

# AIR UPDATES

Spring 2007

Professional Development, Information Resources & Networking

Upcoming Webinars  
New IPEDS Online Course  
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# 47TH ANNUAL AIR FORUM

Introducing AIR 47th Annual Forum Highlights - *Choice/Chance: Driving Change in Higher Education* is the unifying theme of the Forum. The planning committee has built a program that will explore a number of challenges confronting the higher education community. Among them are the challenges to remain creative, to remain competitive, to be accountable, and to be responsive to emerging public demands. We call your attention to three sessions important to the ever-changing role of institutional research:

- Dr. John Rich, a recent recipient of a MacArthur “Genius Award” Fellowship, listens to the voices of young African American men and works to design interventions that link economic health, mental health, education and employment opportunities to address the needs of this often ignored and underserved population.  
*Plenary Session, Sunday, June 3, 6:15-7:20 p.m., Westin Century Ballroom A,B,C*
- Dr. Terrence Russell, AIR’s retiring Executive Director, will share his observations on the emergence of a national system of higher education with the growing web of information that integrates the enterprise. He will discuss the role of institutional research and our association in driving these changes.  
*Plenary Session, Monday, June 4, 8:40 a.m.-9:20 a.m., Westin Century Ballroom A,B,C*
- The Presidential Symposium: *Global Competition in the Higher Education Enterprise: Roles for IR* on Sunday afternoon will address the growing expectation in countries around the world that their colleges and universities be internationally competitive contributors to economic health.  
*Presidential Symposium, Sunday, June 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Westin, Pershing West, Ballroom level*

***We look forward to seeing you in Kansas City!***

## AIR/NCES FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDY

AIR, as part of its contract to improve the quality of institutional research in U.S. postsecondary education systems, and hence, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), announces a new national graduate fellowship program funded by NCES.

The fellowships are for graduate study advancing or leading to careers in institutional research, thereby increasing the national level of expertise of institutional research officers and the data that they produce. Specific program goals are to have more people better trained in IR and completing advanced degrees.

A modification of the Graduate Certificate Program, the fellowship program is organized around these principles:

- The program will award individual fellowships for up to \$10,000 annually
- Fellowships can be used at any qualified program in a U.S. institution and are portable
- Award funds may be used for tuition, fees and other educational and living expenses while enrolled in a graduate program
- Three levels of credit-bearing graduate work will be considered eligible for the awards: certificate, masters, and doctorate
- Three year maximum for the fellowship, with money for the award “escrowed” to guarantee support
- Support contingent on satisfactory academic progress shown in annual reports
- Fellowships to be merit-based
- Awards will be based on the judgment of a selection committee on the merits of a proposal including the demonstration of the capacity to engage in graduate-level study and institutional research work
- Currently employed IR professionals are urged to apply

***The guidelines and online proposal form, both available at <http://airweb.org>, will specify detailed eligibility requirements.***

### HOSPITAL HILL RUN SATURDAY, JUNE 2

Join AIR colleagues in a run through Kansas city! This year, more than 5,000 people are expected to participate in the 34th annual Hospital Hill Run and Festival! We invite you to join other AIR members at the starting line for the half-marathon, 10K or 5K routes, which start and end at the Crown Center.

Through a special arrangement with the race director, AIR Forum participants will receive a discount on the entry fee for each distance - \$5 off for the half marathon, \$4 off the 10K, and \$3 off the 5K. More information can be found at

<http://www.hospitalhillrun.com/>

### WEAR YOUR MEMBERSHIP PINS AT FORUM!

Show your support and dedication to AIR by wearing your 10+, 20+, or 30+ year AIR membership pins and the AIR 50th Anniversary pin at the 47th Annual AIR Forum!

Volunteer pins are also presented to AIR members who serve as volunteers at the AIR Forum. For more information on volunteering at the 47th Annual Forum, please visit the Forum page at

<http://airweb.org>

***Visit <http://airweb.org>  
for more information!***

# ENHANCE YOUR CAREER!

Presented by the Professional Development Services Committee (PDS), the 15th Annual AIR Institute series focuses on key components of institutional research. Instructors are highly experienced in institutional research and experts in their field.

**Foundations I Institute: *The Practice of Institutional Research, July 9-13, 2007, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois***, provides a focused, intensive and structured learning environment that supports new institutional research (IR) practitioners seeking to develop skills in core areas of institutional research.

**Foundations II Institute: *The Advanced Practice of Institutional Research, July 30-August 3, 2007, Temple University Center City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania***, is designed for established institutional research practitioners seeking to advance their career toward senior leadership and administrative positions in IR. Topics include strategic planning, information technologies, institutional effectiveness, office management and advanced studies.

