

the laboratory connection

your community's link
to information, opportunities, and people
at Los Alamos National Laboratory

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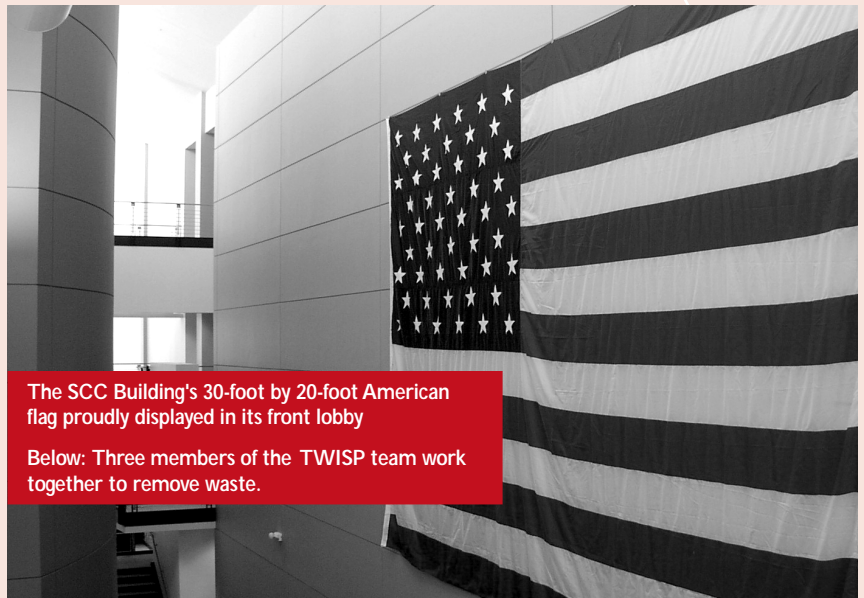
the Community Relations Office

It seems that everyone's tightening their belts and trimming their budgets in the face of an uncertain economy. National news reports show retailers trying to entice customers with deep discounts. But, consumers are sticking to their budgets.

The Laboratory too is sticking to its project schedules and project budgets and saving on taxpayer funds that may then be reallocated to other critically needed programs. This budget savings is contributing to the overall well-being of our economy.

The Transuranic Waste Inspection and Storage Project (TWISP) team, the Strategic Computing Complex (SCC) team, and the Nonproliferation and International Security Center (NISC) team have stayed dramatically ahead of schedule and under budget since beginning their work. Completion of these projects, especially the SCC and NISC buildings, will help make the Laboratory a more attractive place to work. This will also support the Laboratory's goal of recruiting and hiring new staff members as well as retaining current staff members by providing them state-of-the-art facilities in which to work.

These project teams have successfully blended teamwork, safety, lessons learned, and the discipline of project management to set a higher standard and exceed customer expectations.



The SCC Building's 30-foot by 20-foot American flag proudly displayed in its front lobby

Below: Three members of the TWISP team work together to remove waste.

Teamwork and Discipline Result in Cost Savings

Formal conduct of operations, team work, and consistent process improvement by using lessons learned were the keys to completing the Transuranic Waste Inspection and Storage (TWISP) project two years head of schedule and \$13 million under budget said Gilbert M. Montoya, TWISP project manager from Facility & Waste Operations - Solid Waste Operations (FWO-SWO.)

"One of our biggest keys to success was that this project team fully embraced conduct of operations and did things in a very formal way. We followed the Conduct of Operations Requirements for DOE Facilities DOE Order 5480.19, which tells you how you're going to operate."

Montoya said that the TWISP project team took advantage of their lessons learned and measurably increased their performance. "The JCNM team who performed the work are to be highly commended for their focus, tenacity, and work ethic. They helped us consistently improve our processes as the project progressed by taking advantage of lessons learned. We wouldn't have been successful without them."

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Teamwork...
continued from page 1

Another highlight of this project was that no other facility within the DOE complex had ever undertaken a task like this one. The entire process had to be invented as the team went along.

"We're very proud of this accomplishment," Montoya said, "not only did we finish under budget and ahead of schedule, but our safety record was just outstanding. Throughout the 5 years of the project, we had one reportable injury and it was a guy who pulled a calf muscle. We were also very good neighbors. We were very concerned about protecting our environment and didn't have even one environmental release."

A stable scope, open communication, and a co-located team were essential to successfully completing the Strategic Computing Complex (SCC) said its deputy project director, Nick Nagy, from CCN-DO. The project was completed 3 1/2 months ahead of schedule and \$13 million under budget.

