

The official e-communication  
for Colorado MESA

# eNews



Welcome to the April 9, 2007 - Volume I, Edition 3 of the Colorado MESA e-News electronic newsletter. Please let us know how we can assist your MESA program and make a positive difference for our MESA students. For more information on any

item mentioned in the newsletter, please contact our office at 303.352.3869 or via email at [victor.vialpando@cudenver.edu](mailto:victor.vialpando@cudenver.edu). In this edition, you'll find information on the Outstanding MESA Student Nomination, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual MESA Awards Banquet, 2007 Summer Enrichment Program Opportunities, our new staff member and much more. To view past newsletters or print a pdf version of the current issue, visit [www.cmesa.org/news.html](http://www.cmesa.org/news.html)

## **Deadline – Friday, April 13, 2007** **Outstanding MESA Student Nomination**

The 2007 Outstanding MESA Student Award recognizes 15 outstanding MESA students from around the state. Out of more than 3,000 students, the 15 outstanding MESA students have shown exemplary leadership, creativity and commitment to MESA's mission. As an outstanding student award recipient, students receive a reconditioned Pentium based PC computer and recognition at Colorado MESA's annual awards banquet in May. **Application deadline is Friday, April 13, 2007.**

### **Eligibility**

- Current MESA student.
- Attend the 16th Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Students must be present at the awards banquet to receive honor.
- Submit completed application by **Friday, April 13, 2007**

### **Selection**

Selection criteria used by our panel to select the finalist will include: GPA, MESA participation, academic and other honors. It is beneficial to include any additional awards, honors, volunteer activities, work experience and/or other community involvement you would like the selection panel to consider. For additional instructions and to download the application, [click here >>](#)



## **A World of Opportunities: Science & Math** **16<sup>th</sup> Annual MESA Awards Dinner**

**Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

Denver Museum of Nature and Science at 6:00PM

We have a limited number of complimentary seats available for MESA students and advisors. Due to the overwhelming response to past luncheons, we are limiting each school's complimentary seats to 9 students and 1 advisor. If you wish to bring more students, you have 2 options:

- **Option #1**

You may opt to place additional students on a waitlist for the dinner. If extra seats are available, wait list students will be added on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to select this option, check Option #1 on the RSVP form.

- **Option #2**

You may choose to guarantee seats for all students who wish to attend by paying \$20 for each student you bring over the 9 student limit. This fee is not refundable and your check must accompany your RSVP. If you would like to select this option, check Option #2 on the RSVP form and enclose a check for \$20/per student.

We will continue to accept reservations until all seats are full. We encourage you to get your RSVP and check to us ASAP because there are many more MESA students and advisors in Colorado than there are seats available at the awards Dinner. Industry sponsors are paying for the complimentary seats so we want to make sure that we fill every one available. DO NOT email RSVP form. Deposits MUST accompany your RSVP form. [Click here to download RSVP form >>](#)

## **MESA Legislative Campaign Update**

House Bill 1243 – *Funding to Support Science-Orientated After-School Programs* successfully passed the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading on the Senator floor on Wednesday, April 4, 2007. The next step is final approval by the House and then the official signing by Governor Bill Ritter within a few weeks.

Thank you to all who supported Colorado MESA in our 2007 Legislative Campaign. A special thanks to HB 1243 sponsors and friends of MESA, [Representative Nancy Todd](#) and [Senator Suzanne Williams](#). With their continued support and assistance, HB 1243 is now a reality.

## **2007 Summer Enrichment Programs**

**Colorado School of Mines PREP  
Deadline Extended - Friday, May 11, 2007**

Colorado School of Mines' Preparation for Engineering Program (PREP) is a science and engineering program for talented 8th and 9th grade minority students who are strong in science and math. Combining class work, hands-on projects, industry tours, and social events, PREP is an excellent stepping stone to the lifestyle and rigors of college. Participating students from the Denver Metro area will receive instruction in algebra, chemistry, geology, computer science and basic engineering concepts. PREP aims to help students grow academically and socially, and promises an experience that will last a lifetime!  
[Click here for more information >>](#)





## Middle School Summer Science and Technology Camp

The University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center (UCDHSC), the Center for Pre-Collegiate Programs (CPCP), and the Center for Applied Science and Mathematics for Innovation and Competitiveness (CASMIC) are sponsoring a summer science and technology camp (Nonresidential) for middle school students (students in 7th thru 9th grade in Fall 2007). The camp will consist of six one-week sessions beginning in June.

