the growth seems to be in the number of traditional freshmen).

Stimulus funding not expected to be replaced by the state

The campuses of the Montana University System (MUS) have been notified by the Board of Regents that they should plan to NOT have about \$17 million in stimulus funding be continued into the FY12 and FY13 biennium. The funding was given to the campuses in the current biennium in lieu of larger tuition increases (and, consequently is referred to as tuition mitigation funding). All the campuses of the MUS are going through planning processes to identify how the loss of funds will be accommodated within their budgets.

MSU has a new President for its four campus system

Dr. Waded Cruzado accepted the Montana Board of Regents offer to lead Montana State University. Dr Cruzado will take over from retiring President Geoff Gamble in January 2010. Dr Cruzado is currently the Provost at New Mexico State University. She will assume the responsibility for four MSU campuses in Bozeman, Billings, Havre and Great Falls. Cruzado wrote, "I was convinced to accept this extraordinary opportunity by the warmth, energy and talent of the people I met during my visit..." Dr Cruzado was selected from among 60 applicants and becomes MSU's first woman president.

Gambles Make an Unprecedented Gift to MSU

Talk about retiring in style! President Geoff Gamble and his wife Patricia announced they will leave their estate to Montana State University. Patricia will also leave an endowment in honor of her parents, Florence and Monty Moneyhan. The gift's combined total could total more than \$2 million. "When we first arrived in Bozeman nine years ago we did not know then that we had finally come home," Gamble said. "We have become Montanans. Neither of us was born here, but it is hear that we now belong. WE have been inspired by this place and its people and want to give something back." The institution hopes that the gifts will make possible the Geoff and Patricia Gamble Center for Student Success.

Trocki named as new MSU-N chancellor

Montana State University President Geoff Gamble announced Dr. Frank Trocki will take the reins at Montana State University-Northern in Havre. "I am honored to be selected as MSU-Northern's chancellor. I look forward to working with Northern's faculty, staff, alumni, friends and especially its students in enhancing the university," Trocki said in a press release. "I will dedicate myself to making Northern affordable and accessible to any student who desires a quality and diverse education." "Frank Trocki is a great choice for the students of Northern and the Hi-Line community." Gamble said.

New Dean for UM Law School

University of Montana School of Law has a new dean and her name is Irma Russell, a specialist in environmental and energy law. Russell is the first female to hold the position. She will replace E. Edwin Eck, who headed the law school since 1995. Eck announced he would step down at the end of the academic year to return to the law school faculty.

Flathead Valley Community College helps local economy

A new study reveals that Flathead Valley Community College has impacted the local economy by bringing in \$113 million in regional income. FVCC President Jane Karas said that they are busy and perhaps more needed than ever with many using them as a resource in the ailing economy. "It's not just the economic impact but the socioeconomic impact as well. Students who come here are healthier, they are more productive, there is a lower rate of absenteeism; we have a positive impact on the criminal justice system." Research shows students receive a 17 percent return on every dollar they spend in education.

NEVADA

State Reporter: Open position

Diane Muntal (University of Nevada Las Vegas) sent us the following report

Nevada System of Higher Education

Nevada, along with neighboring California and Arizona, is one of the nine states the Pew Center found particularly affected by the recession. Gambling and sales taxes have fallen for two consecutive years, and the state's unemployment and foreclosure inventory are among the highest in the nation. Increasing sales tax or adding an income tax is nearly impossible because it requires voters to approve an amendment to the constitution in two successive general elections. The specter of a special legislative session looms and apprehension grows at the prospect of additional cuts in higher education and possible furloughs above and beyond the one day per month furloughs already in place. The last time the economy was this bad, the Nevada legislature passed the "Wide Open Gambling Bill of 1931" launching our unique economy and allowing the state to keep its tax burden among the nation's lowest. Now, as travelers put off trips to Nevada, the gambling-dependent economy is the primary cause of the crisis. Predictably, the 2009 legislature appointed a panel to examine the state's tax system and make recommendations to broaden the tax base. The panel will undoubtedly refer to the recommendations of the previous five panels, (the first of which dates back to 1959) strongly recommending the diversification of the state's economy.