"I can't tell you enough how well co-location works," he said. "We had an 8 a.m. 'plan-of-the-day meeting' and with every team member there, things went really smoothly."

John Bretzke, SCC project director from Project Management - Distributed Services (PM-DS) said, "Project management is developing a plan to complete your assigned work and implementing that plan. The hard part is developing the right plan and convincing everyone to follow it. It involves



A Carter & Burgess, Inc. rendering of SCC and NISC built by Hensel Phelps Construction Co.

The SCC building completed 3 1/2 months and \$13M ahead of schedule.



The NISC building, which is about 1/3 complete and \$1M ahead of schedule.

developing strategies at the highest level and down to the minute details. You must honestly monitor progress and adjust your actions to ensure that the overall project can meet its goals. The single most critical personal attribute to being successful is the ability to communicate to all types of people under all possible conditions."

One SCC goal was to provide space for teaming and collaboration. SCC will house about 300 designers, computer scientists, and university and industrial scientists and engineers to work on projects together. Its laboratories extend cutting edge simulation and modeling development. One of its specially designed 43,500 net square-foot (football-field-sized)

computer rooms houses the world's largest and most capable computer. This computer handles 30 TeraOPS, or 30 trillion floating point operations per second.

CCN Division employees have moved into the building and are installing the computer networks. Other building tenants will move in this month.

The NISC building was designed to bring most NIS Division employees, currently located in 50 different buildings scattered across the 43-square-mile Laboratory site, together in a state-of-the-art environment. Once completed, NISC will heighten program effectiveness by co-locating NIS nonproliferation, arms control,

treaty verification, and intelligence functions near the scientific, technological, and information sources that support them.

The building has a full basement and four stories above ground and will house over 400 people in technical, administrative, and special security offices, light laboratories, and light manufacturing. There also are physics, electronics, optics, instrumentation development, computers, and intelligence laboratories.

"Our real key to success is that we were able to define in detail what the requirements were for the building. NIS Division gave us a really good picture of what they wanted," said William H. Hamilton, project director of the NISC project, from PM Division.

Cliff Giles, NIS deputy division director and also the NISC project deputy director added, "The hardest part of project management is defining the scope in enough detail that you have a good budget and schedule. Late changes take time and cost money. Roger Stutz and others in NIS Division have worked very hard to minimize such changes."

The NISC team followed the Laboratory Implementation Requirement (LIR) for Construction Management and selected the design-build method of construction. This method allows a single contractor to both design and build the building under one fixed price. So far, the NISC project is three months ahead of schedule and \$1 million under budget. The project is about 40 percent complete.

Both Hamilton and Giles agreed that team work and communication helped the NISC team coordinate successfully with at least 12 other

divisions and groups including the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Los Alamos Site Operations, DOE Headquarters, and Hensel Phelps, the construction contractor.

"The Hensel Phelps safety record on both buildings (NISC and SCC) has been excellent," Hamilton said.

Giles said, "These two buildings will be very attractive and will help meet the Laboratory's goal of recruiting and hiring new staff members as well as retaining

current staff members and helping them be more productive."

PM Division Director, Dave Post said, "We've learned a lot from these two projects and have applied those lessons learned to our other projects. I've set a goal for the division of achieving excellence in project management."

In 2001, DOE rated PM Division "Excellent" in Project Management for the Appendix F Requirements. "We're just a few points away from being outstanding," Post said.

Native American Science Bowl

"Which part of the following parts of a brown alga does not have a counterpart in land plants?" (A. blade B. stipe C. float D. holdfast) See answer below.

Students participating in the Annual Native American Science Bowl (NASB) held on February 16 at Colorado College in Colorado Springs answered that and many other science questions in categories ranging from general science to astronomy. The NASB, affiliated with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Science Bowl® program established in 1991, is open to all high schools serving Native American student populations throughout the United States. The Heritage Institute from Castle Rock, Colorado coordinates the competition.



The NASB February 2001 Championship Team from Montezuma Cortez High School. From left: Michael Ferland (coach), Conrad Jacket (captain), William Terrazas, Kyle Bradley, Scottie Jacket IV, and Gerald Keetso II.

More than 80,000 students have competed in the National Science Bowl since 1991. Teams include a captain, three members and an alternate. Most participating high schools are located in small rural communities with very limited funds for math and science courses. Interested students are recruited for science clubs and are provided special instruction and textbooks outside of their regular school curricula. There are two divisions—the Bear Division, for schools with more than 300 students; and the Eagle Division, for schools with fewer than 300 students.

