

*Banner continued...*

Rabbe, Susie Trujillo, Rhonda Green and others, we were able to get file transfers going and problems fixed as they arose. Haley was my personal heroine, teaching me how to do adjustments in Banner, getting procedures and contacts from other schools, and she and Misti (Ruthven) processed

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a substantial number of loans to help us get caught up. Our staff is great but we just needed the extra help this year, and we’re grateful to (CAN) and to our lenders who pitched in.”

As fall has set in, many schools have now completed or nearly completed the conversion and are well into the next phase of development: getting to know Banner on a much more practical basis. The system affects everything a financial aid office does, starting with the import of ISIR records (ED data) through packaging and certifying loans, and disbursing all kinds of aid, including Pell Grants and

work-study. It also creates certain efficiencies, so many offices are looking at creating new process flows as well.

“We can see that Banner will eventually be an advantage to our processes in the long run. While it may take some time to become accustomed to the ins and outs of the software and work out all of the ‘bugs’, it does seem to have great potential,” said Barb Buechler of Front Range Community College.

Other benefits of the Banner software include switching to CommonLine version 5, and using CommonLine functionality to automate changes that previously might have been handled manually.

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## Walking tall: Christy Jensen

On Veterans Day weekend, Christy Jensen, associate director of financial aid at the Colorado School of Mines, walked 60 miles and camped out with more than 4,000 fellow walkers.

The seven-year financial aid veteran flew, for the second consecutive year, all the way to San Diego, California, to raise money for breast cancer by participating in the Susan G. Komen Foundation’s “San Diego 3-Day” walking event. Last year’s 3-Day raised more than \$10 million for research, outreach and treatment.

“It’s a pretty phenomenal experience. Humbling and poignant,” says Christy. “You’re walking with several hundred survivors, and you’re part of a group that is just so positive.”

Giving back, helping others – they’re common threads that weave through Christy’s professional life as well. At the campus where she works, about 74 percent of the 3,900 students receive some form of need-based financial aid (85 percent receive assistance from all sources). Christy values the opportunity to help so many students become college graduates with a career path.

## outlook

*Outlook* is a quarterly publication of the *College Access Network*. For questions or comments, contact Allison Bradley Fleming at [allison.fleming@nelnet.net](mailto:allison.fleming@nelnet.net).

### *Contributors*

Julia Alexander, Teena Cooper, Lori Gloer,  
Haley Majewski, Mitch Martin, Thomas Rockwood,  
Misti Ruthven, Marilyn Young

### *Editor*

Allison Bradley Fleming



“I really like seeing the progress students make and knowing that, in some way, financial aid was a part of that.”

In San Diego, Christy walked with an 18-member team that included seven relatives and was led by her sister. She has both friends and family who have been affected by breast cancer, so committing to the 60 miles and the mandatory \$2,200 individual fundraising goal is all the more meaningful for her.

“It makes one feel part of a larger community,” Christy noted. “This event particularly draws you into the common good. With that kind of unity, you can make a difference.”

*Left: Christy Jensen (at right) celebrates with sister Kim Rohafek and her husband, Matt Rohafek, after the 2005 “San Diego 3-Day” event.*

## Office fundraiser benefits children at Denver shelter

A couple of times a year, our staff brainstorms for an idea for a community fundraising and team building activity.

Last spring, we held a bowl-a-thon for Junior Achievement. In the summer, we offered a new twist on charitable giving: Anyone who donated school supplies for local kids got to wear shorts to work every Friday in August.

With a hook like that, the fundraiser was bound to be a success. Compelling both for its cause and its offer, it was the most successful fundraiser the CAN/NGS office has ever held. “Everybody got very excited about it,” says Marilyn Young, ombudsman and chair of the staff Nrichment Committee. “We had more involvement than ever before and raised cash in addition to actual school supplies.”

The recipient of this generous effort was The Brandon Center, a Denver-based shelter for women and children who are homeless or victims of domestic violence. Center coordinators asked for school supplies for the children, and they ended up getting not just the supplies, but also a check for \$550.

“We think it’s vital to support our community in a variety of ways,” said Managing Director Caron Peterson. “We also think it’s important to celebrate the hard work we all put into this donation. Wearing shorts in August turned out to be a popular idea!”

