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

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 call 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.

Spring 2005

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The Colorado School of Mines Mining School has been committed to diversity and inclusion since its founding. We are proud to announce that we have a strong and growing student body of underrepresented minorities. Our programs are designed to support students from all backgrounds and provide them with the tools they need to succeed in their academic and professional careers.

The SUMMET Program 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 at 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.

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) students from Fort Lewis College (FLC) attended the 26th 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.

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 professional employers. “I had no idea there would be so many possible internships available. I gained a ton of contacts from the fair.”

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.

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.

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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 event this year’s Powwow is titled “Heartbeat of One People,” and will take place the weekend of April 15-17. 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.

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

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