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College and Community Relations

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**GROSSMONT COLLEGE PROFESSOR JIM TARVIN
RETURNS FROM ZIMBABWE AS SENIOR FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR**

El Cajon – Jim Tarvin, Associate Professor of Mathematics, was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar grant which took him to Bindura University of Science Education in Zimbabwe last year. There he taught in-service and pre-service teachers how technology may be incorporated into the mathematics curriculum.

The Institute for International Education, which oversees the Fulbright programs for the U.S. Department of State, renewed Tarvin's original Fulbright Scholar grant, allowing him to return to Bindura University for the summer. Tarvin, along with members of the Bindura University's Department of Mathematics, organized a technology conference for secondary school teachers in Zimbabwe.

Tarvin secured funding through the U.S. Embassy in Harare to bring Stuart Moskowitz of Humboldt State University to assist in the training of teachers and students. The success of this training institute was due in part to

the donation of 120 graphing calculators from Texas Instruments which were distributed to the participants.

Given the success of the workshops and the enthusiasm of the participants for this new kind of technology, the training institute will become an annual event at Bindura University. Tarvin has been making presentations and soliciting other interested parties to become more involved with the project to bring calculators and trainers to Zimbabwe. Tarvin is also soliciting used calculators of any kind for the Bindura University project.

Tarvin believes that faculty and student exchanges with faculty and students at Bindura University are in the future for Grossmont College, and helped secure funding from Texas Instruments to bring Claudious Dzambara, a secondary school mathematics teacher in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, to the United States to participate in conference presentations. Dzambara is finishing an honors degree at Bindura University and will be on the Grossmont College campus during a portion of his visit to the U.S.

Tarvin is also serving as a Fulbright program information contact for faculty and students at Grossmont College. He has already made a presentation during a California Math Council regional meeting and one at San Diego City College last November. He will also present his findings at the California Math Council for Community Colleges (South) conference, the Teachers Teaching with Technology International Conference, and at the California Math Council annual conference.

The Fulbright program was established in 1946 as a result of legislation introduced by the late J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The program is designed to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” The program awards approximately 4,500 new grants annually and operates in 140 countries worldwide. For more information, Tarvin suggests visiting the website for the Institute of International Education at www.iie.org.

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