



Greetings, SMCC History Fans.....what do you get when you combine jet-propelled eggs, an aspiring nun who likes to blow things up, and Maricopa Employee Recognition honoree **Cori Washington**? You get the story below, which appeared in the *Phoenix Gazette* in December 1987....

Career festival is fun for science students

By **Steve Cheseborough**
The Phoenix Gazette

Doreen Durano has narrowed her career choices to two: nuclear physicist or nun.

Doreen, 16, a sophomore at Peoria High School, also has considered combining the two fields: "I could be a nun that blows up things," she said.

In the meantime, Doreen is participating in Math Engineering Science Achievement, a national program with branches in many Arizona high schools, which aims to increase minorities' entry into math, engineering and science careers.

About 150 MESA students, most of them from Tucson, attended a career festival at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix recently.

At the festival, the students met engineers, meteorologists, architects and other science professionals, many of them minorities.

But the highlight of the day for most of the students was the "Humpty Dumpty jet propulsion project," a competition in which they propelled eggs toward a wall as fast as possible and stopped them as close as possible to the wall — without breaking them, of course.

Most of the six teams that entered put their eggs in battery-

operated, handmade or commercial toy vehicles, generally with strings attached to stop them short of the wall.

Points were given for time and distance from wall at finish, although intangibles such as style and creativity also were figured in.

Probably the most original was Peoria sophomore Servando Perez's gravity-fueled, water-landing entry.

While the contest rules banned pushing or pulling the vehicle, they didn't say you couldn't let it roll down an inclined plane.

Servando's crew held up a strip of plastic, which ended at a cooler filled with water into which the car dropped at the finish.

Peoria's MESA group won \$60 in the competition — \$30 each for Servando's and freshman Clint Foster's entries, which tied for second.

The \$50 first-place prize went to José Ochoa of Pueblo High School in Tucson.

Contest organizer Cordelia Wilson, a South Mountain counselor, said the festival had been announced on too short notice for most Valley schools to enter.

This was the first such festival here, and Wilson said she hoped to make it an annual or semiannual event, possibly with a separate competition in Tucson.