



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, INC.

TRIO

Sept.—Dec. 2007

North Dakota

CHAPTER OF ASPIRE

North Dakota is excited
to host the
2008 ASPIRE
Regional Conference in Fargo



FARGO

Ya sure, you betcha!!!

Save the date

Oct. 3-8
2008!

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Promotional video for the 2008 conference has been saved to YouTube.
The link to it is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIloIUoudBo>



Message from the President

Greetings fellow ASPIRE members. I hope this message finds you well rested from your winter holiday and prepared to devote yourselves fully to your programs and students this spring. As we begin 2008, I want to update you on the current status of ASPIRE, Inc. As your President, it is my duty to keep you informed of the accomplishments, challenges, and current endeavors being undertaken by the ASPIRE Executive Board. Consider this my January 2008 “State of ASPIRE” address, if you will.



As you may recall, I highlighted what I felt to be the relevant opportunities and challenges facing ASPIRE during our time together at the 2007 Conference in Denver. Paramount among the challenges I mentioned was the current financial situation of ASPIRE and the need for the Executive Board to devise innovative strategies for replacing income lost when the ASPIRE Training Institute grants were defunded. This situation was best characterized by a question I fielded during our business meeting from a member who inquired about ASPIRE maintaining a “rainy day fund.” I replied metaphorically that the fund was no longer viable because it was “already raining,” meaning that the Executive Board was already dealing with the issue of replacing lost funds through increased revenue generation.

That issue is now even more urgent because of budgetary concerns arising from unexpected costs associated with the October 2007 ASPIRE Conference in Denver. In November 2007, the Executive Board learned that costs of the conference exceeded budget projections and determined that immediate action was needed to lessen the impact of that shortfall on the region’s finances. Our response was immediate. We began negotiations with the Adam’s Mark hotel to reduce the amount we owe due to room attrition. I am pleased to report that the hotel agreed to a 20% reduction in our attrition costs. Still, we are continuing negotiations with the goal of obtaining a complete forgiveness of remaining attrition expenses. In addition, we have initiated a two-pronged strategy to reduce regional expenses and to generate revenue

The first element in our strategy is saving ASPIRE money by limiting business travel expenses normally required by the Executive Board. For instance, President-Elect Dan Benge, Past-President Amy Verlanic, and I took deliberate measures to reduce our travel costs to attend the winter COE Board of Directors meeting in December. By sharing hotel accommodations and limiting per diem meal expenses, we expended approximately half of what it normally costs to attend the winter COE meeting, saving ASPIRE almost \$3000. Furthermore, I decided to conduct the January Executive Board meeting via teleconference, which eliminated approximately \$4000 in travel expenses that would have been incurred by Executive Board members to attend the meeting at a future conference site. Thus, since December 2007, the Executive Board has saved ASPIRE nearly \$7000 simply by reducing Board travel expenses.

Secondly, we are taking steps to gradually transfer accounting duties normally performed by the ASPIRE accountant to John Shafer, ASPIRE Treasurer.

After careful consideration of the accounting duties and responsibilities, we have determined that most, if not all, of the tasks completed by the accountant could reasonably be performed by the ASPIRE Treasurer, which would reduce accounting expenses by several thousand dollars each year. Additionally, as the current Treasurer gains proficiency in his bookkeeping duties, he can pass on those skills to subsequent treasurers resulting in several years of continued savings for ASPIRE.

As I have mentioned in the past, any efforts to build long-term fiscal solvency for ASPIRE must not only include cost-saving measures, but also integrate innovative actions to generate revenue, which is the second element of our current strategy. Accordingly, the Executive Board is taking the following actions: 1) creating additional ASPIRE membership categories to include non-TRIO professionals who work with TRIO students, e.g., financial aid staff at our institutions, as well as TRIO retirees and alumni; 2) prioritizing corporate development income through the work of the ASPIRE Corporate Development Committee, which is devising a sponsorship incentive package for the region and states to use in soliciting sponsors for the annual conference and state chapter meetings, respectively; 3) overseeing the planning of the 2008 ASPIRE Conference to be held in Fargo, ND, with the goal of providing members with a relevant, worthwhile, and engaging event. Incidentally, planning for the 2008 conference is already underway. Look for conference updates and details to be available on the ASPIRE website (www.aspireonline.org) over the next few months.



