

**Letter from the Director**

Dr. Omnia El-Hakim



The diversity initiatives in the college of engineering at Colorado State University are growing bigger every year. One of these initiatives is the Women and Minorities in Engineering Program (WMEP). Similar to COAMP, WMEP is dedicated to maintaining an inclusive and supportive environment for all of our students. Engineering excellence through diversity is the goal of all our programs,

and we are committed to recruiting and retaining women and people of color who are traditionally underrepresented in this field.

Our recruitment and retention programs target underrepresented populations, providing opportunities to develop their interests and help them prepare for science, technology engineering, and math (STEM) fields. All of our diversity programs are indicators of the institutionalization that has been supported by the College of Engineering and the University. We are building a strong, diverse community that embraces the creative ideas that minority groups can contribute to STEM research and projects. In doing so, we come closer to the goal of finding the best solutions to our global challenges.

"All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them." ~Walt Disney



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**Upcoming 2005 Events**

**May 31-July 30:** PEAKS Undergraduate Research Opportunity at CSU. See website for details: <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~agep>

**June 6-July 23:** (CIT) Colorado Institute of Technology Summer Bridge Program. Contact Omnia El-Hakim or Aaron Benally for more information at 970 491-4357.

**June 12-25:** (MSP) Math and Science Partnership Middle School Summer Camp. Contact Omnia El-Hakim or Aaron Benally for more information call 970 491-4357, and Gary Metzger at 970 491-2898.

**June 26- July 22:** JETS Unite Summer Bridge Program at CSU. Contact Omnia El-Hakim or Aaron Benally for more information call 970 491-4357.

**Colorado School of Mines  
SUMMET Program**

Jahi Simbai, MEP, CSM

The Colorado School of Mines Minority Engineering Program (MEP) hosted the 34th Annual SUMMET (Summer Minority Engineering Training) Program on the Mines campus from June 7-26, 2004. Forty high school sophomores and juniors, from 6 states attended the program.

SUMMET is a science and engineering program for talented 10th-11th grade minority students, who are strong in science and math. Combining class work, hands-on projects, industry tours, field trips, sporting activities and social events, SUMMET is designed to simulate the lifestyle and rigors of college.

SUMMET 2005 students stayed in Mines residence halls and received instruction in trigonometry, calculus, chemistry, geology, computer science and advanced engineering concepts. The SUMMET aim is to help students grow academically and socially, and promises an experience that will last a lifetime.



*SUMMET students take a trip to CSM's Experimental Mine.*

**FLC AISES Students Attend 26<sup>th</sup>  
Annual National  
Conference**

W. Patrick Kincaid



The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) students from Fort Lewis College (FLC) attended the 26<sup>th</sup> annual national conference last week in Anchorage, Alaska.

The conference is designed to provide opportunities for young, aspiring Native American students including high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, as well as professional members.

The conference kicked off with the opening ceremony, dedicated to Phil Lane, Sr., who was a member of AISES "Council of Elders."

Phil made his transition to the spirit world on March 29, 2004. According to Shirley LaCourse, Higher Education Program Manager, AISES was developed as a result of Phil's vision.

Tina Warner, FLC senior and AISES President, said, "I was moved by the opening ceremony. It became apparent immediately that AISES was a family and that this was a spiritual gathering."

The conference also showcased a career fair with representatives from federal agencies, colleges, and businesses, all trying to recruit AISES members.

Sarah Wachacha, a junior at FLC, was happily surprised by all the summer internships and opportunities to network with potential employers. "I had no idea there would be so many possible internships available. I gained a ton of contacts from the fair." (See page 2)

**Spring 2005****Saturday Morning  
Engineering Club**

Aaron Benally, WMEP Coord.

The Saturday Morning Engineering Club is a hands-on program through which girls in the 4th-6th grade level learn about engineering principles and participate in a math enrichment class. The instructors and mentors are all female engineering and science students from Colorado State University. The program lasts for 8 Saturdays from 8:15 AM to 12:00 PM during the fall semester of every year.



