



## Keeping Pace with World Changes — The University of Colorado Boulder MEP Celebrates 25th Anniversary

One of the most successful retention programs in the nation, the University of Colorado-Boulder's Minority Engineering Program (MEP), is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Founded in 1973

with only six students, the program today boasts 177 African American, Hispanic, and Native American students, with an 87 percent retention rate for returning freshmen to sophomore students. MEP Director and CO-AMP Site Coordinator/Co-PI, Dr. Germán Núñez, states that this doubles the national average, translating into an increased number of MEP graduates each year. Núñez cites several strategies that add up to academic success, such as group study sessions, weekly tutorials in classes such as physics, chemistry, and calculus, and



*Dr. Germán Núñez, Director, MEP, University of Colorado-Boulder and CO-AMP Co-PI/Site Coordinator*

leadership, skill-building, and career awareness workshops.

The UCB MEP program honored CO-AMP at their 12th annual MEP Awards Banquet for "valuable contributions to the empowerment and education of underrepresented minorities." This recognition is greatly appreciated, but we realize it cannot be done without the hard work of many, and the brilliance of incredible students!

### Attention . . . Wrong Web Site Address!

Please note that an incorrect web site address was listed in the Spring 1998 newsletter. The correct web site address for CO-AMP is <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~coamp>.

As we are continually updating the site, we look forward to any comments or suggestions that you may have as to how we can better serve our visitors. Please contact Dr. Brenda Martin at [bmartin@engr.colostate.edu](mailto:bmartin@engr.colostate.edu) with your ideas.



## Navajo President and CO-AMP Leader Awarded NAACP Award

Navajo President, Thomas Atcity, an active CO-AMP leader, was recently awarded the Medgar Evers Award by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). NAACP President Kweisi Mfume gave the award in the name of Evers, a civil rights leader slain in 1963, to President Atcity for his work toward eliminating the unwillingness of people to "accept us as we are, to see where we can contribute — and have." Atcity spent 14 years in the New Mexico House of Representatives as a Navajo Nation Council delegate, as President of Diné College, and as a leader of the Navajo Health Authority.

Mr. Atcity represents the dedication and commitment of the people who are working with CO-AMP in creating partnerships in which all voices are heard and respected.



## Fort Lewis College Hosts 7th Annual Intertribal Science Bowl in Conjunction with AISES Regional Conference

**O**n Feb. 20 and 21, Fort Lewis College was besieged with hundreds of excited and eager Native American youths. Kicking the weekend off was the joint 9th Annual Southwest Regional and 8th Annual Northern Arizona Professional AISES Conference, hosted each year by FLC to expose students to opportunities in mathematics, science, and engineering. Cultural workshops, a career fair, and hands-on lab experiments demonstrated to students the opportunities for careers in these fields, while maintaining strong culture and traditional ties.

Day two was highlighted by the academic performance of 59 science bowl teams from predominantly Indian high schools located all over the country. Taking third place, Shiprock High School team members Nedlaya Francisco, Shandi Smith, Greg Bigman, and William Phillips demonstrated their knowledge of physics, as-

tronomy, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, and mathematics, coached by science teacher Sam Dayzie. First place winners were from Tahlequah, Okla., and will compete with other regional winners in May in Chevy Chase, Md. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the 1999 event will take place at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.



*Students confer on answers at the National Intertribal Science Bowl, held at Fort Lewis College in February.*

## Colorado State University Student Wins National Award

**B**iology major Tanisha Hamilton won second place in the Technical Research Competition held at the National Society of Black Engineers and Scientists (NSBES) Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in March. Hamilton was one of 12

CSU students who attended the conference.

Increasing their membership by 58 percent, CSU NSBES also took 15 members to the Regional Conference in San Jose, Calif., where they received the Small Chapter of the Year Award for their outstanding programs, retention ability, workshops, academic standing, technical excellence, and community service. The CSU Chapter also received the 3.0 Crew Award for having the most members with a 3.0 or better GPA, and five of its members – Tylanda Johnson, James White, Shallon Coleman, Meseret Abebe, and Tanisha Hamilton – received additional academic awards.

