

October 1, 2001
CAIR 2001 CALL TO CONFERENCE

Dear Colleagues,

The profoundly sorrowful and world-historic events of September 11th have set us all back. I hope you and your family and friends are safe and that you agree that it is more important than ever to congregate and touch base with one another as a way of honoring those who were lost and those who are suffering. Please accept this invitation to CAIR 2001, our 26th annual conference, and make your arrangements to attend as soon as possible!

We will recapitulate our 25th conference theme "Starting All Over Again" and move on to explore this year's theme "What Lies Beyond..." Thanks to a record number of proposals, the conference program is so full of interesting work that I'm sure you will find it difficult to choose among the concurrent sessions. To the few authors I have not yet contacted, your proposals have been accepted and I will contact you this week about the schedule. To all, the preliminary program will be out before the end of this week.

For now, please see the attached registration form and the flyers for the Wednesday afternoon workshops. Highlights:

- As always, Wednesday Nov 14th is free and is mostly taken up with the four segment meetings from 9 AM to 3 PM.
- However, from 3:30 to 5:30 on Wednesday there will be four concurrent workshops including a special AIR-sponsored workshop about IPEDS (see flyers). Those attending Wednesday only and hence not paying conference fees will be charged \$20.00 for the AIR/IPEDS workshop, which includes the reception from 5:30 to 8 PM. Payees and nonpayees alike must register for the AIR/IPEDS workshop on the CAIR 2001 registration form by October 26th in order to guarantee a seat. There is no charge for the other three workshops.
- Thursday and Friday are our usual inter-segmental conference days with sessions from 8:30 AM to 4:45 (Thurs) and 8:30 AM to 4 PM (Fri).
- This year, we are going to have a special dinner gathering on Thursday evening (from 5 PM to Midnight) instead of the usual short reception. Please plan on attending, and stay tuned for details!
- The choices of types of registration (Full, One-Day, Student/Retired, Membership Only, and AIR-IPEDS workshop) are mutually exclusive. Check only one of them and pay that amount, only.
- Most importantly, **please note the deadlines: October 23rd for hotel reservations at the conference rate, and October 26th postmark for the early discount pre-registration.**

I look forward to seeing you in Sacramento.

Dolores H. Vura, VP CAIR

AIR/IPEDS WORKSHOP

Where: CAIR 2001 Conference, Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento

When: Wednesday, November 14, 2001, 3:30 to 5:30 PM

Cost: FREE to all who pay conference registration fees (either one-day or full) \$20.00 fee if not registered for the conference. This fee includes the the Wednesday evening reception from 5:30 to 8 PM.

You must register for this workshop, whether or not you are paying the \$20 fee, on the CAIR 2001 registration form by October 26, 2001 to be assured a space.

AIR is sponsoring an IPEDS demonstration to familiarize users with this year's changes to the IPEDS data collection and retrieval systems. The biggest change is the reinstatement of revised Faculty Salary and Staff surveys, with data being collected between December 3 and February 1 in the new winter collection period. Certified AIR/IPEDS trainers **Mark Figueroa** of Claremont Graduate University, **Cel Johnson** of the University of San Diego, and **Mary Kay Patton** of the California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office will serve as trainers for the demonstration.

Key topics to be addressed are:

- The new winter collection screens, the new definitions and data requirements
- The new architecture of the IPEDS Web site that takes effect for the winter collection and will be continued for the spring and fall collections
- How institutional keyholders should review and lock data that has been uploaded by a state or system coordinator
- The Peer Analysis System (PAS), specifically noting new enhancements, providing pointers for new users, and distributing a collection of PAS exercises developed by NCES with step-by-step solutions for each exercise so users can practice on their own campuses
- How to check one's campus data using the IPEDS-COOL Web site, which is increasingly being used by high school counselors and parents seeking comparative institutional data.

CAIR 2001 WORKSHOPS, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2001, 3:30 – 5:00 PM

Unraveling the Mysteries of K-12 Data at the California Department of Education

The California Department of Education collects a wealth of data on its students, schools, and districts. The focus of this presentation will be to describe the data available to educational researchers and the general public. Information on student test scores, the Academic Performance Index (API), demographic characteristics, college preparatory test data, and the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) will be discussed. Website addresses will also be provided. It is hoped that this information will encourage partnerships among K-12 schools, community colleges, and four-year universities for timely, policy-relevant research and evaluation projects. ***Rachel Burkhardt, California Department of Education***

Opening the Black Box: How data mining works

This presentation will be an introduction to data mining theories and algorithms for education researchers experienced with classical statistics who wish to gain a more specific understanding of data mining techniques. Through an application of data mining to higher education research, we will explore the indices of entropy and dissimilarity from information theory that govern the growth of decision trees, the algorithms behind neural networks such as the perceptron and the self-organizing map, and briefly compare key concepts and techniques in data mining, statistical learning theory, and classical statistics including accuracy, generalizability, boosting, bagging, and VC-dimensions. ***Terrence Willett, Gavilan College***

Enrollment Projection Using SPSS Trends

This demonstration shows the audience the details of enrollment projection using SPSS Trends 10.0. The demonstration focuses on the models that may be used for enrollment projection. It covers the procedures to run Exponential Smoothing, ARIMA, and Regression Forecasting. During the demonstration, issues about model selection, parameter estimation, and model diagnosis will also be discussed. The demonstration is aimed at giving the participants a start with SPSS Trends 10.0 for enrollment projection and mastery of the basic knowledge of model selection and evaluation. ***Shuqin Guo, California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office***