This year we had 30 girls from surrounding schools participate in this program. Students were introduced to Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering. They had hands on experience with electrical circuits, making lotions, designing airplanes and testing water quality.

The program is sponsored by the Xcel Energy Foundation. The goal of the Xcel Energy Foundation is to use our collective knowledge, resources, and skills to meet the needs of our communities, and to ensure that Xcel Energy's service area is a highly desirable place for all citizens to live, work, or own a business.

### CSU Native American Students Services (NASS) Office Expands

*Alex Christy, NASS Student*

Native American Student Services at Colorado State University is new and improved! The 2004-2005 school year has seen the introduction of two new programs, as well as the successful continuation of several others.

New to NASS this year are the Eagle Feather Tutoring Program and the North Star Peer Mentoring Program. Both are student-centered and –staffed programs that have seen increasing success as the year marches on. Peer mentors work on a volunteer basis, for course credit, to act as a resource for any students (not just Native students) who need help with study skills, adjusting to college life, or general guidance. The Eagle Feather Tutoring Program

currently employs 7 tutors, available to all students on a walk-in or by-appointment basis.

Returning for 2005 is the annual NASS Powwow. Native American Student Services' most successful yearly event, this year's Powwow is titled "Heartbeat of One People" and will take place the weekend of April 16-17. NASS also hosted a Leadership Retreat in early 2005. The day-long retreat focused on leadership and communication skills, as well as team-building and organizational leadership and success.

NASS is very pleased with our recent additions and look forward to future events and success!

For more information, contact Native American Student Services at: (970) 491-1332 or online at <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/nass/>



**Native American Student Services**  
218 Lory Student Center; CSU; Fort Collins, CO 80523-8013 Phone: 970.491.1332 Fax: 970.491.2659

### Recognition Events at Metropolitan State College of Denver

*Dr. Larry Johnson, Site Coordinator*

During the regular academic year, the Metropolitan State College LS CO-AMP Program hosts a Recognition Dinner each semester for its students, their guests, and MSCD faculty and staff who support the Program. At these events which we call Celebration of Academic Success Dinners, we honor the progress of our students and recognize our graduating seniors. The students are presented with Stipend for Success Awards which are monetary awards for having successfully completed the courses in their majors during the previous semester. These are presented by the CO-AMP Steering Committee which is composed of faculty at the College.

Each event features a guest speaker who talks about his or her career and the trials that he/she faced in reaching this level of success. Most talk about personal experiences or previous acquaintances that have faced such adversity in accomplishing their goals.



COAMP Students with Dr. Johnson at the Bi-annual Recognition Dinner

The speakers for the last two dinners on April 10, 2003 and November 6, 2003 were Dr. James Platt, Chair of the Department of Biology at MSCD and Mr. Dave Aguilera, weekend weatherman on Channel 4 TV News.

Both gave excellent motivational presentations that our students appreciated. The Dinners were hosted by Dr. Larry Johnson, Site Coordinator and the members of the Faculty Steering Committee. Dr. Omnia El Hakim, Project Director for LS CO-AMP also spoke at the November 6, 2003, event. All of these events are funded by the MSCD Diversity Committee.



### FLC AISES

#### (cont'd from page 1)

On the last day of the conference, there were over 40 workshops available for the AISES members to attend

Edmond Tso, Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) AISES President, came away from the "Sustainable Energy Development" workshop feeling that Native Americans have a huge role in America's future. "If we (Native Americans) can all encourage our Tribe to develop alternative energy systems, we would not only strengthen our sovereignty, but also be able to provide energy for all of North America."

The conference ended with the closing circle, and many students spoke of how the conference had touched them spiritually.

