



# PHASE

## *A Newsletter of Skaggs Center Internships*

Issue #2

October 2008

### Uniting and Planning for the Summer



Left to Right: Tony Tafoya, Ann Thorne, and George Sharman.

As students have returned to school after the summer break, employees at the NOAA laboratories have been busy working to unite NOAA efforts in the Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado. Representatives from ESRL, NGDC, and SWPC have been meeting and discussing how to better identify job opportunities in the Skaggs Research Center and how to better make use of existing programs for students.

One proposal is to have an umbrella approach to identify and manage the various student programs by resurrecting the

PHASE (Practical Hands-on Application to Science Education) program. Under this program student opportunities were identified as PHASE I for high school students; PHASE II for college students; and PHASE III for graduate students and high school teachers.

The advantage of uniting NOAA programs that are housed in the Skaggs Research Center is the enhanced possibility to obtain funding through a united front. Thus, we can learn from each other and take the best practices and apply them so that the students are the main beneficiaries. Supervisors should also benefit because they will have a coordinated and unified program from which work can be preformed and future talent for vacancies can be identified.

To date, a guide for students and a guide for supervisors have been developed as well as lists of community and university contacts. This information will be shared with students, supervisors, and key stakeholders in the community and university faculty members who will be asked to identify outstanding students interested in pursuing careers of interest to NOAA

The following sampling of programs includes opportunities for students who are at various levels in their educational development:

**PHASE I:**

The MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program.

The Boulder Valley School District programs for Asian, Black, Hispanic and American Indian students.

The Boulder County Student Employment programs.

The High School/High Tech program for students with disabilities.

**PHASE II:**

The OPM sponsored SCEP and STEP programs.

The NOAA Hollings Scholars program.

The NOAA Undergraduate Scholarship program.

The NCAR SOARS program.

The Commerce Department's Postsecondary Internship program.

The Workforce Recruitment Program for Persons with Disabilities (WRP).

The Student Volunteer Service program for unpaid training opportunities.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) program.

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) program.

**PHASE III:**

The Faculty and Student Intern Research program (FSIRP).

The Presidential Management Fellows program (PMF).

The next step in preparing for 2009 student program will be to identify an advisory board to assist Ann Thorne who has been appointed as the ESRL Student Coordinator. Ann will serve as the focal point for recruitment and student placements. The PHASE Advisory Board will focus on Advocacy on Employment and Education issues; Membership and Outreach; and Consultation with Students and Supervisors. Please see page 6 for more information on this board.

In addition to internal distribution, this monthly newsletter will also be sent via e-mail to various local schools and community organizations, to various universities, and faculty members that are identified by the advisory board. Through these efforts it is our hope to attract a wide pool of candidates for NOAA supervisors who have need for student interns during the summer and other vacation periods throughout the year.

For further information on student internship opportunities please contact:

Ann Thorne, ESRL Student Coordinator at the following: 303. 497.4600 or e-mail at [Ann.Thorne@noaa.gov](mailto:Ann.Thorne@noaa.gov).

## ESRL IN THE COMMUNITY AT THE ST. VRAIN MESA ADVISOR'S FAIR



Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) poster.



Ann Thorne, Diana Silva, Tony Tafoya



Diana Silva, Ann Thorne, with Liz Sims and Faith Terrell from Trail Ridge Middle School

Josh McDaniel, CU Mentor and builder of the Skyline High School MESA solar car.

A special thank you to Karen Hunter for organizing the Advisor's Fair.

**Education, Science, Careers**

## ***Publisher's Notes from Boulder and Around the Country***

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- ◆ The ESRL Student Intern Program Committee (SIPC) meets every other Wednesday to discuss student internship opportunities under the PHASE model at 1:30 p.m. in the Skaggs Center, Room GB 514. All are welcome to attend.
- ◆ ESRL will participate in the St. Vrain Valley MESA Advisory Board monthly meetings. All meetings are held at the Xilinx campus in Longmont.
- ◆ The ESRL Student Intern Program Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on the PHASE Advisory Board. Please see page 6 for a description of the key board functions: Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues; Membership and Outreach; and Consultation with Students and Supervisors. Contact Ann Thorne.

The MESA program seeks to introduce elementary, middle and high school students to mathematics, engineering and science concepts through after school activities and competitions. An excellent ambassador of the MESA program is Diana Silva. (See pictures on page 3.) Diana was a student advisor at Skyline High School in Longmont where she advised elementary and middle school students. She is now majoring in mechanical engineering at CU and continues as a strong advocate for the MESA program.

