



manager for directed-energy sensors. Kent has more than 14 years' experience in test and evaluation for air-defense radar systems.

The lab is located at **Sandia Science and Technology Park**, 10501 Research Rd., Suite D. **Please RSVP by Monday, Dec. 1 to Loretta Rodriguez, 881-1003 or lrodriguez@aegistg.com.**

## nmOptics News

The **Math and Science Advisory Council** (MSAC) released a 76-page report on Nov. 24 to the Legislative Educational Study Committee, which details the state of science and math education and what can be done to improve it. Only about one-third of the state's 8th graders are proficient in math and science.



"New Mexico spends a lot on education, but we don't get very good results in math and science education. This hurts technology-based businesses," said **Ed Spivak**, nmOptics director and MSAC member.

The report is available at [www.nmoptics.org/library](http://www.nmoptics.org/library)

On Nov. 7 the **New Mexico Business Weekly** ran a story about the optics industry with a reference to nmOptics. See

<http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/stories/2008/11/10/focus1.html>

And in case you missed the **Albuquerque Journal's** story about the **MESA-nmOptics** collaboration, see <http://www.abqjournal.com/biz/1797184826biz11-17-08.htm>

## Entrepreneurial Leave Program Returns

**Sandia's Entrepreneurial Separation to Transfer Technology** program, on hold since Dec. 21, 2007, survived an evaluation of its effectiveness as a tech-transfer tool.

The program allows Sandia employees to leave the lab to start companies or help expand existing companies and return two years later if the venture doesn't work out.



One change in the program: Management must agree that the entrepreneurial option being proposed is the best way to commercialize the particular technology.

Since 1994, 137 employees have left Sandia to start up 44 companies and help expand another 46 companies.

## Member News

Congratulations to **Applied Technology Associates**, recently named the U.S. Department of Commerce National Minority Manufacturer of the Year. And congratulations to **Sherman McCorkle**, of **TVC**, recently inducted into the Junior Achievement New Mexico Business Hall of Fame.

**Moog Inc.** has moved into 2,600 square feet of space at **Sandia Science and Technology Park** adjacent to **CSA Engineering**, which Moog recently acquired. Moog employs 9 and has plans to expand in 2009.

**Lumidigm's** Venus Series Fingerprint Sensor is one of 100 technologies and products recognized by **Popular Science** as the Best of What's New™ for 2008.

**International Biometric Industry Association** Chairman **Walter Hamilton** said: "Inclusion of the Lumidigm Venus product on the Best of What's New list is a further indication that the science of biometrics is advancing into mainstream awareness and acceptance."



The Venus sensor appears in the list's new "Security" category of the list in the December issue. See <http://www.popsci.com/bown/2008/product/venus-series-fingerprint-sensor>.

And the **Transportation Security Administration** has evaluated and passed the **Innometriks** Rhino™ for deployment in critical pilot tests of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program. The Rhino, a smartcard-based, access-control device with integrated Lumidigm multispectral biometric technology, is ready for deployment in pilot sites.

The **Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce** will recognize the **Rodey Law Firm's** 125th anniversary (to the day) in business in Albuquerque. **Bernard Rodey** was admitted to practice before the District Court of Socorro County in the Territory of New Mexico on Dec. 11, 1883.

## Education Matters



About 200 **New Mexico MESA** students from across New Mexico visited **New Mexico Tech** in November. During two field trips, students from Albuquerque, Belen, Los Lunas, Socorro, Las Cruces, Española, Roswell, Las Vegas and Santa Rosa visited the campus in Socorro, where they heard presentations and talked to former MESA students attending NMT.

For the first time in **New Mexico Tech's** history, the percentage of Hispanic students (26.1) exceeds 25 percent. If NMT can sustain that level for two years, it will qualify for additional federal funding.

**Van Romero**, vice president of research and a **nmOptics** board member, said that being categorized as an Hispanic-Serving Institution is "extremely good news for research."



## NM Optics News

For the first time, **LANL's Milagro Observatory** has seen two distinct hot spots that appear to be bombarding Earth with an excess of cosmic rays. The research calls into question nearly a century of understanding about galactic magnetic fields near our solar system. An international team of collaborators that included Los Alamos researchers **Brenda Dingus**, **Gus Sinnis**, **Gary Walker**, **Petra Hüntemeyer** and **John Pretz** published the findings on Nov. 25 in *Physical*

*Review Letters*.



The **NASA** Phoenix Lander mission recently recognized **NMSU** Astronomy Department Chairman **Jim Murphy** for outstanding performance and his lasting contribution to the lander's success. Using computer models, Murphy characterized the surface environment of Mars and researched the design and operations of future spacecraft that could potentially land on Mars.



A \$9 million **NSF** grant will allow **Apache Point Observatory** to extend its years of astronomical research and discovery. Funding awarded to the Astrophysical Research Consortium (ARC) is for the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) project. **NMSU** operates the observatory.

Apache Point has been ranked the most scientifically productive observatory in the world, based upon citations to the scientific publications resulting from the SDSS surveys.

**NASA's** IBEX, launched recently to probe the edge of the solar system from a high Earth orbit, carried a compact device called the High Energy Neutral Atom Imager, developed at **LANL**.

The camera will detect atoms emitted from a region where the outermost reaches of our solar system meet interstellar space.

"This will be our first panoramic view of this gateway into our galaxy," said **Herb Funsten**, LANL's principal investigator. "We are in for some incredible discoveries."

## Upcoming Events

Renewable energy and the challenges of transmission and distribution will be the subjects of "Energy Summit in the Sandias" on Dec. 2 at the Isleta Resort. The day-long meeting is sponsored by **Technology Ventures Corp.** Cost is \$50.



"We want a candid exploration of the myths and realities behind renewable power technologies, the challenges to their widespread commercialization, synergies with other power sources and what the energy picture will look like ten years from now," said **Sherman McCorkle**, TVC president and CEO.

For information see [www.techventures.org/energy-summit](http://www.techventures.org/energy-summit).

The deadline for submitting business plans to the **TVC's** 16<sup>th</sup> **Equity Capital Symposium** is Jan. 7. Interested companies can contact TVC now for free help developing business plans. See [www.techventures.org](http://www.techventures.org).