Jade Camaren, a sophomore at FLC, was one of the students who felt spiritually strengthened. "I came here expecting to network with schools and professionals in the medical community, and I did. Probably more important though, was the spiritual connection I made with many of the participants, and the spiritual impact the AISES circle had on me."

The conference made the FLC AISES chapter a tighter unit and bonds were made that will last a lifetime.

### FRCC CO-AMP

*Jim Voss, FRCC Former Site Coordinator*



The CO-AMP program at FRCC continues to flourish. Our program this past year included guest speakers, field trips, and scholarship awards.

Our sponsored speakers included an Engineer from Rocky Flats who discussed details of the cleanup, an Engineer from Northrop Grumman who discussed summer internships with the company, and an economist who spoke about the economics of climate change. Our group of participating students was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet with such people that actually work in fields of their interests. This type of small group interaction with professionals was very inspiring to our students.

Our sponsored field trips included a trip to NCAR which was a great hit. The special tour that NCAR arranged for us was fantastic. It started with an information video about NCAR and its mission. We were then taken to a lab where computer demonstrations of global warming and ozone depletion engaged the students. Finally, we were shown one of the first rockets designed by NCAR that was sent into space to retrieve a sample of frozen "air".

Our scholarship program was a big hit as well. We gave away a handful of competitive scholarships to qualifying students. Direct aid is greatly appreciated by our community college students, most of whom are working hard to support themselves and their families.

### Position Changes at CSUCO-AMP

*Susan McCoy, LS CO-AMP Grad. Asst.*

Patricia Wright the administrative assistant for CO-AMP at CSU is retiring this May. She started working at the Colorado Alliance for Minority Participation program in 1998. Tricia has worked most of her career in the College of Engineering (Electrical and Civil Engineering Departments) and a short stint in the Mathematics Department. She has always felt that students should be encouraged to reach their full potential and succeed.



At the time Tricia started her career at Colorado State University in 1982, she worked with an electric typewriter and many sheets of carbon paper, later moving on to a stand-alone word processor.

Now each office has a computer and can print many sheets of paper! She admits that it has been challenging, but rewarding in keeping up with the many technology changes.

Tricia is looking forward to getting reacquainted with her house/yard, watching grandchildren grow, renewing friendships, building upon lost time, and (if gas prices go down) some travel time.

Ty Smith the CO-AMP Project Coordinator has also resigned his position to serve as Director for the Native American Student Services (NASS) Program at Colorado State University. This is an excellent opportunity for Ty and he has been a wonderful asset to the NASS program.



Ty stated that he was able to take the experience he gained from CO-AMP and quickly establish programs such as the North Star Peer Mentoring Program and the Eagle Feather Tutoring Program which were established in August 2004, expanding the services available to students through the NASS office. He added, "I look forward to keeping my connections with CO-AMP and its site coordinators. I also would like to thank all the site coordinators for their involvement in an important program such as CO-AMP."

Omnia would also like to say, "Both Ty and Tricia have made invaluable contributions to CO-AMP over the years and they will be missed".



Gary Metzger is our new CO-AMP Project Coordinator. He will also be the CSU Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Math Science Partnership (RMMSP), the new NSF funded summer science camp for middle school students, for which CU-Denver is the lead institution.

Gary is returning to CSU after graduating in 1998 from the School of Education's Project Promise Program for "Professionals with a Mission to Education". He has since taught Science and Math at the secondary school level, and most recently has been working as a Civil Engineer for the City of Cheyenne.

Gary and his wife, Kristen, traded the ocean around Long Island, New York for the Rocky Mountains of Colorado in 1997. Gary had been accepted into the Project Promise Program at CSU to change his career from engineering to education. He is excited to be back in the education profession and to have the opportunity to act on his passion for helping students be what they want to be and to reach their potential. Gary is a lifelong learner and personally enjoys the fields of science, engineering, technology, and mathematics (how convenient!). He, his wife, their 3 year old daughter, and greyhound enjoy camping in the Rocky Mountains and stargazing at the night sky.