Over the past six months, nearly \$205 million in federal stimulus funding has been invested in Nevada's public higher education system, supporting (saving) approximately 2,100 jobs. NSHE received \$14.4 million for research programs, \$5.5 million for student financial aid, and \$184.4 million from stabilization funds from the American Recover and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These funds helped stabilize state and local government budgets and minimize and avoid further reductions in education and other essential public services.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

As part of the institutional process to prepare for ongoing budget reductions, college and school deans, as well as vice presidential divisions, were asked to identify programs for elimination, reorganization or modification. These recommendations were forwarded to the Provost and are under review by the university's Joint Evaluation Team (JET), comprised of administrators (including UNLV's Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Analysis and Planning), faculty, and faculty senate representation. The team will provide recommendations to the president by the end of the fall semester. The OIAP's redesigned web application and content management system supported the evolving campus conversation by providing campus users access to the management information using office applications (DataNet, StudentTracker and Academic Profiles) and automated reports from OIAP's data warehouse.

The Brookings Mountain West Initiative, a collaborative research and public analysis effort on the part of UNLV and The Brookings Institution, was announced this fall. The initiative builds upon the work of Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program, which focuses on helping metropolitan areas like Las Vegas grow in robust, inclusive and sustainable ways. Brookings Mountain West will go farther by bringing the perspective of Brookings experts on domestic and international economic policy, foreign policy and governance to UNLV.

UNLV received a \$14 million grant from the Kirk Kerkorian's Lincy Foundation to fund the creation of the Lincy Institute, which will work to unite local non-profit organizations and help those better address challenges in education, health care, social systems and public policy. The institute will gather data, and apply for federal grants currently not tapped in Southern Nevada. The institute will employ a full-time grant writer and program directors in health, education and social systems, and sponsor 12 faculty fellowships in addition to post-doctoral, graduate and undergraduate assistantships and scholarships.

The Engelstad Family Foundation donated \$12.625 million to support the largest active scholarship program in the UNLV's 52-year history and the largest active scholarship endowment in the history of NSHE. The Englestad Scholar's Program will award full-tuition scholarships (renewable for up to four years) to UNLV students annually based on academic excellence, leadership, community service involvement and financial need. As part of the program requirements, selected students will also spend 100 hours each academic year engaged in community service with nonprofit organizations including Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy, the Boys and Girls Clubs and Three Square Food Bank. UNLV has surpassed the \$500 million goal of its first-ever capital campaign, Invent the Future. The ambitious fundraising effort, spanning eight years, brought an unprecedented level of private support for scholarships, fellowships, endowments, academic programs and other initiatives. Private donations have become increasingly important to UNLV, as the level of state support continues to be influenced by current economic conditions.

NEW MEXICO

State Reporter: Carol Bernhard (University of New Mexico)

University of New Mexico

N.M. CareerMatch aims to stop brain drain

UNM Career Services played an instrumental role in creating N.M. Career-Match, a new free online service to help New Mexico employers and graduates of UNM and Central New Mexico Community College in the job search process. The goal is to encourage smart business growth and keep college graduates in state. UNM Career Services hosts the Web site and added 1,100 employers from New Mexico to the database, which currently has over 220 jobs posted. Plans are underway to expand N.M. CareerMatch to serve graduates of more New Mexico colleges, including UNM branch campuses.

UNMH wins Energy Star award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named UNM Hospital a winner of one of its prestigious Energy Star awards. The Energy Star is the mark of superior energy performance and identifies UNMH as one of the most efficient buildings in the nation, preventing the release of greenhouse gases and protecting the environment.

Rio Rancho Campus

UNM continues to make excellent progress on construction of the first building on the Rio Rancho campus and which is on track for a January 2010 opening. As the first building goes up, plans for how we will fund the new facility over time are being developed. The next big step for this campus is to develop a comprehensive academic plan for the Rio Rancho campus that will include programs to be offered by UNM, the UNM Health Sciences Center and Central New Mexico Community College.

