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## **Sorenson Computer Center Manager Awarded MIT Fellowship**

SALT LAKE CITY, June 24, 2005—Sean Martin, manager of the [Computer Center and Computer Clubhouse](#) at the Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center has been awarded a fellowship to the "IDEAS Institute" at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab in Cambridge, Massachusetts this summer.

The Innovative Design After School Experiences Institute will be held at the MIT Media Lab from June 26 to July 1, 2005. The IDEAS Institute is an innovative leadership program for people dedicated to helping youth learn to express themselves creatively with new technology. Martin was one of just 20 fellows selected from among 350 applicants, and was awarded to receive the fellowship because of his outstanding commitment to young people from low-income communities. Awardees represent diverse educators from countries around the world, including South Africa, Brazil, Columbia, Mexico, Nigeria, Macedonia, Ireland, India, and the United States. Throughout the week, IDEAS fellows will work with new technologies being developed at the MIT Media Lab to design and implement projects that address specific challenges faced by youth in their communities.

For the last five years Martin has worked as manager of the Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center's Community Computer Center, where he has been actively involved in the implementation and daily operation of the Sorenson-Intel Computer Clubhouse. Martin and his staff work to provide meaningful and sustainable programming that gives positive guidance to neighborhood youth in a safe and informal design-based learning environment. Martin's objective is for all participants to learn more advanced technology skills and cooperation, while fostering their creative expression.

The MIT Media Lab is an international leader in the design of innovative digital technologies. The [Media Lab's Lifelong Kindergarten](#) group, develops new technologies, activities, and environments that help young people learn. The group has collaborated with the LEGO toy company on the development of the LEGO Mindstorms robotic invention kit, and it co-founded the [Computer Clubhouse](#) network of after-school learning centers for youth from low-income communities. Funding for the IDEAS Institute was provided by Intel Foundation.

The [Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center](#) is a multi-use community and recreation center operated by the Division of Youth and Family Programs under the Department of Public Services of Salt Lake City Corporation.

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