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Kudos

It was the British scientist Lord Kelvin who said, "If you can not measure it, you can not improve it." That's why, each year, the Lab polls local leaders to learn more about how we're doing in the community. The results are then used by Lab management to determine where its efforts in the community are succeeding, as well as where there is room for improvement.

We've been working diligently to increase our effectiveness in the community, and some of the data seem to indicate that we're making progress. In fact, leaders' satisfaction with our efforts to respond to their perspectives and concerns is the highest it has been in 10 years. Some of the initiatives we've implemented to be better neighbors include working to improve regional economic development, supporting Lab employee volunteers, making more strategic efforts to support local education initiatives, and the quarterly community leaders' breakfasts.

Of course, there's always more to do, but the first step is figuring out where you should direct your attention and not lose sight of what's working well as you move forward.

Some of the statistics from the survey:

- Approximately three-fifths (61 percent) of the 382 community leaders responding indicated that they have a favorable impression of the Lab. That number is up from 52 percent last year.
- When evaluated as a corporate citizen, community leader satisfaction with the Lab was at 54 percent this year, compared to 39 percent two years ago.
- Roughly 94 percent of the leaders in the education sector responded that they were satisfied with our efforts through our education grants and our employee scholarship programs.
- When it came to satisfaction with the Lab's overall education programs, the education sector indicated that 93 percent of them were satisfied.
- Communication was also singled out in the survey's summary as an area that needed additional work since 36 percent of respondents are dissatisfied with methods currently available for communicating with the Lab.

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We'll continue to work to improve weak areas, and our thanks to those who responded to the survey so we know what's working well and what could work even better.

To view the report, please visit our Web pages at: <http://community.lanl.gov/source/orgs/cpo/docs/clsresults08.pdf>



New Deputy Director

Isaac "Ike" Richardson has been appointed as the Lab's new Deputy Director. He comes to the Lab with 37 years of experience, including 31 years with the U.S. Navy where he attained the rank of Rear Admiral. He commanded the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz and provided strategic direction to organizations such as the Navy's aircraft carrier program.

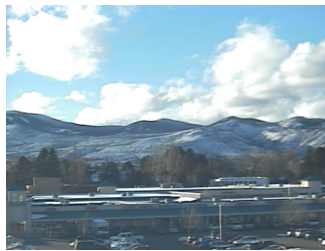
Richardson has a Master of Science degree in aeronautical systems from the University of West Florida, a Master of Arts degree in strategy and policy from the Naval War College, and a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Vanderbilt University.



Richardson will replace current Deputy Director Jan Van Prooyen, who is slated to retire at the end of January.

Brain Teasers at Museum

While teasing isn't considered very nice, when you're doing it to your own mind, it can actually be helpful in improving your mental agility. Now through March, the Community Programs Office's Bradbury Science Museum presents "Brain Teasers," a collection of over 20 puzzles and mind menders designed to test a variety of problem-solving skills using everything from math conundrums to block puzzles. Designed for all ages, the Museum's display is available seven days a week. The exhibit is on loan from Explora, Albuquerque's experiential science, technology, and art learning center. For more information, see the Museum's webpages at <http://www.lanl.gov/museum/>.

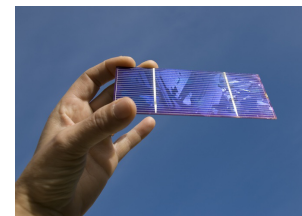


The View From Here

Recently, the Bradbury Science Museum became one of the sites hosting a weather camera linked to KOB Channel 4 weather views from around the state. Those who go to <http://weather.weatherbug.com> and click on the "Weather Cameras" navigation on the left can see live views of downtown Los Alamos and the Jemez Mountains.

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Challenge

It's that time of the year again for middle school students to use their imaginations as they prepare for the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Challenge.



The challenge is a hands-on learning experience for students in grades six through eight who get to design and assemble their own small-fuel-cell cars. There will be a teacher training session in February, and the actual fuel-cell competition is set for April 18. The three parts to the competition include writing an essay, designing and executing a model car, and an exciting head-to-head race. Stipends are available to teachers who wish to participate in the program as well as travel expense reimbursement for both the competition and teacher training.

For additional information or to register, contact Janelle Vigil-Maestas at 665-4329 or vigil-m@lanl.gov.