New tools to help students plan ahead

The Office of the Registrar, Division of Enrollment Management is developing new academic planning tools to help students stay on track for graduation. Students used to rushing across campus from one class to the next will appreciate the new scheduling system, which will place courses near their respective schools and colleges. The online progress report will be upgraded to Lobo Trax, enhanced with easy-to-read graphic reports and academic planning tools. Multiterm registration will give students the option to view and register for courses in multiple semesters in advance, helping them to plan courses sequentially and allowing more time to plan for work and personal obligations.

Budget Cuts

Across the state, revenue projections have steadily worsened over the course of the past year, and during the recent special session, the New Mexico State Legislature cut 4% from higher education I&G and another 6.5% from special projects. For UNM, this means a loss of \$8.4 million to the current fiscal year 2010 budget. However, while there have been cuts to the budget, so far there have been no mandatory furloughs, layoffs or salary cuts...

UNM Los Alamos

TWEAK takes off

Community Education students at UNM-Los Alamos built an electronic vehicle in just one month this summer. Instructor Michael Ham and his classes produced a working prototype of TWEAK (Threewheeled Electric Alternative by KinAesthetic Wind). Ham, a physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and his brother Kenny, a mechanical engineering student, are the president and vice president of KinAesthetic Wind, a nonprofit designed to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the United States. The nonprofit raised about \$1,000 to produce the TWEAK prototype. Ham calls the vehicle "version zero" of what he hopes will be an ongoing project to produce a viable alternative mode of transportation for commuters that would cost between \$3,000-5,000.

UNM Valencia

New animation technology gives Valencia students cutting-edge experience

UNM-Valencia students can now get hands-on experience with groundbreaking motion-capture animation technology, the Open Stage Markerless Capture System, through a \$2.5 million Federal Title-V Science, Technology, Engineering and Math grant for a campus-wide tech makeover. Earlier motion-capture systems, used to animate characters in video games and films, relied on a complex, time-consuming process of tracking markers dotting an actor's spandex suit. The new markerless system, with 14 tracking cameras and higher computer processing speeds, uses a 3-D mesh skeleton linked to the movement of 21 bones to allow more flexibility in poses with less set-up time. UNM-Valencia plans to use the system in medical imaging, architectural rendering with animated figures, game animation and environmental science.

New Mexico State University

It's been a year (and more!) of transitions at New Mexico State University. In May, the interim president, Dr. Waded Cruzado, returned to her post as Provost after not quite a year as Interim President, and Dr. Manuel Pacheco was appointed as the new Interim President. In October, Dr. Cruzado was offered the presidency of Montana State University, the first woman, and first Hispanic to lead that university. She was also NMSU's first woman Provost and first woman Interim President. While NMSU sits with an interim president, a soon-to-be interim provost, an interim associate provost, an interim assistant provost, and three (of nine) interim deans, the search for president is moving forward. Five individuals were brought to campus this November, with the new president to be announced on November 19. NMSU is ever hopeful that the spiral of "interimity" will be broken for awhile once the

new president comes on board in January – just in time to meet the 2010 State Legislature and discuss what cuts to higher education will be necessary to balance the state budget.

Despite all the “interims,” NMSU has had good fiscal management leading up to these recessionary times. While there have been some budget cuts, a lot of belt-tightening, and rumors flying everywhere, NMSU has thus far escaped furloughs and layoffs.. Here’s hoping the patterns of the past of “we don’t get much but we don’t lose much” continues! Now, how the University is going to manage their seven percent growth in students this semester remains to be seen, but that’s another story...

