

News from . . .



Association for Institutional Research in the Upper Midwest

a professional organization for higher education institutional researchers

www.wisc.edu/airum/

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Conference Planning News

Dear Members:

To help direct planning efforts, the AIRUM Steering Committee surveyed conference attendees last fall for their input about the fall 2004 conference. Nearly 70 percent of conference attendees completed the survey (thank you members!). The results showed:

- **Bloomington** was overwhelming identified as the preferred location.
- **November** was selected as the best month of the year for the conference.
- **Institutional reporting and strategic planning** were identified as preferred keynote topics.
- Most attendees indicated a willingness to pay registration fees ranging between \$150 and \$200, and preferred to keep the lodging costs below \$100 per night.

As a result, the fall 2004 AIRUM conference will be held November 11 and 12 at the **Hotel Sofitel** in Bloomington, Minnesota. **Michael Dolence**, President of Michael G. Dolence and Associates, will present a keynote address on strategic planning while **Dana Offerman** from Capella University will address the role their IR office has played in new campus initiatives. This year's conference theme, *Leading the Way*, was selected due to the "cutting edge" nature of the work the two speakers will address in their presentations.

We hope you will consider submitting a proposal presenting research you have completed in recent months. If you play a significant role in planning initiatives at your campus, we are also asking you to participate on a strategic planning "panel" to coordinate a discussion with Dr. Dolence after his presentation.

The Steering Committee tries to operate on a break-even basis and has done its best keeping the conference as affordable as possible. While some operating expenses have remained relatively stable, stipends for keynote speakers and costs associated with technical support have gradually increased over the past several years. Last year's conference cost an average of \$152 per participant while our registration fees were only \$125. As a result, circumstances dictate that we raise our conference fees to \$150 for the upcoming conference. Thanks to Kay's exceptional negotiating skills, lodging at this **four star** hotel will be only \$89 per night this year.

Please be sure to check the AIRUM website at www.wisc.edu/airum/ in the upcoming months for more information about the 2004 conference!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Soroko
2004 AIRUM Conference Chair



Proposal for a Contributed Session
AIRUM 2004
November 11-12, 2004
Bloomington, Minnesota

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

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 no more than one page. Please plan on a 45 minute presentation with approximately 15 minutes for questions.

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

Person to whom correspondence should be addressed:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

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

Format (check one): Paper Round Table

Notes:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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 AIR National Forum.

Submit Proposals by August 15, 2004 to:
Bill Slanger, Director of Institutional Research
North Dakota State University
1218 Albrecht Blvd., Minard Hall, room 224
Fargo, ND 58105-5075

Phone: 701-231-7418
e-mail: william.slanger@ndsu.nodak.edu

“Leading the Way” 2004 AIRUM Conference Information

The 2004 AIRUM conference will be held on November 11-12, 2004 at Hotel Sofitel in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Call for Proposal

Proposals for the 2004 conference are encouraged from all types of institutions—private liberal arts colleges, public colleges (both large and small), or public systems.

Consider convening a session or presenting a topic for a roundtable discussion too!

Proposal deadline is August 15. Further questions? Contact Bill Slanger, william.slanger@ndsu.nodak.edu.

Your presentation makes you eligible for the “best presentation” award nomination. Winners are invited to represent AIRUM at the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) national forum in San Diego, California, May 29-June 1, 2005.

Vendor Registration

New this year will be an opportunity for vendors to present their information and displays at the conference. A vendor display fee will be charged. All potential vendors must register in advance. For more details, see the AIRUM website for the *Vendor Registration Form*.

Strategic Planning Panel

Do you play a role in your campus strategic planning process? If so, consider volunteering to serve on a panel to discuss strategic planning. This panel is being scheduled as a post-keynote activity on Thursday to follow Michael Dolence’s address. (For more information about Michael Dolence, see the AIRUM website.)

If you would like to volunteer for the panel contact Mary Soroko, mpsoroko@stcloudstate.edu, **no later than August 31.**

New to AIRUM?

Scholarships are available for up to \$250 each to cover most (or all) the expenses for two individuals to attend the November 2004 AIRUM conference. **Application deadline is October 18, 2004.** See AIRUM’s website for scholarship criteria.

Last year’s winners were Hong Gao from Loras College and Lawrence Olson from Martin Luther College.



2004 Steering Committee

New members, **William Slanger** and **Sr. Georgia Christensen**, were elected at the 2003 conference replacing **Carmen Williams**. **Clare Huhn** is now the new ex-officio treasurer replacing **Susan Edel**’s many years of service. Contact information for all eight steering committee members can be found on AIRUM’s website.

Meet the New Members

William Slanger: I’m the Director of Institutional Research and Analysis at North Dakota State University, where I’ve been for 28 years, starting as an assistant professor in animal science, in which I have tenure as a full professor. My technical specialty is statistics. I’ve been director of OIRA for four years, after being interim dean of the graduate school for five years. I’m from Montana and have graduate degrees from Cornell University. I’m married with three grown sons.

Sr. Georgia Christensen: I’m the Director of Institutional Research and Assessment at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I’ve been in this position since 2000, when the university first set up an office for research and assessment. I’ve had extensive experience in various educational activities as an assistant superintendent in Monterey, California, as staff development officer in Zimbabwe, and as an adjunct faculty member in Viterbo’s Master of Education and Master of Servant Leadership programs. My PhD was in Educational Administration and Policy Analysis with a concentration in Organizational Theory from Stanford University. Prior to that, I served as administrator and teacher at the elementary and secondary levels. I’m a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration.

AIR Conference Grant

For several years AIRUM has awarded a scholarship enabling one member to decrease their costs to attend the AIR national conference. Last year the \$1,000 award went unclaimed.

At the general business meeting, Friday morning at the 2004 AIRUM conference, members will have an opportunity to discuss what changes, if any, need to be made for this scholarship.

2003 Conference Evaluation

Last fall the AIRUM conference was attended by 83 college staff/faculty from around the upper Midwest region.

The table below summarizes the results of the conference evaluation. The data are based on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent).

Item	N	Mean
Keynote: Kevin Casey	31	4.032
Keynote: Thomas Mortenson	31	3.955
Concurrent sessions	31	4.133
Range of topics covered	31	4.233
Opportunity for networking	31	4.677
OOPS Interactive Dinner Theater	31	3.955
Registration costs	31	4.581
Hotel costs	31	4.857
Quality of food	31	2.903
Hotel room accommodations	31	3.905
Location: Bloomington, MN	31	4.516
Conference Mean rating	31	4.156

2003 AIRUM—Best Presentation Winner

Congratulations to Carmen Williams (Director of IR) and Carol Dreschel (Information Technology Specialist) from the University of North Dakota for being designated *Best Presentation* at the November, 2003 AIRUM conference. Dr. Williams and Ms. Dreschel went to the AIR national conference in Boston this spring to represent AIRUM.

Their presentation was titled *Supporting Strategic Planning* and discussed the value and characteristics of their newly developed web-based data reporting tool. They received the best paper out of a pool of 12 eligible concurrent sessions at the conference. (Note: Sessions not requiring a proposal or vendor presentations are ineligible for the award.)



www.wisc.edu/airum/

AIRUM is a regional affiliate of the Association of Institutional Researchers (AIR), a national organization dedicated to the profession of institutional research. The objectives of AIRUM 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
- encourage professional identification, development and renewal

Address Correct?

Send any address corrections to the editor,
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djurovich@heso.state.mn.us.