(Message from the Pres. cont'd)

ASPIRE, like any professional association, is only as viable and relevant as its members are engaged and supportive. It is your involvement that allows ASPIRE to exist and grow as a dynamic organization, even during daunting periods of growth where personal sacrifice is needed. As such, ASPIRE needs your help and I ask you to consider getting involved and/or giving in any way you can to enable us to overcome our current challenges. The Executive Board and various regional committees have responded in the ways I have detailed above, but that is not enough. Your involvement is needed. You can support ASPIRE in the following ways.

Help ASPIRE grow through increased membership. The Membership Committee has already begun outreach to current, past, and potential members, but it can only do so much. The real power and vitality of our region lies in your ability to connect with fellow TRIO colleagues in your states; only you can explain the worth of ASPIRE to you as a TRIO professional. Reflect on and communicate to potential ASPIRE members the value of the region to you, whether it be the opportunities for professional development and community building through state chapter meetings and the annual conference or the advocacy efforts of state and regional officers to protect our programs and students. Or it may be knowing your interests are represented nationally through ASPIRE's membership on the COE Board of Directors or understanding the strength ASPIRE gives you to act collectively and communicate one, powerful voice to federal legislators when our programs are threatened. Again, I ask you to reflect on what ASPIRE means to you and to communicate that with your non-ASPIRE, TRIO colleagues. For questions regarding membership or assistance outreach to potential members, contact Dawn Eckhardt (dawneckhardt@mail.und.nodak.edu), ASPIRE Membership Committee chair.

As I have mentioned, a main priority of the Executive Board this year is to generate external support for our region through public-private partnerships with groups that believe in what we do and can contribute to our cause by sponsoring state meetings and chapters as well as the annual conference and region. Over the next few months, state chapters should receive resources and information from the Corporate Development committee to facilitate building public-private partnerships. At the same time, your contributions to ASPIRE are essential to maintain its viability. One means to contribute is by purchasing an ASPIRE Project Membership for \$100. Project Memberships are open to all TRIO projects in your state and are an allowable cost under OMB Circular A-122, which specifies that the costs of a non-profit's membership in business, technical, and professional organizations are allowable. A benefit of Project Membership includes staff attendance of pre- and post-conference workshops at no cost. Additionally, funds from Project Memberships allow ASPIRE to conduct events worthwhile to staff and students such as the Leadership Development Institute and the Student Leadership Congress and help cover TRIO Achievers' travel costs to attend the annual conference.

Secondly, any amount you can personally donate to ASPIRE is crucial, especially in light of the region's current budgetary challenges. Donations can be in one payment or in a series of payments over time, such as a monthly credit card deduction. What you contribute allows ASPIRE to maintain relevance by funding operating costs for professional development events, e.g., state chapter meetings and the annual conference. It also supports travel expenses for your state president to attend Policy Seminar in March to advocate for our programs and students with members of Congress. As you are aware, we have defended attacks on TRIO programs such as the proposed elimination of Upward Bound and Talent Search and the more recent Upward Bound Absolute Priority and Evaluation by ensuring that senators and representatives from our states realize the worth of TRIO to their constituents. It is imperative that ASPIRE continue to subsidize state presidents' travel to Washington DC to ensure TRIO is a funding priority. Please reflect on the value of ASPIRE to you and your students and give what is reasonably within your means. Anything you contribute will help "Advance Access in ASPIRE." A personal donation form can be found on the ASPIRE website (www.aspireonline.org, click "Advance Access in ASPIRE") or can be obtained by contacting Carol Gritts, ASPIRE Development Committee chair, or your state development leader (CO – Mike Manos, MT – Jamie Schell, ND – Dawn Eckhardt, SD – Susan Hupp, UT – Kim Domacilio, WY – Rachel Martinez). Please also remember that your time is equally as valuable as any monetary contribution and I welcome you to contact me, any member of the Executive Board, or the relevant committee chair should you want to contribute to ASPIRE through your involvement.

In closing, I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead ASPIRE, especially during this exciting period of challenge and opportunity. I am fortunate to rely on the knowledge and expertise of the Executive Board as we devise innovative strategies to move our region forward. I am confident that, with your continued involvement in and support of ASPIRE, we will build a stronger and more relevant organization. In the words of Frederick Douglass, "Without struggle, there is no progress."

