

New Board Members For PARI and Transylvania Community Hospital

PARI Welcomes Two New Board Members

by David Clavier

Rita L. Fuller and Janet Parks have been appointed to the board of directors of the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) and will attend their first board meeting September 22.

Rita Fuller is currently the statewide director of the NC Mathematics and Science Education Network Pre-College Program (NC-MSEN PCP) and works at the UNC Center for School Leadership Development. NC-MSEN PCP seeks to broaden the pool of students graduating from high school with sufficient preparation to pursue mathematics and science-based programs at the university level. Currently, 98% of the



Rita Fuller

NC-MSEN PCP's high school graduates enroll in college and 82% major in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. During the past year Fuller worked extensively with PARI in the ROBOTS program, which allowed 180 minority



Janet Parks

and underrepresented sixth grade students to spend the summer learning to use PARI telescopes remotely via the Internet. She received her undergraduate degree from NC A&T

University and her graduate degree from UNC-Greensboro.

Janet Parks is a businesswoman who has served in a number of statewide organizations. She and her son run Parks Building Supply Company in Fayetteville. She is also a member of the North Carolina Arts Council Board of Directors and serves on the NCAC Executive Board. Parks career emphasis has been in secondary education with a special focus on designing and implementing advanced placement programs based on college curriculums. As part of this work, she developed programs for making grants and scholarships available to high school students. Through the Cumberland Community Foundation, she helped establish the Beth Bryan Creative Scholarship.