

AIRUM

Association for Institutional Research in the Upper Midwest

Get Ready for the Fall 2009 AIRUM Conference!

Summer Greetings from the AIRUM Steering Committee!

Special points of interest:

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As summer is well underway, we know many take time out to relax, vacation, and re-charge for the next year. As you look ahead, we want to remind you to mark your calendars! The AIRUM 2009 Annual Conference will be **October 29 and 30**; held again at the **Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota**. The conference theme this year is **“Doing more with less: The importance of IR”**.

We are excited to have Terrence Russell as this year’s keynote speaker. Terrence is Executive Director Emeritus of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). During his tenure at AIR, he also served as Courtesy Professor of Higher Education and Policy Studies at Florida State University. Before joining AIR in 1991, Dr. Russell was director of professional services and survey research for the American Chemical Society and visiting Associate Professor of So-

ciology at Georgetown University.

Dr. Russell was the 2007 recipient of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Academic Leadership Award “for exemplary contributions to American higher education,” and in 2004 was named Distinguished Professor by Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. Currently, he serves as external evaluation consultant for the South Carolina EP-SCoR project, research, policy consultant for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Center for Advancing Science & Engineering Capacity, and proposal reviewer for various NSF Divisions.

He has served on the National Academy of Sciences study panel evaluating the NIH minority research training programs, the Technical Advisory Committee for the National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty, the National Advisory



Sheraton Hotel—Bloomington, Minnesota

Hotel Information

Hotel reservations at the Sheraton Bloomington can be made by calling (952) 835-7800. The AIRUM room rates are as follows: \$129 single/double, \$139 triple, or \$149 quad. The price is available through 5:00 p.m. September 28, 2009. Current taxes are 13.9% on rooms.

Note: A few months prior to the conference, the Sheraton will send us the URL for making reservations at the AIRUM-rate.

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2009 AIRUM Keynote-Terry Russell

Board of the American Council on Education - UCLA Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), and the Advisory Committee for the Policy Center for the First Year of College. He also has served on the steering committee of the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC), the NSF Advisory Committee on Sci-

Research Council’s Committee on Outcomes Indicators for NASA Education Programs. He holds the Ph.D. degree in Sociology from Southern Illinois University and is the author of articles, book chapters, statistical monographs, papers and a television documentary. He has written about academic-industry relations, ethics, and



values in science, organizations and the professions, the science and technology labor force, higher education policy, and American culture.



Cogan presented his 2008 AIRUM presentation at 2009 AIR national forum.

Best Presentation from AIRUM 2008

The award for best presentation went to **Michael Cogan, PhD. University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN** for his presentation titled, **Service Learning Outcomes: A Quasi-Experimental Approach Using Repeated Measures t-Test.**

Michael has served as the Director of Institutional Research and Analysis at the University of St. Thomas since 2006. Prior to this, he was employed at the University of North Dakota for five years beginning as an Associate

Registrar before moving to the UND School of Medicine where he served as an Assistant Research Professor. Michael has been involved in higher education research for more than 12 years within several types of institutions including community colleges, master's institutions, and doctoral institutions.

Michael's current research interests include academic planning, faculty productivity, student outcomes assessment, and instructor evaluation. In addition to his current IR position, Michael periodi-

cally teaches research and statistics courses at the University of North Dakota.

The presentation focused on processes to measure effects of service learning. The sample group consisted of 350 students who completed a pre- and post-assessment designed to capture their perceptions on selected social issues prior to and upon completion of a service-learning project.

*AIRUM
continues to
maintain a
strong financial
position*

Treasurer's Update *Leonard Goldfine*

Last year was another well attended conference with 95 people in attendance.

At the end of the 2008 accounting period—after all conference income and costs, fees, and other administrative costs were complete—the AIRUM checking account balance was \$8,503.92, lower than the balance from the end of 2007: \$10,222.77. This balance was transferred to TCF Bank in Minneapolis at the start of my appointment as Treasurer.

The shared goal of the Steering Committee members is to offer a high quality Fall conference that is affordable and covers expenses. For the past five years, we have managed to keep the base per-registrant conference price steady at \$150. Unfortunately, due to rising costs and flat registration growth, it is time to raise the price of atten-

dance. We estimate that a \$25 increase to the base price of attendance will be enough to balance the rising costs and help offset the effects of an anticipated drop in attendance due to institutional travel restrictions.

We signed our contract with the Bloomington Sheraton early, thus locking in prices before any possible later rate hikes and managed to take advantage of a special offer further reducing our price. Additionally, we requested five fewer room stays per night in anticipation of fewer out-of-state attendees. This was necessary because if the number of attendees staying at the Sheraton falls below the contractual minimum, AIRUM is financially responsible for making up the difference.