Sincerely,

Michael Wade

ASPIRE, Inc. President



ASPIRE Board Meeting Minutes October 3-4, 2007



Colorado ● Montana ● North Dakota ● South Dakota ● Utah ● Wyoming

**ASPIRE Board Meeting
Adams Mark, Denver
October 3-4, 2007
Submitted by Brian Pilcher**

Approved October 31, 2007 via e-mail

The following participated:

OFFICERS

Michael Wade- President
Dan Benge- President-Elect
Amy Verlanic- Past-President
Krisan Crow- Treasurer
Brian Pilcher- Secretary

STATE PRESIDENTS

Dawn Eckhardt- North Dakota
Bonnie Straw- Wyoming
Mica Slaven-Lamothe- Montana
Donna Rigby- Utah
Ryan Ross- Colorado

GUESTS

ABSENT

John Shafer- Treasurer-Elect
Aaron Poor Bear- South Dakota

Incorporated Rigby, Wade, Verlanic, Eckhardt remarks,

Pre-meeting conference call to attorney Paul Schierer on 501(c)(3) and Kostecki letter at 2pm. Board conference call with Paul Schierer at 2pm.

To maintain group exemption, must file annually more than 90 days before end of year. Confirmed that it means before October 1. Year of establishment does not have this time constraint. First filing can be retroactive for a period of time, maybe 2 years. What is liability for officers in states under group structure? WY state law has exemption for officers of non-profits who operate in good faith. Must demonstrate good governance practices and guidelines must be in place. If not, then others in organization could be liable. Mentioned that IRS extends Sarbanes-Oxley standards in their enforcement to non-profits but not really applicable by current law. Move of incorporation to ND: Can we use name of ASPIRE, Inc in WY even if incorporated under another name? OK unless other corporation in WY owning the name complains, then would have to stop using it. Recommends incorporating in ND under name we will use, i.e., ASPIRE, Inc. He plans to get the move to ND done this month. Approach is to 1) get incorporated in ND first, then 2) get group exemption.

Paul Schierer was asked to send Allyn Kostecki a letter requesting Allyn provide ASPIRE, Inc. with his AMEX tracking document documenting over \$5,000 in credit card receipts charged for the period of time leading up to his resignation between March & May, 2007. Said he could do that and it's a good idea because it would document good governance whether he responds or not. Krisan Crow should send him the details for the letter.

Meeting called to order by Michael Wade at 4:25pm October 3, 2007:



(Board Meeting Minutes cont'd)

Parliamentarian appointed— Dawn Eckhardt.

Review and approval of previous minutes.

Motion #1. Dawn Eckhardt moved and Donna Rigby seconded to approve the minutes of the September 29-30 board meeting as amended. Passed unanimously.

State presidents should report number of TRIO employees in their state to Membership Chair Dawn Eckhardt by December.

Krisan Crow needs contact information for state treasurers as soon as possible.

State presidents need to submit a payment request form for payment for the banquet tables.

Dawn Eckhardt needs to check the CVENT site for accuracy of the link to the regional web site.

Brian Pilcher should send the board contact information to board members.

Motion #2. Amy Verlanic moved and Dan Benge seconded to recess until 8:30a.m. October 4, 2007.

Meeting recessed at 5:10pm.

Meeting resumed by Michael Wade at 8:46a.m, October 4, 2007.

All present from yesterday except the following excused absences:

Amy Verlanic had to catch a flight, Ryan Ross is delayed in traffic, and Aaron Poor Bear had to leave yesterday.

Some discussion on e-business protocol. Brian Pilcher will draft and distribute language to the board.

Note: Ryan Ross arrived at 9:00a.m.

Committee chair assignments. Michael Wade distributed a list and discussed new and unconfirmed committee chair assignments. Noticed that the archivist committee is not listed in the operating guidelines. Michael Wade suggested that Student Leadership Congress be planned with the same level of effort involved in a conference. Discussed cost considerations for location. Ryan Ross suggested that region and states alternate years in offering congresses. Michael Wade suggested that he and Donna Rigby discuss potential chairs for the 2008 SLC. Discussed ASPIRE regional conference rotation and the cost in some locations. Brian Pilcher suggested we develop a conference rotation proposal for the general membership meeting that would address cost of location by hosting in only the cheaper states. Dan Benge suggested that locations of conference within states could be adjusted to control costs. Discussed LDI and whether it was engaging and whether it was effective in encouraging leadership. It is good with newcomers but not sure of impact on developing future leadership. Should engage potential leaders in state and regional committees to prepare them. Michael Wade should ask COE for ideas for engaging alumni. Maybe best for states to manage it. Dan Benge's programs have FaceBook and MySpace sites to encourage contact with alumni. Michael Wade asked presidents to poll projects in their states on how they develop alumni lists. Donna Rigby suggested the importance of enlisting professionals who are TRIO alumni and Mica Slaven-Lamothe further suggested that the tendency to focus on recent program graduates was misplaced because of their mobility and lack of establishment in the professional community took an inordinate amount of tracking work.