"You think of science as kind of boring and all study and I think this is great from the standpoint that it's a fun thing to do. The students get together and interact with kids from other schools. They get to travel and

see the world beyond their own little world," said Ron Wieneke, NMT-7 Group Leader. Wieneke has volunteered for the Science Bowl and the NASB since 1991. "The Lab's been very active. We have about 12 folks every year who participate," he continued.

ANSWER: C. float

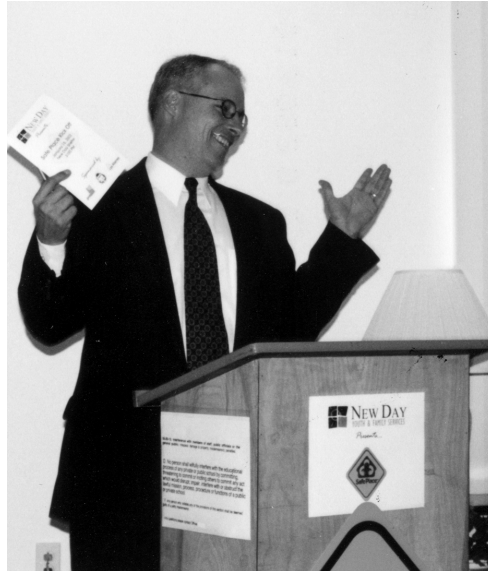
New Day Safe Place Program Brings Help Closer to Home

Project "Safe Place" is a nationally acclaimed youth outreach program that partners with communities to help young people.

About 40 people, including Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez, attended the New Day Youth & Family Services Kickoff on January 15 to launch New Mexico's Safe Place program. The kickoff was covered by KOAT Channel 7 News.

Safe Place provides a network of Safe Place locations for youth in crisis. The Laboratory is only one of the many local Safe Place program sponsors that include one of the Carrow's Restaurants in Albuquerque, PNM, and the Albuquerque Fire and Police departments.

"This program gives young people access to a safe place and a chance to think through their problems with the support of caring adults," said Krista Shipman, Director of Development for New Day. "It makes youth



Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez and Preston Dennard of PNM address Safe Place program sponsors.

a priority by creating a network of youth-friendly businesses, schools, recreation centers, fire stations, libraries, and buses."

Safe Place is currently available to youth throughout New Mexico. However, New Day staff will provide additional Safe Place training sessions to interested staff from youth facilities in Los Alamos, Española, Chimayó, Santa Fe, and the area Pueblos. This additional training will bring Safe Place help closer to home for youth in northern New Mexico.



Research Developments on AIDS Vaccine

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) scientists Dr. Bette Korber, Dr. Alan Perelson, and Dr. Rajan Gupta are presenting lectures on the advancements in research on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in Santa Fe in January and in Española, Los Alamos, and Taos this month.

After two decades of research, effective antiviral therapies have been developed that help people live longer and healthier lives with HIV, but their cost has made them inaccessible to the majority of infected people globally.

LANL provides an international HIV database for helping scientists understand the global diversity of HIV. The database also helps focus on designing a vaccine. Promising vaccine approaches are now in development. Even so, current World Health Organization estimates are that 35 million people are living with HIV and 15 million more will be lost. For more information go to <http://stb.lanl.gov/fellows.html>

Business Brief

HUBZONE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Laboratory's Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zone Certification Program is another initiative to assist regional businesses. Within northern New Mexico, the Small Business Administration (SBA) designated Mora, Rio Arriba, and Taos counties as HUBZone areas. A certified business located within a HUBZone receives priority procurement status for Federal contracts and Laboratory subcontracts. Although, this program is only months old, the Laboratory has submitted 223 certifications on businesses in the seven-county area, surpassing the Laboratory's 2001 goal of 200. Of those 223 certifications on businesses, 75 have been acknowledged as certified by the SBA, and the remaining business certifications are in process.



250 Scholarship Applications Received and In Process

This year, the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Foundation scholarship committee received 250 applications for the LANL Employee Scholarship Fund and the LANL Endowed Leadership Scholarship Fund. About 40 scholarships will be awarded, and students will be notified by the end of March 2002.