Progress toward applying for and receiving tax-exempt status continues. I had been

having continued e-mail conversations with Norm Gravelle, the CFO for AIR concerning this matter. The issue has centered on what tax-umbrella AIR (the parent organization) could offer its subsidiary organizations. In the end, the answer is: none.

While there was some discussion about pooling filing resources, the fact remains that from a financial standpoint, AIRUM is on its own. As such, I have begun the filing process in earnest with a perhaps overly optimistic hope that this can be completed prior to the Fall conference, thereby saving us a considerable sum in hotel-associated taxes.



Conference Presentations Online

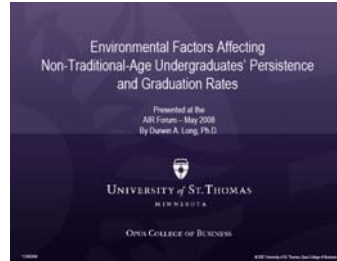
As noted in the May 2008 newsletter, committee members were working to create and offer past conference presentation online. They are now available.

The University of St. Thomas Office of Institutional Research and Analysis has developed the site and will maintain it. So, please consider displaying your work on this new site.

We ask that you submit an electronic copy of past presentations in PDF or PowerPoint to Mike Cogan at mfco-gan@stthomas.edu.

When sending the file, please include the full name of each author, presentation title, and institution affiliation at the time of the presentation. Each conference presentation will be listed in alphabetical order by the primary author.

If a primary author is not identified, each author will be listed in alphabetical order.



Place your past AIRUM conference presentations online!

Reminder-conference scholarships are available

Three AIRUM Conference Scholarships are available for awards of \$175 each. These scholarships are intended to cover the registration fee for attending the AIRUM Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota on October 29th and 30th, 2009. The goal of the scholarships is to assist three individuals whose work pertains to institutional research and who have not been able to attend an AIRUM Conference due to lack of institutional support for conference expenses.

Steering Committee News-New Members

Welcome your newest AIRUM steering committee members.

Dr. Gloria Dohman serves as the Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness at NDSCS with responsibilities for accreditation, assessment of student learning, institutional research, strategic planning and grants management. Gloria earned a Ph.D. from North Dakota State University in Institutional Analysis and is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Education at NDSU. Gloria is a Consultant-Evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission for both the PEAQ and AQIP accreditation processes and serves on the Institution Actions Council for HLC.

With over thirty years of experience in higher education, Dr. Dohman has made presentations over the last several years at regional and national conferences including the Higher Learning Commission,

Association of Institutional Research, American Technical Education Association, and ACT on the topics of assessment, student retention, institutional research, placement and testing, and accreditation issues. Her most recent presentation was a Noel-Levitz webinar focused on student retention practices. She frequently consults with other colleges in the areas of assessment, accreditation, and strategic planning.

Daniel R. Jones-White—prior to joining the University of Minnesota, Daniel was an Associate Analyst in Institutional Research at the University of Missouri. Daniel received his master's degree in Political Science from the University of Missouri and is currently completing his course work for a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Minnesota. He has expertise in the statistical analysis and

complex data modeling and also serves as the department's graphic designer. He has presented at a number of national and local conferences on topics such as: redefining student success, time-to-degree attainment, and social networking. Daniel and his colleagues recently received the Charles F. Elton Best Paper Award from AIR for their paper entitled "Redefining Student Success: Assessing Different Multinomial Regression Techniques for the Study of Student Retention and Graduation across Institutions of Higher Education."

Every year the steering committee's seeks new volunteers to contribute their talents and skills to the AIRUM group. Please consider yourself or a colleague to join up to assist in supporting our regional IR efforts.



Consider volunteering your talents and skills to the AIRUM steering committee!

AIRUM

Association for Institutional Research in the Upper Midwest

A professional organization for higher education institutional researchers www.airum.org

News from . . . AIRUM is published semiannually.

AIRUM is a regional affiliate of the Association for Institutional

Research (AIR – airweb.org), a national organization dedicated to the profession of institutional research.

AIRUM's objectives are to:

- Improve and disseminate research predominantly of concern to institutions of higher education.
- Provide a collegium for professional persons in a common profession.
- Provide an avenue for professional accomplishment by offering at least an annual meeting at which papers may be presented, speeches given, workshops taught, and other such professional contributions made.
- Encourage association with the Association for Institutional Research and to promote AIR forums and other activities.