State presidents should confirm regional Corporate Development committee representatives for their states.

Schedule of January board meeting in Spearfish. Finance committee 2pm-7pm January 11th, full board meeting 9am, Saturday 12th until noon on the 13th. Airport is in Rapid City 45min. away.

Conference site selection for Wyoming, 2010. Last weekend in September or early October are typical. Asked Bonnie Straw to work with state in selecting a site and providing potential venues in WY for 2010 at the Board meeting in Jan 2008.

Motion #3. Motion to adjourn by Ryan Ross and second by Dan Benge. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.



ASPIRE Board Meeting Minutes September 29-30, 2007



Colorado • Montana • North Dakota • South Dakota • Utah • Wyoming

**ASPIRE Board Meeting
Adams Mark, Denver
September 29-30, 2007
Submitted by Brian Pilcher**

Approved Minutes (approved October 3, 2007)

The following participated:

OFFICERS

Michael Wade, President
President-elect- vacant
Amy Verlanic, Past-President
Krisan Crow, Treasurer
Brian Pilcher, Secretary

STATE PRESIDENTS

Jamie Schell, Montana
Dawn Eckhardt, North Dakota
Susan Hupp, South Dakota
Rachel Martinez, Wyoming
Michael Manos, Colorado
Donna Rigby- Utah president

GUESTS

Aaron Poor Bear- South Dakota president-elect

ABSENT

Kimberly Domacilio, Utah

Meeting called to order by Michael Wade at 9:15am, September 29, 2007:

Corrections to agenda: Carol Gritts will not be here to present development report.
Parliamentarian appointed—Susan Hupp.

Review and approval of previous minutes.

Motion #1. Mike Manos moved and Dawn Eckhardt seconded to approve minutes of May board meeting as revised. Unanimously approved.

Motion #2. Susan Hupp moved and Jamie Schell seconded to approve minutes of July 25, 2007 e-business special board meeting. Passed unanimously.

Motion #3. Krisan Crow moved and Mike Manos seconded to approve minutes of August 8, 2007 special board meeting conference call. Passed unanimously.

Reviewed minutes of general membership meeting from October 8 & 10, 2006 and edited them for presentation to the membership.

Treasurer's Report by Krisan Crow.

Some highlights:

Retained Pauline Dunnuck, CPA, as the registered agent and contracted accounting firm, with Kathy Hamilton to continue as our assigned accountant. Mader Tschacher Person & Co., LLC performed the 2006 audit and there were no findings. Corporate fees have been paid to Wyoming Secretary of State



(Board Meeting Minutes cont'd)

where we are currently incorporated. Detailed reports are available on ASPIRE finances which will be posted on the web.

Michael Wade suggested phonathon to be orchestrated by state development chairs (past presidents) for project memberships. Benefits currently are free pre- and post-conference ASPIRE workshops. Mike Manos suggested developing ASPIRE web site links to project web sites for paid project memberships, and he suggested developing clarity for purpose and benefits of the project membership. Susan Hupp read list of activities supported by these funds, for instance travel for TRIO Achievers, assistance with LDI, travel to policy seminar.

The Development Committee should invoice all projects, perhaps with a different cover letter for previously paid and unpaid projects, to be sent in the fall. Michael Wade will follow up with Carol Gritts. Carol should continue sending list of paid project membership to state development chairs which will help with the phonathon.

Motion #4. Amy Verlanic moved and Krisan Crow seconded to charge development committee to brainstorm benefits of project memberships. Passed unanimously.

President's Annual Report by Michael Wade. He reviewed the Development Committee Report and how fair share/project memberships work. ASPIRE development year is September 1. ASPIRE's fiscal year is January 1. COE's fiscal year is July 1. **(Revenue generation discussion:** Aaron Poor Bear suggested creating non-TRIO project partnerships and provide advertisement for the partners in the conference printed program. Corporate sponsorships discussed. Inviting potential donors to, and their attendance of, the TRIO Achievers Luncheon has inspired one or more large donations in the past. Michael Wade plans to schedule a conference call for the board to brainstorm ideas for fund raising.)

Motion #5. Moved by Krisan Crow and second by Amy Verlanic to schedule a conference call to brainstorm ideas for the creation and initiation of a development plan. Passed unanimously.