Doña Ana Community College

As part of the AIR History Project, the Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Office (IEPO) at Doña Ana Community College has been working with AIR members Gary Rice and Aimee Hassell of University of Alaska Anchorage, and Mary Ann Coughlin of Springfield College, in creating an historic membership database. The DACC IEPO team, comprised of Fred Lillibridge, Mary Beth Worley and Leah Bollschweiler have designed a system that converts directories in the Portable Document Format (PDF) file-format into text files, spell checks those text files and finally transfers the files into a Microsoft Access database. This database will allow AIR to study membership trends in growth, scope of services provide to members, and diversity of the AIR membership. Fred and Mary Beth will present their system as part of the 50th AIR Forum Presentation at the 2010 AIR Forum in Chicago.

UTAH

State Reporter: Steve Jones (Weber State University)

Articles researched and written by Savannah Combe, Weber State University.

Enrollment Growth + Budget Cuts= Critical Tipping Point for Utah’s Public Colleges and Universities

Utah’s Public Colleges and Universities are negatively affected by enrollment growth and budget cuts. Between Fall 2008 and Fall 2009 enrollment has increased 8.3%. Dixie State College in particular had a 25% increase with the addition of four-year degrees. There has also been a 9.61% increase in the budget-related full-time equivalent (FTE) headcount that approximates the students enrolled full-time per semester. In the 2009 Legislative session, “Utah’s colleges and universities were dealt an historic 17% budget cut.” With the rise of enrollment and the budget cut, it results in “decreasing services, program eliminations, and less course availability.” Additional information and data can be found at http://utahsbr.edu/PressRelease/PR_2009/PR_Oct_05_2009.html.

Recession Campaign is Key to Success

“Utah student loan defaults lowest in the nation.” Cohort Default Rates for 2007 in Utah are at a 2.7% default rate compared to the national average of a 6.7%. Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) recession campaign Ray of Hope has led to student loans being paid off. UHEAA reports that of the 24,118 borrowers that began repayment in 2006 only 507 borrowers have defaulted. The Ray of Hope campaign’s success is based on the personal correspondence between both the lender and the borrower. “Senator Hatch and Bennett advocate keeping student loan administration local to perpetuate Utah’s successful track record.” Lane Beattie, president and CEO of the Salt Lake Chamber remarked that “higher education translates into higher paying jobs” and that she is “pleased to see that well managed student debt is a solid part of Utah’s equation.” Additional details can be found at http://utahsbr.edu/PressRelease/PR_2009/PR_Oct_21_2009.html

Higher Ed Supporters Consider Asking Utahns to Help Cash-Strapped Schools

“Utah’s colleges and universities, business backers and school representatives are contemplating a campaign to ask Utahns to vote to raise their taxes to fund education.” The last two years there has been a 17% increase in enrollment for Utah colleges and universities. Increase in enrollment and with the last budget cut of 9% and the additional 8% cut for next year has some Utahns concerned for the future of the Utah’s public and higher education system. A proposal for the 2010 ballot is to raise Utah’s taxes by three-fourths of a percent. This proposal would bring in “\$350 million in revenue, which under Utah law

would be divided between public and higher education. The main concern for the tax increase is whether or not Utahns will support a raise in their taxes. Another concern is if running the ballot would usurp the power of the legislatures. William Sederburg, Commissioner of Higher Education, stated, "I'm mainly interested in working with the Legislature and not trying to go around them." Additional information can be found at http://www.sltrib.com/ci_13765751?IADID=Search-www.sltrib.com-www.sltrib.com

Statewide Increase in Student Enrollment

According to a February 20th news release from USHE, Spring 2009 enrollment has increased 7.4% from the previous year; A total headcount of 9,548 more students and 4,695 FTE students system-wide. William Sederburg, the Commissioner of Higher Education stated "The year-to-year increase in Spring 2009 is consistent with the growth we experienced in Fall 2008...We expect a continuing growth trajectory in higher education for the 2009-2010 academic year." Enrollment details for each university can be found at http://www.utahsbr.edu/PressRelease/PR_2009/PR_Feb_20_2009.html.

Tuition Increases Approved

A March 27th news release from USHE announced that the State Board of Regents approved tuition increases for the 2009-2010 academic year. On average, tuition will be increased by 7% for Utah institutions. The rate increase was made in an effort to help mitigate budget cuts. In general, the increase is expected to offset about one-fourth of the ongoing base budget-cut of 17.5 that have been applied to higher education from state legislatures during the past and present year. Details of the cuts for each university can be found at http://www.utahsbr.edu/PressRelease/PR_2009/PR_Mar_27_2009.html.