### **MARK THE DATE**

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Wednesday and Thursday  
October 7th and 8th, 2008  
Dr. Priti Brahma and Chantell Haskins, NOAA Office of Education will be in Boulder.

Proposed agenda:

- Meet with the Education and Outreach teams in Boulder
- Presentation to NOAA scientists on hosting a summer intern
  - Tour NOAA facilities
  - Visit student summer housing
  - Meet with Dr. Steven Koch
  - Visit local universities

## *The Goals and Objectives of the ESRL Intern Program*

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- A. To seek a broad development and expansion of internship opportunities for high school, college and graduate students and high school teachers.
- B. To assist and encourage NOAA organizations in establishing goals and identifying the best possible sources for the recruitment, employment, training and advancement of student interns.
- C. To encourage and actively support the promotion and advancement of Interns already employed.
- D. To counter employment issues based on unlawful discrimination, direct or indirect.
- E. To analyze and determine the educational and professional needs of students seeking entry and advancement in employment; and, whenever possible, provide appropriate training and counseling services to meet these needs.
- F. To establish and continually upgrade a broad range of contact with supervisors and interns across the nation via personal visits, telephone calls, e-mails, and periodic newsletters.
- G. To respond to the reasonable requests from non NOAA groups for student referrals when their goals, and objectives are supportable and similar to the ESRL PHASE program.
- H. To enhance the promotion of student excellence, pride, and camaraderie through organized and regular social gatherings which will serve to bind members together.
- I. To provide a platform on major research issues of local and national significance so that students may be better informed and may express their views through seminar presentations before their peers and supervisors.
- J. To expand the objectives and yearly goals of PHASE to provide maximum impact on the benefits derived from the pursuit of these and future goals and objectives.

## Key Advisory Board Functions

The key functions performed by the PHASE Advisory Board include: **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues; Membership and Outreach;** and **Consultation with Students and Supervisors.** The following is a brief description of each function:

### **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues**

The advocacy function is performed when members take a pro-active role in seeing that a client's issue is addressed by the appropriate community, education or government organization. This function typically involves the following: Assisting students and parents with local school issues, e.g. summer jobs, internships, grades and course requirements; Educating the community on student internship opportunities; Researching employment information and various employment topics.

### **Membership and Outreach**

The membership committee is charged with an ongoing program of recruiting and retaining members. This involves coordinating a yearly membership drive for new members. The outreach function is performed by going out into the community to explain NOAA internship programs and communicating the assistance that can be provided. Typically, this function involves attending meetings and briefings, networking with NOAA agency representatives, providing orientation briefings to newcomers, attending training sessions and education workshops - both as participants and presenters.

### **Consultation**

Consultation services are typically provided to clients who are in need of explanations related to documents that need an interpretation and require follow up actions. This function typically involves mediating an issue at the lowest level before it escalates and negotiating issues on behalf of clients and assisting the ESRL Student Coordinator with employee issues; Consultations are private.



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of

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*PHASE* seeks to inform  
employees and students on  
employment programs and  
internships.

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## **MISSION**

*The mission of the Practical Hands on Application to Science Education (PHASE) program is to have students benefit from a science intern program at a Federal facility.*

*The objectives of the program are (1) for laboratories to identify student projects that provide a learning environment and focus on practical hands-on activities; (2) to provide laboratories with profiles of students who have an interest in considering NOAA and science in general as a positive career choice; and (3) to inform students of career opportunities in NOAA.*



“Congratulations go out to Ryan Neely, former Hollings Scholar who is the first recipient of the ESRL-CIRES Graduate Research Fellowship. Ryan is working on his Ph.D. at CU-Boulder and continuing his research in LIDAR development with the ESRL Global Monitoring Division. We look forward to interviewing Ryan for an upcoming article for this newsletter.”

## **COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS**

### **FEDERAL AGENCIES:**

NOAA/OAR/ESRL  
NOAA/NWS/SWPC  
NOAA/NESDIS/NGDC  
NIST  
NTIA

### **HIGHER EDUCATION:**

University of Colorado/CIRES

### **COMMUNITY:**

SACNAS  
MESA  
AISES  
National Image, Inc.  
Blacks-In-Government

### **SCHOOLS DISTRICTS:**

Boulder Valley  
St. Vrain Valley



# PHASE

## *A Newsletter of Skaggs Center Internships*

**Please add me to newsletter mailing list. (Please print or type.)**

Name	
Home Address or School Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
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