COE Update by Amy Verlanic. Passage and signing of College Cost Reduction Act to fund defunded UBs. Arnold Mitchum identified 9 states that were key in their activities for this passage and 3 were in ASPIRE. A continuation of the Higher Ed Reauthorization is needed which will include the prohibition of use of funds to carry out the UB Evaluation and the Absolute Priority. Being considered in the Senate as a continuing resolution. Bill to fund TRIO has been passed by House Committee for \$40 million increase and one in Senate being considered is for \$30 million increase.

Committee Reports. These are included in Annual Report and are submitted as information items.

State Reports. Also included in Annual Report. State presidents presented some highlights. Reports will be posted on the web.

Conference Chair for 2008. Michael Wade nominated Cheryl Kingsbury and Dawn Eckhardt as co-chairs.

Motion #6. Brian Pilcher moved and Susan Hupp seconded a motion to approve Michael Wade's nomination of Cheryl Kingsbury and Dawn Eckhardt as co-chairs of the 2008 ASPIRE Conference. Passed unanimously with Dawn Eckhardt abstaining.

501(c)(3). Board will conference call with Paul Schierer at 2pm next Wednesday.

Allyn Kostecki resignation. There hasn't been any response from Allyn to requests for about ten American Express tracking documents March to May 2007 for about \$5,048. Could turn up in an audit and the accountant would have to track all the expenses and run up the accountant bill extraordinarily. Will send him a letter from an attorney which will provide documentation of our due diligence and hopefully elicit a response from him.



(Board Meeting Minutes cont'd)

Student Leadership Congress. SLC can be a revenue generator and can raise the identity that students have with ASPIRE. Discussed timing for next year, location, and managing costs for programs sending students. It was cancelled for this fall. October or November of 2008 looks best.

Motion #7. Donna Rigby moved and Dawn Eckhardt seconded that Michael Wade explore Student Leadership Conference chairs for the fall 2008 SLC. Passed.

State Chapter \$500 purchases of banquet tables. Respective state members can sit at the reserved, purchased table at Tuesday night's banquet. Chapters and corporate sponsors will be recognized for purchase. Suggested that for 2008, corporate purchasers meeting the minimum contribution may hang their banner at conference, get a free ad in printed program, recognition by announcement at the banquet, and table cloth of different color than non-purchased tables.

SD, MT likely to purchase, WY plan to purchase, CO maybe.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Committee Motions

Motion #8. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee that non-paid registrants will be required to provide a copy of a purchase order, write a personal check or give credit card information for registration that will be held for 30 days or until institutional payment is received whichever comes first. This policy will become effective immediately. Passed unanimously.

Shawanna Kimborough sent notice to unpaid registrants for this conference as indicated in CVENT. It was asked of the treasurer to reimburse attendees as soon as possible if their personal account is charged because the institution is too slow in paying.

Motion #9. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to end the aspire-online.org website and not incur any additional fees associated with its use. Passed unanimously.

Justin Rinsak at Montana Tech is managing the current web site, aspireonline.org.

Motion #10. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to request a certified letter be sent, from ASPIRE, Inc.'s legal council, to Allyn Kostecki requesting documentation to reconcile his outstanding credit card expenses. Passed unanimously.

Michael Wade will follow up with Paul Schierer to have this done.

Motion #11. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to end the aspire-training.org website and not incur any additional fees associated with its use. Passed unanimously.

Motion #12. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to reduce the website budget from \$3,930 to \$600, and to add a \$5,500 c-vent line item in the budget. Passed unanimously.

Motion #13. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to increase the COE table budget line item from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Passed unanimously.

Motion #14. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to charge the new ASPIRE Treasurer to investigate whether ASPIRE, Inc. is best to stay with American Express or to move to US Bank Cards or another credit card vendor. Passed unanimously.

Motion #15. It comes moved and seconded from the finance committee to charge the Operating Guidelines Committee to write Conference Operating Procedures to include encouragement of corporate and private partnerships. Passed unanimously.



(Board Meeting Minutes cont'd)

Preview and Expectations for Conference. 25% of conference attendees this year are new. Amy reviewed conference agenda. Awards during Wednesday breakfast rather than at Tuesday evening banquet. Encouraged board to greet registrants and attend LDI lunch.

Increase LDI registration to \$40. Susan Bornsen requested increase.

Motion #16. Susan Hupp moved and Krisan Crow seconded to increase the LDI registration to \$40. Passed unanimously.

Operating guidelines committee should change the guidelines to reflect this.