Budget Cuts and Other Higher Ed. Impacts from the Recent Utah Legislative Session

Despite the dire economic times, the recent legislative session was able to meet many higher education needs. Nearly all Board of Regents' priorities were approved including a provision allowing public institutions the leeway to move funding between line items in an effort to better deal with deep budget cuts. A bill was also passed to ensure that courses offered by concurrent enrollment programs are actually college-level courses. Economic stimulus money and \$106 million in bonding enabled several higher education building projects to proceed at various state institutions. As for students, stimulus money also was used to secure class offerings and faculty and staff at least for FY2010. Source: "Higher Education breathes a sigh of relief, offers a B+," Wendy Leonard of the Deseret News, March 13, 2009

For FY2010, budget cuts for each institution are about 9%, about half of what was anticipated. The decrease in funding has prompted state institutions to offer incentives for early retirement and voluntary layoffs, along with other program cutbacks, hiring freezes, and additional layoffs considerations. The ongoing base reduction is still expected to be 17 to 17.5% for the FY2011 base budget. The state's Rainy Day Fund is expected to be saved for possible shortfalls in 2011. Sources: "Budget capsule: Higher education," Wendy Leonard of the Deseret News, March 12, 2009; Higher Education Legislative Summary, USHE, March 4, 2009.

WYOMING

State Reporter: Lisa Muller (University of Wyoming)

Wyoming has joined the rest of the USA in an economic downturn. The state revenue has a projected \$383 million drop over the next two years so the legislative revenue committee members have considered proposals ranging from fuel tax hikes, a wind energy tax, reactivating a state property tax levy to dropping tax exemptions on everything from groceries to fire stations. Since the Governor does not support use of money from the popularly titled "rainy day fund," it should be an interesting 20 day January and early February session. The focus is likely to be on decreasing state spending instead of raising taxes during the legislative budget session in February.

"... reductions will continue, going forward, in the standard budget... We will budget fairly tightly because we can always adjust or change mid-biennium if we find that there's more money... I do not support going into the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account. We all have to get used to the idea that our high funding expectations are a thing of the past and that money is going to be tight." Governor Freudenthal <http://governor.wy.gov/press-releases/governors-predictions-for-revenue-decreases-confirmed-by-creg.html>

University of Wyoming

Tuition increase discussions

“University of Wyoming President Tom Buchanan proposed a tuition increase of \$5 per credit hour for the fiscal years 2011 and 2012 for resident undergraduate students and a proportional increase for nonresident undergraduate and all graduate students."I have said and continue to say that we should raise tuition at UW only if a compelling reason exists for it," Buchanan says. "If we are to have increases, I strongly believe they should be consistent, occur over a period of years and be modest." Federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided to UW would be used to defray the cost of the tuition increase in FY 2011 (2010-2011 academic year). That means while the tuition rate would change, no UW student would pay a higher tuition rate in that year.

The tuition increase is being proposed so UW can reach two significant goals, both of which have a direct impact on student learning. In budget cuts completed earlier this year, UW gave up funding for library collections that would allow it to apply for membership in the Greater Western Library Alliance, as well as funding gains for instructional excellence - resources and tools that students need for an optimal educational experience. UW fiscal estimates suggest that the revenue generated could be \$925,000 in FY2011 and \$1.85 million in FY2012 and would be applied equally only to library collections and excellence in education funds. "Our plans to pursue Greater Western Library Alliance membership and achieve our goals for excellence in education are essential to the quality of education that we provide our student," according to President Buchanan. -UW President's Outbox Nov. 13, 2009

Buildings and Remodeling Projects Continue

Two design projects have met goal objectives. A new Fine-Arts Center is in Level 2 of design with a proposed 2010 start date. The NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center passed the National Science Foundation Preliminary Design Review. The approval keeps the project on schedule for construction to begin in the spring 2010 and the facility to open in 2011.