Each day will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Daily attendance is required. All sessions will be held at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, Downtown Denver Auraria Campus (located at Speer and Colfax). The topics will vary each week and will include topics like environmental science, air quality, robots, mapping and global positioning systems (GPS), and crime scene investigations. Each session is \$250.00. A \$50.00 nonrefundable deposit for each session will be required upon registration. The remaining balance will be due one week prior to the start of the session. **Scholarships are available for students. To apply for the program and the scholarship, contact Leticia Ky-Estrada at 303.556.2322 or by email at [Leticia.Ky-Estrada@cudenver.edu](mailto:Leticia.Ky-Estrada@cudenver.edu). [Click here for more information >>](#)**

## Robots and more robots! FIRST Robotics



Congratulations to East High School, St. Vrain MESA, John F. Kennedy High School, CEC Middle College and George Washington High School on competing in the 2007 FIRST Robotics Competition at the University of Denver on March 29, 2007.

The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is an exciting, multinational competition that teams professionals and young people to solve an engineering design problem in an intense and competitive way. The program is a life-changing, career-molding experience—and a lot of fun.

In 2006, the competition reached over 28,000 high-school-aged young people on over 1,125 teams in 33 regional events. FRC teams came from Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Israel, Mexico, the U.K., and almost every U.S. state.

## WIRED Project Coordinator

Colorado MESA would like to welcome Calvin Pohawpatchoko to the MESA team. Calvin started last week as the new WIRED Project Coordinator for MESA. His experience and education provide a solid base and broad understanding that reflect extensive successful experience with project leadership and project management within education institutions. Calvin has a BS in Computer Science/Information Systems and a Master's in Object Oriented Technology with Honors. In



addition, he is working towards his PhD in Educational Technology.

The JumpStart WIRED award will accelerate replication of Colorado MESA's successful pre-collegiate and college-prep STEM competencies and career pathway mentoring programs, throughout the nine-county WIRED region. Look for more information about the WIRED JumpStart grant in the upcoming months.

## MESA Success! Heaton MESA

The Heaton MESA team has been very busy lately. On Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> the members participated in the UCCS Engineering Challenge. There were over 200 other students at this event. The Heaton MESA team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in both the Math Challenge and the Structural Design Challenge.

In March, the MESA team participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Pueblo CSU Engineering Design Event. Middle school teams from Pueblo, Alamosa, Trinidad, and Colorado Springs were also present at the competition. The Heaton MESA team placed in the Mouse Trap Vehicle, Moat Jumper, On-Site Construction, Concrete Barge and the Key Punch Contest. The Heaton MESA team took the team trophy home for the third consecutive year. **CONGRADULATIONS TO ALL THE MESA MEMBERS at Heaton!** To submit a success story, email [victor.vialpando@cudenver.edu](mailto:victor.vialpando@cudenver.edu).

### Article of the Month

Mathematics, Engineering,  
Science, Technology and Health Careers

*Engineering Programs in the United States Aren't Falling Behind but Need Improvements, Study Finds*  
Article by Lauren Smith, The Chronicle of Higher Ed

A new report from a group of researchers at Duke University on the number and quality of graduate engineering degrees conferred in China and India, as compared with the United States, challenges the notion that American engineering education is falling behind, but suggests a number of improvements to ensure economic growth and increase the retention of graduates.

China and India collectively graduate 12 times more engineers than does the United States. But the researchers, from Duke's Pratt School of Engineering, say that does not mean the United States is in trouble. Their study, which included an analysis of salary and employment data, did not find any indication of a shortage of engineers in the United States. In fact, it found evidence that China and India are the countries with shortages. [Click here for more >>](#)

## Professional Development Opportunity: Space Weather

The Sun-Earth Connection, held at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics in Boulder (part of the CU campus) is hosting a workshop on space weather on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, 1234 Innovation Drive, Boulder, CO 80303.

Whether we are aware of it or not, solar activity effects us everyday on Earth. It influences our aircraft, telecommunication satellites, cell phones, and energy grids. Come to LASP for a free teacher workshop for middle school grades, Space Weather: The Sun-Earth Connection. You will receive 4 weeks of classroom material that looks at the anatomy of the Sun, its activity, and how the Sun impacts Earth.

You will also learn about space weather from scientists, have an opportunity to ask questions and interact with other teachers interested in space weather. [Click here to register online >>](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☐ [GESETE](#)  
Tuesday, April 10, 2007  
Colorado Convention Center  
8:45AM - 1:15PM
- ☐ [High School Engineering & Science Jamboree](#)  
Friday, April 12, 2007  
Colorado School of Mines  
8:00AM - 3:30PM
- ☐ [MESA Day at the Mall](#)  
Friday, April 20, 2007  
Tamarac Square Mall (tentative location)  
8:00AM - 2:00PM
- ☐ [St. Vrain MESA Expo](#)  
Thursday, April 26, 2007  
Heritage Middle School  
6:30AM - 8:00PM
- ☐ [District 11 MESA Boat Regatta and Rescue Mission](#)  
Thursday, April 26, 2007  
5:30AM - 8:00PM
- ☐ [Harrison School District MESA EXPO](#)  
Thursday, April 26, 2007  
Harrison High School  
5:00AM - 6:30PM



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