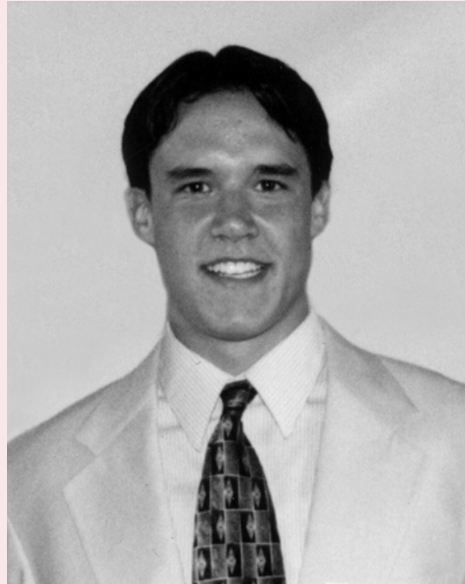
"This is a record number of applicants," said Debbi Wersonick, a scholarship committee member. "Applicants are a regionally and culturally diverse group of students too. We had applicants from as far away as Wagon Mound, Mora, and Las Vegas as well as applicants from Los Alamos and Santa Fe."

ESA and PTLA Win Quality NM Awards



Quality New Mexico has recognized LANL's Engineering Sciences and Applications Design Engineering (ESA-DE) group and Protection Technology Los Alamos (PTLA) for their excellence in using quality concepts and principles. ESA-DE won a Piñon Award for beginning to develop, implement, and commit to quality processes. PTLA won the Roadrunner Award for having already implemented quality processes and for demonstrating significant progress.

New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson will present the awards during Quality New Mexico's annual conference and New Mexico Quality Awards Ceremony March 8, 2002, at the Sheraton Old Town in Albuquerque.



1999 LANL Foundation Gold Scholar Luke Winston is graduating from Harvard University this spring.

First Gold Scholar Invited to Attend All-Managers' Meeting

Luke Winston, the first LANL Employee Scholarship Fund Gold Scholar, has been invited to attend LANL Director John Browne's All-Managers' Meeting April 15, 2002. Winston has been asked to provide an account of the effect that the Gold Scholarship had on his college experience.

Winston attended Roberston High School in Las Vegas, New Mexico and was awarded the 1999 Gold Scholarship of \$40,000. He will be graduating from Harvard University this spring.

Community and Educational Outreach Grants Available

The LANL Foundation Board of Directors has issued its call for 2002 community and educational outreach grant applications. Eligible applicants include nonprofit educational institutions, IRS-qualified 501 (c) (3) organizations, government agencies, and Pueblo communities serving Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Taos counties.

The Educational Outreach Grant Program application deadline is March 1, 2002. This program supports innovative educational programs in northern New Mexico designed to match present and future community workforce needs. The Foundation emphasizes programs that provide high-quality, cost-effective teacher training support and those that promote a better match between educational offerings and regional workforce skill needs. Programs that increase public understanding of science and technology are also encouraged to apply. The Foundation will allocate \$340,000 in competitive educational outreach grants in 2002.

The Foundation's Community Outreach Grant Program application deadline is May 31. This program is designed to create strong partnerships with local nonprofit organizations making big differences in northern New Mexico. Projects that meet a critical need in the community, enhance community involvement and delivery of social services, and benefit a large number of people are encouraged to apply. The Foundation will allocate \$330,000 in competitive educational outreach grants in 2002. For more information, please call Nicolla Covey at 505-992-0685, extension. 12.

Extension of the Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico Now in White Rock



The Crisis Center of Northern New Mexico has opened a new outreach office in the White Rock Business Plaza, 111 Longview Drive, Suite B-1. One counselor and two part-time advocates are available from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"But, people in need can contact the Española shelter seven days a week, 24 hours a day," said Jennifer Hanson, a Crisis Center advocate. "We want to duplicate (in White Rock) what we have in Española. We'll provide transportation,

for clients who don't have any, to the shelter in Española and also to any court appearances."

Crisis Center Executive Director, Rosario Dunning, said, "Our goal for the White Rock office is first of all to let people know that we're available to provide them services. We provide more than domestic violence services. We also have three very good school-based programs that we're already presenting to the Española schools and that we're looking forward to presenting to the Los Alamos and White Rock schools."

Dunning said the new office also will provide free training in anger management and

self-esteem building and a men's support group for both victims and offenders.

The school-based programs include: Let Our Violence End (LOVE) for grades K-3; Project Butterfly, a cultural diversity program that includes building self-esteem for grades 4-6; the Girl Empowerment program, which focuses on career orientation for grades 7-9; and the AYUDAR program, which stresses speaking out about violence, especially date rape and dating violence for grades 9-12. For more information, call the Crisis Center at 1-800-206-1656.

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