Three on-going construction projects include the College of Business remodel and expansion (housed for the 2 year project duration in a dormitory), the new Helga Otto Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center. Grand Openings for the Library remodel and expansion, the Cheney International Studies building remodel, and the Information Technology Building have occurred over fall 2009.

Consultants have been busy with the UW Long Range Development Plan which was driven by the university mission as well as academic, support services, capital facilities and athletic facilities planning of the university. The master development plan is a dynamic document considering the long-term (more than 10 year) development of the campus. The final plan goes to the Board of Trustees in January 2010. One recent and new idea coming from the development planning process is a Community College building being planned for development on the East University campus. *Laramie County Community College* recently built a branch building located in Laramie but not on University land. The most interesting part of the facilities planning process for me has been to see urban concepts mixed with an open range rural state thought process. The following link is the most recent document presented to the campus community.

http://www.uwyo.edu/facilitiesupport/lrdp/docs/UW_Campus_Workshop%20102909.pdf

“Beginning of 2009-2010 Wyoming Governor requested 10% reductions and the University share was \$18.3 M Campus reduction in Budget”

As many other offices have experienced, UW has had a Hiring “squeeze”, reduction of inefficiencies, central salary management – 15 percent into pay grade, support budget reductions. In addition there were unit eliminations and other reorganizations, including a position reduction in the Office of Institutional Analysis. There was a reduction of 45 full-time classified staff and at-will positions at UW for FY 2010.

http://www.uwyo.edu/presidentsupport/outbox/2009/Budget%20Memo-June_4_to_campus%20FINAL.pdf

Wyoming Community Colleges

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

This has been a busy fall for IR practitioners at Wyoming's seven community colleges. During the summer of 2009, a task force (consisting of business leaders, legislators, and community college representatives) developed a draft of a state-wide strategic plan for Wyoming community colleges. The draft contains several strategies which will impact IR offices, including more data to support proposals for new programs of study and additional reporting requirements. Although the plan has not yet been formally adopted, the IR Committee (consisting of the IR staff at the seven colleges and staff members from the Wyoming Community College Commission) has met with academic and student services vice presidents to begin discussion of how to meet these anticipated new requirements; strategies under consideration include the development of a state-wide longitudinal database.

In addition to the strategic plan, there are several other state-wide projects in the works. Among these are new reports on distance education enrollment and concurrent/dual enrollment of high school students, as well as revisions to the current enrollment and core indicator reports to make them more useful and to comply with recent amendments to state statute. The Wyoming IR Committee also collaborates with Financial Aid offices and the Wyoming Department of Education in efforts to improve reporting on the Hathaway Scholarship Program. Finally, several members of the IR Committee, as well as other college representatives, recently attended a workshop on the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). All seven colleges participated in CCSSE as a consortium in spring 2009 and spring 2007. The workshop was to increase understanding of the data and share strategies for how to use the information for improving student engagement and retention.

Transitions

Colorado

Jacki Stirn retired following a Colorado career at Community College of Denver, Regis University, University of Colorado, WICHE, Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Jacki's contact information is jstirn@yahoo.com. Jacki Stirn wrote that she wants to thank her RMAIR colleagues for emeritus status. She adds that she is still hoping to get to a conference soon !

Idaho

Keith Ickes, formerly at Colorado State University, will be coming to the University of Idaho as the Executive Director of Planning and Budget. He will oversee the operations of the Budget Office as well as Institutional Research and Assessment. More information is available at <http://www.uidaho.edu/newsevents/Item?id=40378>.

New Mexico

Ron Jernigan retired from San Juan College on Sept 30, 2009. Ron's contact information is Jernigan@advantas.net. His address is 17 Road 3629 Aztec, NM 87410.

Wyoming

Connie Brizuela retired from the University of Wyoming in July 2009. Connie's contact information is Hanuman@uwyo.edu. Her address is 1018 S 17th St Laramie, WY 82070.

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