2009 Steering Committee

Charlie Couch, Chair, Northwestern College of Iowa, term expires 2009

Biao Zhang, AIR Liaison, University of South Dakota, term expires 2009

Michael Cogan, University of St. Thomas, term expires 2010

Wendy Swanson, University of Wisconsin Stout, term expires 2010

Elizabeth Yeh, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, term expires 2010

Potential pre-conference IPEDS Workshops

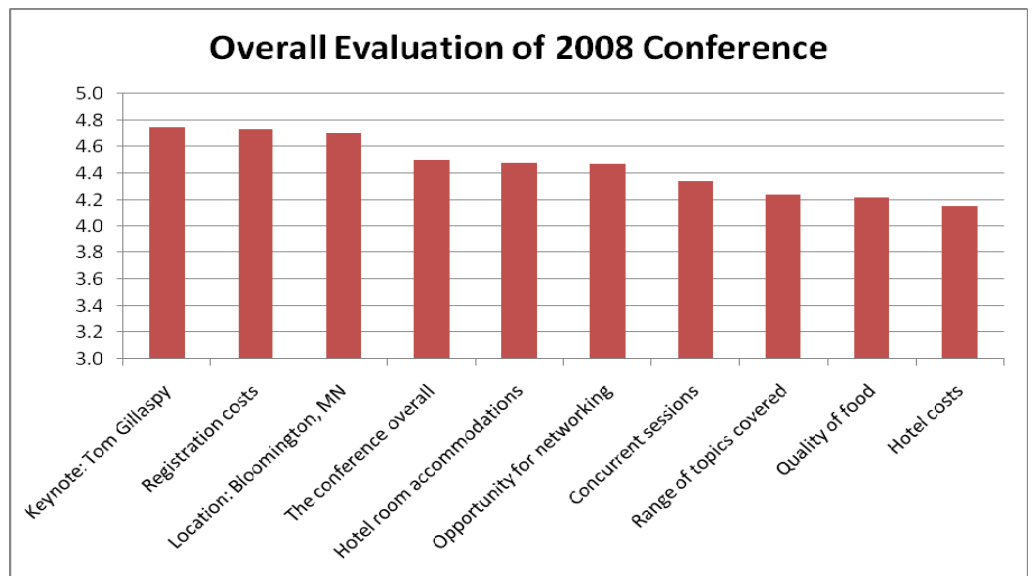
Sponsored by NCES, AIR is offering 20 IPEDS workshops for roughly 20-40 participants that can be scheduled in conjunction with a co-hosting organization's existing event. Workshops might focus on: understanding the IPEDS collection process, leading an IPEDS cycle on campus, involving campus stakeholders, assuring that data requirements and definitions are understood, using IPEDS data tools to do analysis and create various data reports, recognizing the varied needs of data consumers, and/or special topics such as reporting finance data, implementing the new race/ethnicity categories, or understanding the requirements for a net-price calculator.

We have requested to co-host one of these IPEDS workshops as a pre-conference training opportunity for this Fall's conference. If selected, detailed information will be distributed to AIRUM members.

2008 AIRUM Conference Feedback

AIRUM 2009 was a success, as the attendees were very satisfied with the conference according to the conference overall evaluation. Tom was a big hit with attendees this year and the comments we received were very positive.

Again, conference cost and location scored very high from attendees. Attendees continue to value what AIRUM provides for the price we charge.





Association for Institutional Research in the Upper Midwest

Association for Institutional Research in the Upper Midwest (AIRUM) 2009 Annual Conference- “Doing more with less: The importance of IR”

October 29th and 30th, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota www.airum.org

Title of Proposal:

Attach a description of your presentation addressing the purpose, issues or techniques covered in the presentation and intended audience. Your description should be 200 words or less. Please plan on a 45 minute presentation.

Presenter(s) Name(s): Title(s) Institution(s)

Person to whom correspondence should be addressed:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Are you willing to convene a concurrent session? Yes No

Will you need an Internet connection for your presentation (please check one)? Yes No

Format (check one):

Research or Scholarly Paper Presentation Table Topic Demonstration Poster Presentation

Please visit the proposal section at www.airum.org for descriptions of the presentation formats.

Notes:

There is a screen, overhead projector and podium in each session room. **Presenters should plan on providing other equipment (laptop, LCD projectors, software, etc.) themselves.**

Session evaluations are used by the Steering Committee to select the AIRUM Best Paper. Presenters of the selected session will be invited to attend the Association for Institutional Research’s 50th Annual Forum, Chicago, Illinois May 29th – June 2nd, 2010.

You will be expected to register and pay the full conference fee if your proposal is accepted.

Submit Proposals by August 31, 2009 to:

Michael Cogan, Ph. D.
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University of St. Thomas
Mail # AQU 319
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