**Registration for the 2007 Institutes is limited. To register, please fill out the enclosed registration form or visit <http://airweb.org> to register online today!**

## **JULIA M. DUCKWALL SCHOLARSHIP**

If you are an AIR member planning to attend an Institute, consider applying for the Julia M. Duckwall Memorial Scholarship! This scholarship program is designed to facilitate the professional growth and development of individuals who work in institutional research and related fields. The scholarship is awarded annually to up to two individuals attending each of the Professional Development Institutes and covers registration, housing, and meals during the Institute. **To apply for the scholarship, please visit the AIR Web site for guidelines. The deadline to submit an application is May 1, 2007.**

## UPCOMING AIR PUBLICATIONS

### **Assessment of Engineering (Coming 2007)**

Edited by William E. Kelly, Professor of Civil Engineering, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Kelly has been a leader in the area of assessing student learning in engineering and has been active in assessment workshops and other assessment activities sponsored by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

**Take advantage of the convenient online AIR Bookstore or download the publications order form at <http://airweb.org/publicationsordering.html>**

### **Mixed Methods (Coming 2007)**

Edited by Richard D. Howard, University of Minnesota

Mixed Method approaches provide institutional research professionals with tools that can often enhance the usefulness of quantitative work typically performed in institutional research offices. In this *Resources in Institutional Research* volume, five case studies are presented in which institutional researchers have used mixed method approaches to create planning and decision support information.

## IPEDS UPDATE

AIR and NCES proudly announce the opening of a new online IPEDS learning experience: "The Overview of IPEDS: A Self Paced Interactive Course." This course is designed for institutional researchers and other higher education professionals seeking to further their knowledge and mastery of IPEDS and its data analysis tools.

The course has been divided into five content modules, each one supported by its own team of expert IPEDS mentors to better assist participants in their quest for IPEDS instruction:

- I. An Overview of IPEDS
- II. Introduction to College Opportunities Online Locator (COOL)
- III. Creating Comparison Groups
- IV. Introduction to the Executive Peer Tool (ExPT)

- V. Introduction to the Peer Analysis System (PAS)

Accordingly, each module contains the following learning aids:

- Module specific learning objectives
- A student guide to the module content
- A multimedia recording of the entire module's content
- Smaller unit recordings designed to reinforce the learning objectives
- Mentored exercises to build skills and confidence
- Module assessment to reflect on the learning experience

**To register, or for more information, visit <http://airweb.org>!**

# ELECTION RESULTS

The AIR 2006-07 AIR election had one of the highest participation rates, with 685 member votes.  
Many thanks to everyone who participated!

The following new officers will begin their three-year terms on the Board June 5, 2007:



**WILLIAM E. KNIGHT, Vice President**  
Bowling Green State University



**JENNIFER A. BROWN, Associate Forum Chair**  
University of Massachusetts Boston



**HEATHER A. KELLY, Treasurer**  
University of Delaware



**VALERIE M. CONLEY, Higher Education Data Policy Committee Chair**  
Ohio University

Members of the 2007-08 Nominating committee will begin their one-year term on June 5, 2007:



**SUSAN G. BROYLES**  
Retired



**MARTIN B. FORTNER**  
Southern University at Shreveport



**CHRISTINE M. KELLER**  
University of Kansas



**SHARRON L. RONCO**  
Florida Atlantic University



**MICHAEL K. TAMADA**  
Occidental College

# UPCOMING AIR WEBINARS

“Visual Analysis of Enrollment Management Data”  
April 5, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: Tableau Software

“Overview of SAS in an Institutional Research Office”  
April 9, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: SAS

“Structural Equation Modeling for Institutional Researchers: Applications using SPSS & AMOS”  
*Session 2: Confirmatory Factor Analysis: Using AMOS to Confirm a Hypothesized Factor Structure*  
April 26, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: SPSS

“Data Visualization for Institutional Research Professionals”  
May 3, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: Tableau Software

“Overview of SAS in an Institutional Research Office”  
May 14, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: SAS

“Structural Equation Modeling for Institutional Researchers: Applications using SPSS & AMOS”  
*Session 3: Structural Equation Models: Using AMOS to Test the Fit of Models*  
May 24, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: SPSS

“Visual Analysis of IPEDS Data”  
June 7, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: Tableau Software

“Descriptive Statistics and Graphs Using SAS Enterprise Guide”  
June 15, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: SAS

“Descriptive Statistics and Graphs Using SAS Enterprise Guide”  
June 22, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: SAS

“Data Visualization for Institutional Research Professionals”  
July 12, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m. CST  
Hosted by: Tableau Software

*To register, or to view topic descriptions for upcoming AIR Webinars, visit <http://airweb.org/webseminars.html>*