*Congratulations to an incredible group of students for a job well done!*



*CSU's Society of Black Engineers and Scientists at 1998 National Conference.*

## Metropolitan State College of Denver Hosts Spring Conference

**O**n April 24, Metropolitan State College of Denver's CO-AMP program hosted a *Spring Conference* for more than 40 current and potential CO-AMP students, as well as transfer students from area community colleges. Speakers included Dr. Omnia El-Hakim, CO-AMP PI and Project Director, MSCD Professor Dr. Wilton Flemon, and several MSCD Student Service specialists. Dave Aragon from the nationally recognized INROADS program spoke about career development in business and industry for talented underrepresented minorities, with Dr. Gabriella Weaver, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Colorado-Denver, speaking at the noon luncheon.

## Bridges Built Between CO-AMP and LAMP

**T**he Louisiana Alliance for Minority Participation and CO-AMP are working on building strong bridges for graduate student opportunities and faculty diversity workshops. Louisiana's Southern University delegation and Dr. Robert Ford, Vice Chancellor of Research and LAMP Project Director, visited the CSU campus May 15 and 16 to discuss opportunities with CSU President Dr. Albert Yates, Dr. Jud Harper, Vice President of Research

and Information Technology, and CO-AMP Project Director Dr. Omnia El-Hakim. Graduate study linkages will be created among LAMP students, CSU, and the University of Colorado. Workshops to train and educate faculty about diversity will be held in Colorado and conducted by Southern University faculty trainers. For further information, contact Dr. Omnia El-Hakim at (970) 247-7160 or via e-mail at [elhakim\\_o@fortlewis.edu](mailto:elhakim_o@fortlewis.edu).



## Undergraduate Research — A Great Opportunity to Explore the World

**S**eeeking out opportunities to broaden her educational experience, Eileen Henniger, a Colorado State University 1998 zoology graduate, spent her Christmas break in Nicaragua studying mantled howler monkeys. A Native Alaskan, Eileen received a \$400 grant from the Colorado State University CO-AMP program to participate in this month-long undergraduate research project.



*CSU zoology graduate, Eileen Henniger, observing a mantled howler monkey during a research trip to Nicaragua.*

This summer, Eileen and three other CO-AMP students will present their research at the 6th Annual National Science Foundation and Alliance for Minority Participation Research Conference (ARC) in Pablo, Mont., July 17-20. The other three students are Anderson Manybeads from Diné College, Damon Jacobs from Fort Lewis College, and Damon McCoy from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Melendy Caboni, from Diné College, will act as an alternate presenter. The students will have the opportunity to meet other AMP students from around the nation, network with corporate and government representatives

## CO-AMP Receives Diversity Award

**D**r. Al Yates, Colorado State University President and CO-AMP Governing Board Chair, awarded CO-AMP the CSU 1997-98 Outstanding Service for Diversity Award for having contributed the most to CSU's diversity goals over the past year. Dr. Omnia El-Hakim, PI/Project Director, accepted the \$2,000 cash award and plaque on behalf of all of those involved with the program, and in honor of the students we serve. The award will be used to help fund student participation to the NSF/AMP Research Conference in Montana this summer.

at a career fair, participate in various workshops, explore the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Indian reservation on various scientific and cultural excursions, and even do a little white water rafting!

CO-AMP will be coordinating the oral and poster presentations and if you have any questions about the conference, please contact Dr. Brenda Martin at (970) 491-2898 or via e-mail at [bmartin@engr.colostate.edu](mailto:bmartin@engr.colostate.edu).

## CO-AMP Main Office Staff Changes

**W**ith more than 26 years at Colorado State University, CO-AMP's Margaret Reuss recently retired from her duties as Administrative Assistant. Margaret played not only a key role in helping to get CO-AMP up and running since Jan. 1, 1997, but was instrumental in compiling and completing the original grant to NSF.

Donna Gordon will also be leaving CO-AMP as of June 5, 1998. We will miss her as she too has played an extremely important role in CO-AMP over the past year.

