



PHASE

A Newsletter of Skaggs Center Internships

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March 2010

UCAR and Metro State host Latino STEM Listening Conference



View from the Tivoli Center, Auraria Campus, Denver, on March 2, 2010, for the conference, "Meeting the Challenge of Metro Denver's Future: Preparing a diverse next generation of weather and climate professionals." The conference was sponsored by UCAR in Boulder and Metro State College on the Auraria Campus.

The mission for the conference was to: Increase Latino involvement in weather and climate science in order to enhance the diversity of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) workforce, broaden participation in the green economy, and ensure equity in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

The desired outcomes of the conference were to:

- ◆ Identify the current strengths and the future opportunities that will serve the mission;
 - ◆ Identify Key/priority opportunities and partners needed;
 - ◆ Begin to develop strategies and action plans to develop the identified opportunities;
 - ◆ Understand the next steps.
- The conference opened with a working executive breakfast attended by more than twenty participants who presented remarks for attracting more Latinos into STEM areas of study which would lead to STEM careers. Of particular note was the presence of NOAA representatives, Dr. Eduardo Araujo, NOAA/CIRES, Janet Intreiri, NOAA ESRL, representing Dr. Alexander MacDonald, Ann Thorne, ESRL GMD and ESRL Student Program Manager, and Tony Tafoya, with the ESRL PHASE Student Program.
- Dr Araujo stressed that the increase of Hispanic students enrolling in higher education was not on par with the increase at the K-12 levels. He pointed out that the dynamic of Latino families was different

from the general population, and that for a successful student, a family needed to be attracted and involved in the education of the child. He said that as a key component of the STEM pipeline, we should place a greater value on teachers and their role in the education of our youth. Other speakers presented their views on identifying the problem and suggested possible solutions.

After the breakfast the participants who signed up for the conference convened into various small groups to discuss strategies that would lead to identified opportunities for action.

As a prelude to the discussion groups, Marina LaGrave, UCAR, provided a welcome and an overview. Dr. Christine Johnson, University of Colorado at Denver, cited statistics on the status of Latinos in the population and in educational achievement.

Stan Sena, SNAP Staffing Services, spoke on his career beginning with his graduation from Metro, earning his JD and starting his business career. He said that if we wanted to create green careers, we had to ensure that there would be green jobs.

The group we (NOAA) participated in discussed the need to support the MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) program and to support teachers and include families as part of the educational process. Rick Anthes, UCAR President, stated that it was difficult for a scientist to address the whole issue of dropouts and non graduation rates, but that he could identify

some summer employment jobs for which Latinos and others could apply. Our group reported out on the following: Create a collaborative approach that utilizes business people and scientists to expose students to STEM disciplines and career options—this must also involve teachers and families.

The luncheon speaker was Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper. He provided an entertaining and insightful message for the inclusion of Latinos into the fabric of Colorado's future.

After the luncheon participants returned to their groups to finalize their action plans to address the mission statement. In our group we decided to support the UCAR open house which will be held in the next few months. We agreed to invite Latinos and other organizations to participate and share their program objectives at the open house. We also discussed various strategies for a sustained effort to address the Latino drop out issue and the non participation in STEM curricula. We agreed to continue to meet and pursue an agenda that would lead to furthering the discussion on an action oriented agenda that would address an increase in Latino participation in STEM programs.

Another agreed upon strategy was to develop a relationship with the COLABS (Colorado Laboratories, e.g. CU, UCAR, NOAA, NIST, and others) to develop a unified strategy of action.

A SAMPLING OF RECENT PHASE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Invited to serve as science fair judges at CU for the Roche sponsored Regional Science Fair held on February 23, 2010



From Left: Janet Intreiri and Ann Thorne, both with ESRL in Boulder, at the Latinos in STEM conference.



Dr. Christine Johnson, University of Colorado at Denver with Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper prior to his luncheon talk.



Standing from Left: Lauren Coyne, Namaste Solar, Dr. Eduardo Araujo, NOAA/CIRES, and Marina LaGrave, UCAR, at our discussion table.



Metropolitan State College of Denver along with UCAR from Boulder were the prime sponsors of the conference to improve Latino participation in STEM.

Education, Science, Careers

A SAMPLING OF RECENT PHASE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



Ann Thorne and Tony Tafoya were invited to participate in the Boulder County Work Force Job Fair held at A Spice of Life Event Center in Boulder on March 4, 2010. We handed out the PHASE brochure and a hand out of how to interview for a job.



