



• *Alabama Association for Institutional Research*

Newsletter

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OVERVIEW

ALAIR recognizes that effectiveness in addressing higher education needs of Alabama is directly linked to the strength of institutions' self-analysis components. ALAIR acknowledges and accepts the challenge to establish an on-going forum through which older Institutional Research Offices will be expanded while simultaneously developing the newer ones. Importantly, disparities between the knowledge base of established Institutional Research Offices and others, pressed into service by the change in accreditation standards, challenge ALAIR to upgrade linkages that ensure exchange and sharing of analytical methodologies and techniques. While professional development workshops at ALAIR's last conference were viewed as very successful, the session: "Perspectives On The Pragmatics of Institutional Research" seems to suggest a need for greater exchange between the older Institutional Research Offices and the newer ones, thus laying the groundwork for the Third Annual ALAIR Conference.

ALAIR-3: Developing The Institutional Research Office: A Nuts and Bolts Approach.

Plans are near completion for ALAIR-3, April 6, 1989, in the "Magic City" on the campus of University of Alabama at Birmingham-University Center. The Conference is designed to provide

practical information and suggestions to both the novice and the experienced institutional researcher.

Dr. Jim Montgomery, Director of Institutional Research and Planning Analysis at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, will provide the keynote address. Building an IR office with Emphasis on the Role of IR in SACS Institutional Effectiveness Criterion will represent the focus of this address.

Two concurrent workshops: "Transfer Student Feedback: A Cooperative Venture Between 2-Year and 4-Year Institutions" and "The Who, What, When, Where, and How of Factbook Development" offer an opportunity for an exchange or sharing of experiences and information.

Should you desire additional information concerning the conference, don't hesitate to call Deborah Brewton (934-3254).

SAIR/SCUP REGIONAL CONFERENCE, HOUSTON

Some twenty-five ALAIR members gathered in Houston during the SAIR/SCUP SIG meeting to discuss improving IR units back in Alabama. Primary among the topics discussed was that of data collection and transfer between 2-year and 4-year institutions. Thanks to Deborah Brewton for providing the discussion leadership for the meeting.



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AIR/FORUM '89

The 29th Annual Forum of the Association for Institutional Research will be held April 30 - May 3, 1989 in Baltimore, Maryland. The theme "Higher Education and the Future: Initiatives for Institutional Research" takes note of the fact that changes in technology and the environment are occurring so rapidly that institutional research professionals must proactively anticipate the demands that will be placed on them in the future.

The ALAIR SIG meeting will take place at 12:15 P.M. in the Omni Pratt B, Tuesday, May 2, 1989....looking to see you there.

NEWS DARTS

- ALAIR'S Executive Committee considers broad goals.
- Subcommittee completes revision of constitution.
- Past ALAIR president heads nomination committee.
- State's institutional researchers surveyed concerning state-wide information exchange.
- State and IPEDS confer to improve reporting of data.
- ALAIR'S Executive Committee approves preparation of organization brochure
- Dr. John Porter of The University of Alabama shares panel at AIR'S 29th Annual Forum.

SAIR RETURNING TO ALABAMA

Huntsville has been selected as the site for the 1991 annual SAIR Conference. SAIR's last visit to Alabama was in 1982.

The 1991 meeting presents ALAIR with an opportunity to enhance the sense of community among higher education professionals.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to the many outstanding contributors who have worked tirelessly to build a vibrant and responsive ALAIR. A great deal has been done to identify and address the data and information needs of our institutional research professionals. Yet, demands ushered in by the challenge to increase higher education institutions effectiveness and rapid change in technology and environment, dictate that institutional research professionals rise to the occasion. Herein lies the need for a more focused approach by ALAIR. It is my view that broad goals, considered in executive session, serve as a basis for more specific 2 to 3 - years objectives. The goals are as follow:

- Provide opportunities for professional development to those engaged in institutional analysis;
- Disseminate information and exchange ideas, techniques and methodologies concerning problems of common interest;
- Improve the understanding, planning and operation of ALabama's institutions of higher education;
- Improve the quality of ALAIR'S services.