However, joining CO-AMP until January 1999, will be Linda Jensen. Linda has been at CSU's College of Engineering for almost 20 years and will divide her time between

## Steering Committee/Task Force Meeting April 9

**T**he CO-AMP Steering Committee and Task Forces met in Denver on April 9. Dr. El-Hakim updated the group on the recent NSF budget cut, strategies that address these issues, and the revised program goals that focus on retention and graduation. Dr. Karen Spear, Dean of Arts and Sciences at Fort Lewis College, shared curricula for two exciting courses, Human Heritage and Comp 150, and how they might be relevant for CO-AMP students at other participating institutions. Dr. Don May, FLC Site Coordinator and MARS Data Consultant, updated the group on the data collecting procedures he has implemented. Site Coordinators provided updates on activities at CO-AMP participating institutions. Highlights of the meetings included the participation of all of CO-AMP's tribal partners, as well as other representatives from corporations, government agencies, and professional organizations. The next meeting will be held in Denver Oct. 22.

CO-AMP and the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Students in the College of Engineering. She can be reached at (970) 491-6220 or via e-mail at [ljensen@engr.colostate.edu](mailto:ljensen@engr.colostate.edu).

Joanie Graham, an accounting specialist with the College of Engineering, will be assisting CO-AMP in regards to billing and general accounting procedures. Joanie, who has been very instrumental in getting CO-AMP's financial reporting procedures established, can be reached Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at (970) 491-2943, or at (970) 491-2934 at any other time. She can also be reached via e-mail at [jgraham@engr.colostate.edu](mailto:jgraham@engr.colostate.edu).



## Letter from the Director

**S**pring semester has been

filled with surprises and challenges. We did not receive official notice from NSF about



our award until late March 1998. Up until that time, phone calls and e-mails between myself and AMP Program Director, Dr. Arthur Hicks, indicated that we would be supported at the level requested and that we were to proceed with programs and activities as planned. It was quite a shock when I finally received notice that our grant money was being cut by approximately 30% for Year 2 due to new federal evaluation regulations.

Under the new regulations, a formula has been applied to each of the 27 AMPs nationwide to make funding proportionate to the total number of underrepresented minority students graduating with a SMET degree. The number of CO-AMP graduates for 1996-97 was significantly fewer than the number required by the new regulations, which in turn led to the reduction of our funding.

Once we received news of the budget reduction, the CO-AMP Management Team and Site Coordinators began to re-evaluate all programs and activities for effectiveness in student retention and graduation. This was a formidable task, and I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of you who performed throughout this process as a team of professionals.

To aggressively prevent further NSF funding cuts, CO-AMP programs and activities in years 2 and 3 will focus on the retention and graduation of upper-class students, while funding for entering freshman bridges and recruiting programs will not be supported by CO-AMP. Programs that encourage and inform students transferring from community colleges to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions, emphasize undergraduate research opportunities and professional organization activities, and increase tutoring and mentoring programs will be increased. Also, the addition of two new participating, baccalaureate degree-granting institutions, Adams State College and the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, will assist us in meeting the graduation requirements of the new federal regulations.

Additionally, the CO-AMP Governing Board will solicit funding support for our programs and activities through its ties with individual institutions, state government, industry, and federal government agencies. This support is critical, as federal grants are usually of limited duration, and the need to institutionalize CO-AMP programs and activities is one of our five-year goals. Increased graduation rates make good sense – an educated local labor force leads to an increased tax base which leads to an increased standard of living, decreased social welfare, and decreased unemployment.

We know that CO-AMP programs and activities during our first year have had a positive impact – 20 percent increase in the total enrollment of underrepresented minority students in SMET disciplines at our participating institutions! We also know that over time we will see significant increases in the numbers of underrepresented minority students graduating with baccalaureate degrees here in Colorado and the Four Corners region.

As the old African saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child"; it will take all of us to retain and graduate our CO-AMP students.



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Visit our Web site:  
<http://lamar.colostate.edu/~coamp>

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