

September 2003



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 your school needs to participate in the **14<sup>th</sup> annual New Mexico Adventures in Supercomputing Challenge!** We hope that as you look ahead to the 2003 – 2004 academic year, you will include the AiS Challenge in your plans. The "Challenge" is organized and administered by New Mexico Technet, Los Alamos National Lab and 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.

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 Challenge are better prepared to plan for careers in the high-tech industry. Colleges and employers seek the skills that Challenge participants develop.

The 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 savings bonds and scholarships for individuals, computer equipment for the schools and trophies for teams.

Administrators are asked to support their teachers and teams by enabling them to attend training sessions during the year, have access to appropriate equipment and work with a team or teams to accomplish their goals. Online registration is open until **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at <http://www.challenge.nm.org>. Each student registering for the AiS Challenge will pay a \$30.00 registration fee, **due Monday, October 6th**. Please email the Challenge coordinating team at [consult@challenge.nm.org](mailto:consult@challenge.nm.org), if you have a student who would not be able to participate without financial assistance.

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 Challenge staff is always ready to help.

A Kickoff event will include workshops, seminars and lab-based classes. Students can select a beginning or advanced curricular track; whichever is appropriate to their skill level and interest. All students and teachers are encouraged to attend.

We urge you to go to the Challenge website at <http://www.challenge.nm.org> and read through the registration information including the Challenge Kickoff, important dates, project guidelines, requirements and restrictions. Please also find a copy of the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) online. Please look closely at the AUP. We recommend that you provide a copy of the AUP and procedural guidelines to the participants' families.

Then click on Online Registration and supply the requested information. **Electronic registration closes at Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. A hard copy of the Team Entry Authorization Form (TEAF) must be received at New Mexico Technet no later than Monday, October 6<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 Challenge 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>

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).