

NMPMSE Meeting: October 12, 2001
Taos, New Mexico

1. **Special Awards: Rick Scott and Julie Johnston** Both have served NMPMSE for many years and really the continuation of this organization through the 1990's is due to the help of these two dedicated members of NMPMSE!
2. **History of the Partnership:** Fascinating report given by Julie was enjoyed by everyone. This organization is working nationally and statewide. Julie will email the presentation to partnership members so that anyone who needs the details can enjoy!
3. **NMPMSE Booth:** This has been well attended by the participants of the conference. A new brochure is available at the booth. Thanks to Vicente, Rick, Rockford, Joe, Elwynn, and others for volunteering to answer questions at the booth during the two day conference.
4. **Coral Gonzales:** The new database for math and science projects will be active Nov. 28. Coral has been working hard to gather the data for months. Please feel free to contact her with new information for our database. Vicente added that really this database is the third edition because of its beginning in 1990 with a 5 year, 5 million NSF NMHU grant. A concern was raised - how will these programs listed in our database be evaluated? We need to think about this.
5. **Coalition for Excellence in Science and Math Education: Cindy Chapman** reminded us to note the bill in the legislature that specifically identifies evolution as the only example of a controversy. We need to be vigilant about this topic because we do not want to be another Kansas.....
6. **Debbie Scruggs:** BIA schools received a NM Tribal Coalition NSF grant with Debbie as the PI. This is an impressive grant that will serve many BIA schools. Debbie also mentioned another grant, "Cultivating Our Own to Lead," that involves 24 Native Americans being certified administrators.
7. **Steve Sanchez: (Director of Curriculum and Instruction in Technology for the State Department of Education)**
 - a. Revision of the math standards is progressing. A team of higher education educators met in Socorro, NM last week to discuss the framework for the math standards. There will also be a committee that includes business people – the private sector – to look at the math standards. This is a year long process; but as always our goal is to inform practice that better serves our students of New Mexico.
 - b. State Learning Conference: November 16 – 17, Albuquerque, NM, Hoffman Town Conference Center
 - c. MATHSTAR: This is a grant from the state department that involves the improvement of math education at the middle school level. Dr. Karin

Wiburg added that the “lesson study process” is a very successful pathway that MATHSTAR is taking. The teachers are very committed and are doing a great job.

- d. **Standards Based Website:** A search website that is linked to resources to assess models and instruction materials that are connected with the standards (math, social studies, science, language arts,.....) is being developed. There are so many valuable resources out there that teachers could be using if a website was provided that would help the teachers find the resources. This website could be used by the professors of pre-service teachers also.
 - e. **AP for Native Americans of Rural New Mexico:** \$899,000 David Bowman will be providing feedback as this grant is implemented. There are nine sites currently participating that range all across the state.
 - f. **Virtual High School:** The governor recommended 1 million and the legislature gave this program \$800,000. 835 students are currently enrolled and the question was raised whether this VHS should be the 90th school district. Focus groups were held to determine why the virtual high school is appealing. The main reasons were: it fits the students’ schedules and it is a reason for small social groups to form to complete the course. The new website is: nmvs.org
 - g. **Vacancies at the State Department of Education:** John Glaser (science consultant) has taken a position as vice-principal. Salary is a problem in hiring at the state department. It is an important job that can influence public policy in the area of education. Kurt S. mentioned that the starting salary is low; but there is room for advancement.
8. **EPSCOR:** Barbara Kimball gave us an update. EPSCOR was funded; 6 million over 3 years. A small portion for education was carved out with the steady encouragement from Barbara. We want NM to have a competitive edge with other institutions from other states. NSF has assured Barbara that NM has a good chance to receive money if competitive proposals are turned into the NSF office. EPSCOR will make a difference that will benefit NM. Be sure to let Barbara know about any NSF proposals that you are writing. Many times they (NSF) will call her office about a proposal and she needs to know!
9. **Magnet School Initiate in Math and Science:** Jack J. reported that progress is being made in how math and science should be integrated into the schools. They are not reinventing the wheel, but finding resources to use. Also, Jack’s wonderful matrix of resources is a work in progress and getting bigger everyday. There are so many resources listed that is useful to everyone. Also, Jack reminded us that the Baldrige in Education flyer is at the NMPMS booth.
10. **Joe Vigil:** Reminded us of the GO FIGURE competition available for grades 7-12; there will be four sites (San Juan CC, Los Alamos, Cuba & Espanola). Robotics is the team of the competition.

11. Julie Johnston:

- a. LANL has scholarships available that are open to undergraduates. Many times summer employment at LANL is an added perk. Only two undergraduates who wanted to become teachers have received scholarships. Julie is encouraging more pre-service math and science teachers to apply.
- b. Also, a set of four new brochures will be available that feature minority scientists (African American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American).

12. RETA:

- a. Carmen Gonzales reported that RETA is in its fourth year at NMSU. RETA will be providing teacher workshops and administrators workshops.
- b. The first cohort of doctoral students have finished their coursework. They are working on their written comps, oral comps, and then dissertations. NMSU will offer a masters degree with a cohort of students and is thinking of offering another doctoral program because of the interest. The problem is in the staffing....they need more people to teach the classes. The students from the first cohort may be used to teach the second cohort.

13. **NM MESA:** The director of MESA said the MESA is in good shape with an emphasis on the rural perspective. MESA is working with RETA in the Marco Polo training. There will be 91 schools where the trainers will be trained. Rick Scott presented at the last MESA meeting and was thanked.

14. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** **Maybe the first week of December – the date, place, and time will be announced.**