Economic Development Grants Awarded

The Consortium of Major LANL Subcontractors announced its 2008 Economic Development Grant award winners last month in Los Alamos. The money for the grants comes from 12 LANL contractors that comprise the Consortium and collaborate to make high-impact cash contributions to regional economic development efforts.



The grant awardees:

ACCION New Mexico (\$7,500) to help fund the Innovative Education Program for Financial Literacy Training.

Taos Entrepreneurial Network (\$15,000) to implement Network Facilitation and nurture local entrepreneurs.

Espanola Valley Fiber Arts Center (\$12,500) to support regional collaborative projects in the fiber arts industry cluster.

Taos County Economic Development Corp. (\$15,000) for The Food System Project to assist the Taos Food Center and its 55 associated businesses.

Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corp. (\$5,000) to grow its Youth Business Program and expand to the Espanola Valley.

For more information on the grants, contact the Regional Development Corporation, the organization that administers the grants for the Consortium (<http://www.rdcnm.org/>).

Call for Focus Group Participants

The LANL Community Programs Office will hold several focus groups on January 21 in Santa Fe to gather additional information on ways we can improve this publication.



Open to discussion are everything from general content to delivery methods.

To ensure maximum participation, each focus group will be limited to a

dozen people and last about an hour. We welcome your participation. Please call early to ensure you get your preferred time slot. Light refreshments will be served.

You could see your input used as soon as the February 2009 issue!

If you would be willing to participate, please call the Community Program's Office at 665-4400 (888-841-8256 toll free). For more information on the sessions, please contact Linda Anderman, 665-9196, or email at anderman@lanl.gov.

Scholarship Applications Due January 20

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY FOUNDATION The LANL Foundation's Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund is currently accepting applications through January 20.

The scholarships are awarded to residents of Northern New Mexico (Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Taos counties) with priority given to students who have a desire to pursue a degree in a science-related field or other fields important to the future success of the region.

Applications will be judged based on academic achievement, leadership potential, ability to apply critical thinking skills, and financial need.

Since the Foundation began in 1997, \$1.5 million in scholarships has been given to more than 450 students.

For more information, please see the Foundation's website at <http://www.lanlfoundation.org/index.html> or call Tony Fox at (505) 753-8890.

Calendar

Jan. 8	Business	Business Breakfast/Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce http://www.chamberorganizer.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=17974
Jan. 8	Environment	Upper Los Alamos Canyon Project http://lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/m0901.htm
Jan. 13	Business	Information for CRS Taxpayers http://www.edcalendar.org/detail?event_id=1478
Jan. 14	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Radiation Monitoring Group • Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board • LANL Groundwater Workshop on Data Quality http://lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/m0901.htm
Jan. 15	Environment	Upper Los Alamos Canyon Project http://lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/m0901.htm
Jan. 17	Education	Middle School Science Bowl http://community.lanl.gov/source/orgs/cpo/education_programs/programs_partnerships.shtml
Jan. 20	Education	An Engineer's View of the Cell http://cnls.lanl.gov/q-bio/seminar-series/index.php/Public_Lectures
Jan. 22	Environment	Upper Los Alamos Canyon Project http://lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/m0901.htm
Jan. 24	Business	Annual Espanola Valley Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet Call (505) 753-2831 for details
Jan. 22-24	Community	8th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference http://www.newpartners.org/about.html
Jan. 28	Environment	Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board http://lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/m0901.htm
Jan. 29	Environment	Upper Los Alamos Canyon Project http://lanl.gov/environment/calendar/detail/m0901.htm



Kudos

- Kudos to all the newly elected Pueblo Governors.
- Kudos to the 20 regional teachers sponsored by the Lab's Math and Science Academy, who recently completed a New Mexico State University Master's Degree in teaching math and science.
- Kudos to all who contributed voluntarily and financially to LANL's Holiday Giving Programs.
- Kudos to the Department of Energy for meeting all the goals of the Small Business Administration scorecard for the 2007 fiscal year.

http://int.lanl.gov/news/index.php/fuseaction/nb.story/story_id/15217

- Kudos to the 2008 Laboratory Fellows: Robert C. Albars, Paul A. Johnson, and Kurt E. Sickafus.
http://int.lanl.gov/news/index.php/fuseaction/nb.main/nb_date/2008-12-04
- Kudos to Vangie Trujillo, of the LANL Community Programs Office, for her election to the Espanola Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Contact Information

Connections is published by the Community Programs Office at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

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For more information, email connections@lanl.gov or visit our website at <http://community.lanl.gov/>