Cal State Northridge President Jolene Koester was named chair-elect of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) at the association’s annual meeting in San Francisco. AASCU, one of higher education’s most prestigious advocacy organizations, represents more than 430 public colleges, universities and higher education systems in the United States and its territories.

Northridge is among a half-dozen colleges in the nation participating in a test run of a new Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) that will provide plenty of one-stop-shopping information, a “College Portrait,” suitable for comparisons to other universities as students and parents select a place to begin or continue an education.

Cal State Northridge swept the screenplay categories, landed the top documentary award and earned animation honors at the prestigious annual California State University Media Arts Festival. Northridge student projects were chosen from 230 entries submitted by 15 of the CSU’s 23 campuses.

There are numerous research opportunities for students at California State University, Northridge, but budding scientists need not wait until college to conduct rigorously controlled experiments, and publish the results. Southland middle school and high school students can see their names in print, and their work summarized, in the “New Journal of Student Research Abstracts 2007,” now in its 12th year, and spearheaded by award-winning CSUN biology professor Steven B. Oppenheimer, director of the university’s Center for Cancer and Developmental Biology.