

August 24, 2001



Dear Educator:

Do you want your students to be:

- ✧ Comfortable with complex scientific, math and technological problem solving?
- ✧ Working in teams?
- ✧ Articulate?
- ✧ Possess superb research skills?

Then you need to participate in the **12<sup>th</sup> annual New Mexico High School Adventures in Supercomputing Challenge!** We hope that as you look ahead to the 2001 – 2002 academic year, you will include the Challenge in your plans. AiS Challenge is organized and administered by New Mexico Technet, Los Alamos National Lab/DOE with other academic, research and high-technology organizations.

The mission of the Challenge is to improve students' understanding and use of technology by developing their skills in scientific inquiry, modeling, computing, communication, and teamwork. This year, the Adventures in Supercomputing program formerly housed at Albuquerque High Performance Computing Center at the University of New Mexico has merged with the New Mexico High School Supercomputing Challenge. This merger should result in a strong, focused program with free teacher pre-service and in-service workshops during the school year and a Teacher Institute in the summer. Students will benefit from increased opportunities for recognition through interaction with judges at Regional Expos. This will be an exciting year as we pilot the new combined program.

As New Mexico addresses its workforce needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is evident that the 5000+ students who have participated in the AiS Challenge are better prepared to plan for careers in the high-tech industry. Colleges and employers seek the skills that AiS Challenge participants develop.

The AiS Challenge is a learning experience set in the context of a competition. With workshops and evaluations throughout the year, educational materials and the help of technical support resources, students and teachers work to solve complex problems in a field of science that they have chosen. All teams meet with judges to assess and celebrate the work they have completed. Teams that make and document significant progress on their projects can compete for awards of merit, savings bonds and scholarships for individuals, computer equipment for the schools and trophies for teams.

**The AiS Challenge is offered at minimal cost to schools.** Administrators are asked to support their teachers and teams by enabling both to attend workshops during the year, have access to appropriate equipment, and time to work together to accomplish their goals. Students and teachers attending the Kickoff Conference will pay a \$20.00 registration fee, **due Friday, October 12th**. The program covers room and board costs. If you have a student who would not be able to attend without financial assistance, email the AiS Challenge coordinating team at [consult@challenge.nm.org](mailto:consult@challenge.nm.org), Classroom based teams can contact [consult@challenge.nm.org](mailto:consult@challenge.nm.org) about logistical problems they may encounter.

Teachers are expected to provide assistance to their teams in research, use of electronic mail, use of presentation software and a programming language. Resources and mentors are available on the website to aid in this instruction. Additionally, the AiS Challenge staff is always ready to help. The Challenge year starts with a kickoff at the Glorieta Conference Center, 17 miles east of Santa Fe.

The dates for this year's kickoff are October 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be two sessions. Each session of the conference will include one overnight stay. The first session is from October 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> for those schools more than 100 miles from Glorieta; the second session, from October 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, is for those schools within 100 miles.

The keynote speaker this year at the Glorieta Kickoff is Sandra Begay Campbell, UNM Regent, Sandia National Laboratories Civil Engineer, and former, AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) Executive Director. To learn more about Ms Campbell, click on the Glorieta Kickoff link on the Challenge Web page at (<http://challenge.nm.org>). Another key speaker, Dr. Skateboard, will discuss the physics of skateboarding. See <http://www.drskateboard.com/>.

The Kickoff schedule includes workshops, seminars and lab-based classes. Students can select a beginning, intermediate or advanced curricular track appropriate to their skill levels and interests. A teacher track will be a major strand at the Kickoff.

We urge you to go to the AiS Challenge website at <http://challenge.nm.org> and read through the Important Dates (Registration Information and Kickoff Training) and Glorieta Kickoff. You can also see the steps teams must take to complete process of registering for the AiS Challenge Kickoff 2001. Note the important dates, project guidelines, requirements and restrictions, and Glorieta Conference Center rules. Please also find an online copy of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). Please read the AUP closely. We urge you to provide a copy of the AUP and guidelines to the participants' families.

Then click on Online Registration and supply the requested information. **Electronic registration opens on August 31 and closes on Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.** A hard copy of the Team Entry Authorization Form (TEAF) must be received at New Mexico Technet no later than Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Please print from the website as many TEAF copies as you have teams. By signing the TEAF, each participant commits to following the AiS Challenge and Glorieta guidelines and agrees to the AUP.

Please bring a near complete project abstract on disk to the kickoff. Hints on creating project abstracts can be found at <http://www.challenge.nm.org/Glorieta/abhints.shtml>.

Microsoft has given us copies of **Office XP for the first fifty teachers** who register teams for the AiS Challenge 2001-2. We will have those available at the Kickoff.

We hope you will encourage your students to form teams, register online, print and return the TEAF and come to the Kickoff conference with a project abstract. Please share this information with your colleagues. If you would like more information about the program or strategies for developing projects, please email [consult@challenge.nm.org](mailto:consult@challenge.nm.org).

We look forward to seeing you in Glorieta in October. Please pass along this letter to someone else in your school or district if it is not appropriate for you. We are eager to increase team participation throughout the state and appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

New Mexico High School Adventures in Supercomputing Challenge Management Team

Richard Allen, University of New Mexico

Celia Einhorn and Betsy Frederick, New Mexico Technet

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