

New Mexico AMP CURRENTS
February 2009

Institutional Coordinator Profile:

Marlene Chavez-Toivanen is the Institutional Coordinator (IC) at New Mexico State University-Grants (NMSU-Grants) in Grants, New Mexico. Marlene, who is currently an Associate Professor, has been on the faculty for over a decade and has served as the IC for the institution for eight (8) years. Marlene earned a B.S. in Mathematics in 1995 and an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Math Education from NMSU. She has recently applied to a doctoral program in Educational Leadership. Marlene, who is originally from Grants, New Mexico, is married to Dwayne Toivanen, Director of Human Resources for Grants Cibola County Schools. Marlene and Dwayne have one daughter, Olivia, who is 17 months old. Marlene comments that Olivia is her current hobby, and that watching her grow and being a mom takes up most of her spare time. So for the moment, fulfilling the love of travel that she shares with her husband is being postponed until the day when her daughter is a bit older when they can expose her to new places and sites. Marlene, a former Kika de la Garza USDA Fellow, makes time in her very busy schedule to attend conferences in and out of state and is a member of the New Mexico Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges and the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. We appreciate all Marlene does for New Mexico AMP, and we are grateful for Marlene's mentorship and guidance of our students. Kudos to you, Marlene!!

New Mexico AMP hosted a **luncheon for several New Mexico AMP female engineering students** on February 11, 2009 at the 100 West Café in Gerald Thomas Hall on the NMSU campus. At the luncheon, the students were provided the opportunity to get to know New Mexico AMP staff members, some of whom have engineering degrees, and to network with other female student engineers. Among the topics discussed were the available female student organizations on campus as well as other venues of support and MentorNet, an E-mentoring network for students in engineering and science. Students also shared with each other their challenges of being in a male-dominated major and positive ways to meet those challenges.

Dr. Ou Ma, professor of Mechanical Engineering and mentor in the Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) and Summer Community College Opportunity for Research Experience (SCCORE) program at NMSU, is the recipient of a \$200,000 Northrop Grumman RMAX helicopter. The state-of-the-art Unmanned Space Vehicle (UAV) is part of Northrop Grumman's overall initiative to advance interest in careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The vehicle was presented to NMSU in a special ceremony on February 17. The UAV will provide NMSU students an opportunity to work on the UAV platform, both for research and educational purposes. The RMAX Type II remote-controlled helicopter measures an estimated 12 feet in length by 6.5 feet in width and 4 feet in height. The vehicles are typically used for observation purposes in agriculture and forestry. Dr. Ma, whose main expertise is in robotics, views the UAV as a platform to teach students flight dynamics and control in both component and system levels and for research to test new sensing and flight control technologies.

Institutional Coordinators (IC's) from ten (10) statewide institutions attended an **Institutional Coordinators Meeting** in Albuquerque, NM at the Best Western Rio Grande Inn in Old Town. Representatives from the following institutions attended the meeting: New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, the University of New Mexico, Santa Fe Community College, Eastern New Mexico University, Central New Mexico Community College, New Mexico State University-Doña Ana, New Mexico State University-Grants, University of New Mexico-Los Alamos, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, and Northern New Mexico College. At the all-day meeting, New Mexico AMP staff members led various relevant discussions and reported the findings to the entire group and IC's presented brief profiles of their institutions. A brief report of the Bridge to the Doctorate Cohort VI at UNM was provided by Dr. Laura Crossey, followed by an overview of the New Mexico AMP project evaluation by Dr. Lisa Frehill, Director, Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (CPST). Following this overview, Dr. Frehill led a discussion to help IC's and New Mexico AMP staff with strategies of collecting, reporting, and analyzing data.