Message from the Director

Salutations! I hope that this finds you well and ready for the remainder of the Spring term. IR has been able to run the Fall 2010 End of Term and the Spring 2011 Census Reports and they are now included in the Report Library on our website.

This edition of NOIR provides you with information about a new section of the IR website that facilitates our compliance with new federal guidelines. As you likely know, the Department of Education has begun to require that institutions of higher learning present more information to prospective students and other constituents. To that end, IR has created a website devoted to that reporting: http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/InstitutionalResearch/Pages/HEOA.aspx.

In this newsletter edition we spotlight Nicole McWhirter, the newest staff member to join the team. She is our new Coordinator and brings to the table strong organizational skills and a wealth of experience in a variety of academic settings. She has immersed herself in learning our guidebook process and we are all very pleased to have her aboard!

Have a seat and enjoy!

Calendar of Events

2/1/2011: IR's new User Login/Portal is now online! Having a User Login enables validated users to:
- view private reports
- pre-fill Data Request Forms

2/17/2011: Denver campus Fall 2010 End of Term and the Spring 2011 Census Reports published to the Report Library

2/24/2011: Anschutz Medical Campus Fall 2010 End of Term and the Spring 2011 Census Reports published to the Report Library

"Now Showing": IR's new "HEOA" webpage
To be compliant with new federal regulations and provide our customers access to required information, this new website was developed.

"Coming Attractions": Users who are logged into the IR Website will be able to check on the status of their current data requests, and be able to quickly "reorder" previous data requests.

REMINDER: The Higher Learning Commission site visit is April 4 – 6, 2011.
Newsreel: Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)

HEOA is the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (otherwise known as Public Law 110-315). It amends and reauthorizes the Higher Education Act of 1965 and was signed into law on August 14, 2008. The Act includes a variety of disclosure and reporting requirements, some of which overlap. With respect to disclosure, each institution is required to disseminate and/or make available specific information to students, parents, employees, or other constituents.

As for reporting, each institution is required to submit information to the U.S. Department of Education or other organizations. While the HEOA website is presented by the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Analysis to assist in meeting the disclosure requirements, many University of Colorado Denver units were involved in assembling the information.

Reminder: Requesting Data from IR

The Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Analysis (OIRPA) strives to provide our customers with timely, accurate, and clearly presented information. In order to ensure that we meet your needs for the requested data, it is important that we receive your request two to four weeks in advance of the date you require the information. Please be assured that we will work with you when emergency requests arise; however, so that all customers enjoy the same level of service and projects/requests are prioritized appropriately, it is important that we know of your needs as far in advance as possible. Also, keep in mind that the online report library is an excellent resource.

Customer Survey / Website Feedback

IR has an online feedback survey to collect information from our customers, allowing us to assess our performance and make improvements based upon that information.

The link is active at all times so that you are able to provide feedback at any time. So that we are held to the very highest standards, the results of the survey are always available via our website.

Survey
Survey Results FY 2010
Survey Results FY 2011

FAQ

How do I request a User Login to the OIRPA website, so that I can access secured content and submit data requests easier?

To initiate a New User Request:
- Navigate to the User Login page of our website
- Click on the “Apply for a new account” link in the middle of the page
- Complete the "New User Request" form with as much information as possible
- Click the "Submit Request" button

At that point, the request will be reviewed and if approved, your Unit/Department Head will be contacted for confirmation of the request. Regardless of approval status, you will be contacted by one of our staff.

Online Data Request Form

IR Main Telephone: 303-315-2840
IR Email: IR@UCDenver.edu
Staff Spotlight

My name is Nicole McWhirter and I’m the newest member of the OIRPA team. I’ve been here a little over a month now and am already knee deep in updating college guidebooks – at this rate, by next month, I should be in over my head! I have a lot to learn but a great team around me to learn from! Not only am I the new to this office, I’m also new to the field of IR, new to CU Denver and even new to Colorado. What I’m not new to however is higher education and I’m thrilled to have landed back at a university after a six month hiatus. Most recently I was at Duke University where I was involved in running a multidisciplinary program on American Grand Strategy and a research center on Terrorism and Homeland Security. A few things you may find interesting to know -- I’ve lived overseas in both Lima, Peru and Buenos Aires, Argentina, I studied economic development, have a background in public policy analysis, and a passion for all things related to disability rights and special education policy. Oh, and I’m originally from NY (had to get that in there somewhere!). When I’m not working you can find me at home in Littleton with my husband and two kids, working on my newest sewing project (a quilt), or at the gym practicing yoga and Pilates.

I’m excited to be part of the CU Denver community and look forward to assisting you in any way I can. You can reach me at 303-315-2840.

National Science Foundation’s Graduate Students and Post-doctorates in Science and Engineering Survey (NSF/GSS)

The NSF/GSS is an annual national survey started in 1966 that is used to estimate the present and future size of the labor force in science and engineering. Each year, over 700 institutions are asked to participate in this annual survey and the University of Colorado Denver is one of them. The data collected through the survey system help to generate national data on the number of graduate students, postdocs and non-faculty researchers categorized by various demographic characteristics within the specified fields of study, including selected health fields. According to the National Science Foundation (NSF) website, they use the results of this survey to assess shifts in graduate enrollments and postdoc appointments and trends in financial support.

Through coordinated efforts with the Anschutz Medical Campus, IR has collected these data annually to report to the NSF. This year, because of the expansion of the postdoc and non-faculty researchers section of the survey, IR has been more involved than ever before. Every year, it is IR’s goal to ensure that the data reported are an accurate representation of the requested survey areas within the institution.

NSF releases data from these survey collections annually. Survey statistics can be accessed and viewed at www.nsf.gov/statistics/gradpostdoc. To learn more about this survey and obtain a detailed description, you can visit www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvygradpostdoc/#avail.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this survey, please contact the University’s NSF/GSS survey coordinator, Mindy Baker, at 303-315-2839.