From Left: Dr. Steven Koch, ESRL/GSD Director, with Blacks In Government members Dennis Smith, Richard Shields, and Wilford Buggs at the Black History Month program



Keynote speaker Genola Smith with Byron Louis, NOAA National Weather Service/DAPM, prior to Genola's talk. (Ann Thorne serves as Secretary for the BIG Boulder County chapter.)



Tom LeFebvre, GSD, gave the Science on a Sphere presentation to ATOC students and their sponsor Laurie Conway. Rhonda Lang invited Ann Thorne and Tony Tafoya to brief the students on the PHASE program on March 5, 2010.

Education, Science, Careers

The Objectives of the ESRL Intern Program

- A. To seek a broad development and expansion of internship opportunities for high school, college and graduate students and high school teachers.
- B. To assist and encourage NOAA organizations in establishing goals and identifying the best possible sources for the recruitment, employment, training and advancement of student Interns.
- C. To encourage and actively support the promotion and advancement of Interns already employed.
- D. To analyze and determine the educational and professional needs of students seeking entry and advancement in employment; and, whenever possible, provide appropriate training and counseling services to meet these needs.
- E. To establish and continually upgrade a broad range of contact with supervisors and Interns across the country via personal visits, telephone calls, e-mails, and periodic newsletters.
- F. To respond to the reasonable requests from non-NOAA groups for student referrals when their objectives are supportable and similar to the ESRL PHASE program.
- G. To enhance the promotion of student excellence, pride, and camaraderie through organized and regular social gatherings which will serve to bind students together.
- H. To provide a forum for major research issues of local and national significance so that students may be better informed and may express their views through seminar presentations before their peers and supervisors.

Key Advisory Board Functions

The key functions performed by the PHASE Advisory Board include: **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues**, **Membership and Outreach**, and **Consultation with Students and Supervisors**. The following is a brief description of each function:

Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues

The advocacy function is performed when advisory board members take a pro-active role in seeing that an employment related issue is addressed by the appropriate community, education or government organization. This function typically involves the following: assisting students and parents with local school issues, e.g. summer jobs, internships, grades and course requirements; informing the local community on student internship opportunities; and researching employment opportunities and various employment related topics such as housing, travel, and community demographics.

Membership and Outreach

The membership committee is charged with an ongoing program of recruiting and retaining members of the Advisory Board. This involves coordinating a yearly membership drive for new members. The outreach function is performed by going out into the community to explain NOAA internship programs and communicating the assistance that can be provided. Typically, this function involves attending meetings and briefings, networking with NOAA agency representatives, providing orientation briefings to newcomers, attending training sessions and education workshops - both as participants and presenters.

Consultation

Consultation services are typically private and are provided to students, parents and teachers who need explanations related to PHASE documents and procedures. This function typically involves mediating an issue at the lowest level before it escalates and assisting the ESRL Student Coordinator with employee issues.



***PHASE* is a publication
of the ESRL Student
Coordinator**

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PHASE seeks to inform
Employees and students on
Employment programs and
Internships.

Editors: Tony Tafoya and
Ann Thorne

MISSION

The mission of the Practical Hands on Application to Science Education (PHASE) program is to have students benefit from a science intern program at a Federal facility.

The objectives of the program are (1) for laboratories to identify student projects that provide a learning environment and focus on practical hands-on activities; (2) to provide laboratories with profiles of students who have an interest in considering NOAA and science in general as a positive career choice; and (3) to inform students of career opportunities in NOAA.

For more information visit: PHASE@noaa.gov and esrl.noaa.gov/outreach/student_programs

A REMINDER FOR SUPERVISORS WHO NEED SUMMER STUDENTS.

Please identify jobs for:

High School students as
PHASE I;
College students as
PHASE II;
Graduate students as
PHASE III.

Send projections to Ann Thorne
ann.thorne@noaa.gov

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

NOAA/OAR/ESRL
NOAA/NWS/SWPC
NOAA/NESDIS/NGDC
NIST
NTIA
Workforce Boulder County

HIGHER EDUCATION:

University of Colorado/CIRES
CU SORCE Program

COMMUNITY:

SACNAS
MESA
AISES
National Image, Inc.
Blacks-In-Government (BIG)

SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

Boulder Valley (BVSD)
St. Vrain Valley (SVVSD)



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Please add me to newsletter mailing list. (Please print or type.) Issue #3, 2010

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Home Address or School Address	
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