Extension of Treasurer Term. Krisan Crow suggested an extension of the term to overlap terms for training of new treasurer. There is a huge learning curve and the new treasurer can be abandoned by the incumbent. Operating guidelines already call for treasurer to train the new treasurer in the fall between the election and taking office in January. There would be added expense of another board member attending meetings if it were extended. There are means to train through participation on regional finance committee, conference chair, and regional president.

Adding CVENT Subcommittee To The Web Site Committee. Need someone to learn the capacities of CVENT and manage it for regional and state conferences to its best effect. Discussed whether should have separate committee.

Motion #17. Dawn Eckhardt moved and Susan Hupp seconded that the Operating Guidelines Committee will revise the guidelines to establish a standing CVENT committee. Passed unanimously.

Motion #18. Mike Manos moved and Susan Hupp seconded that the agenda item concerning training of new state boards be tabled until the January board meeting. Passed unanimously.

It was suggested that if this year's second membership business meeting is not necessary, the time be utilized for creation of ideas for development.

Motion #19. Brian Pilcher moved and Donna Rigby seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 6:18pm.

Current ASPIRE Board Members

Dan Bengé dbenge@msubillings.edu
Brian Pilcher b_pilcher@umwestern.edu
Aaron Poorbear aaron.poorbear@usd.edu
Donna Rigby drigby@weber.edu
Ryan Ross ryan.ross@ccd.edu
John Shafer shafer@suu.edu
Mica Slaven-Lamothe mslavenlamothe@mtech.edu
Bonnie Straw bstraw@uintaeducation.org
Amy Verlanic averlanic@mtech.edu
Michael Wade mwade@uwyo.edu
Dawn Eckhardt dawneckhardt@mail.und.nodak.edu



Attendees at the ASPIRE Leadership Institute, October 2007, Denver, CO
(photo snapped by Marion Blue Arm).



Committee Reports

From the Membership Committee

The ASPIRE membership committee is comprised of representatives from each of the six states in the region. This year those members are: Dawn Eckhardt, Chair (ND), LaVonne Martinez (CO), Jamie Schell (MT), Aaron Poor Bear (SD), Donna Rigby (UT), and Tefany Fegler (WY). The membership year is off to a great start with 307 current members. Membership is expected to see a surge in numbers as we begin spring conferences across the region. In addition to our membership numbers, we are very excited to report two new developments affecting membership to ASPIRE.

The first is an opportunity for current ASPIRE members that have experienced a lapse in their membership during their employment with TRIO to purchase those lapsed years. Over the course of the time I have served as your membership chair for the region, I have received several requests to “get caught up” on their membership. According to the current operating guidelines for ASPIRE, this has not been an option. However, during ASPIRE’s January Board Meeting, I asked the board to consider making this change to the operating guideline. The motion brought forth to the board reads:

To charge the membership committee members with the task of contacting current members of ASPIRE that have a lapse in their membership dues during their years of service with ASPIRE to offer them the opportunity to purchase those lapsed years of service. Lapsed years of service may be purchased at the current rate of a professional membership. Payments may be made either as a one-time payment, or established on a credit-card payment plan, with final payment being made by August 1 of the current membership year.

The motion passed unanimously.

Thanks to the work of Juli Larson, Awards Committee Chair, detailed records for personal membership are available going back to the 1999-2000 membership year. All members that have experienced a lapse in their years of service according to these records can expect to hear from their state representative on the membership committee to personally offer you this opportunity to not only support ASPIRE, but to get you back on track for your regional service awards. If you already know you have a lapse in membership during your time with ASPIRE and would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact either your state membership committee representative or Dawn Eckhardt, Membership Chair at dawneckhardt@mail.und.nodak.edu. We’ll be happy to help you. We are excited to see a dramatic increase in the number of service awards being presented at the 2008 regional conference.

The second piece of news coming from the membership committee is a possible change in the categories of membership. Again, in response to a host of questions that have come through the membership application process, it seemed an opportune time to suggest increasing the categories of membership available to our staff, friends, and alumni. The current bylaws of ASPIRE allow for three types of membership: Professional, Associate, and TRIO Participant. The changes being suggested will add categories for retirees as well as friends & alumni. Because the membership categories are defined in the bylaws, any changes to them must be approved by the membership as a whole. State presidents will be bringing forth these proposed changes to ASPIRE members during state meetings. With membership approval, these changes will go into effect on October 1, 2008, the start of the 2008-2009 membership year. Be sure to attend your state meeting this spring to have your voice heard!

Lapsed Years of Membership Application on following page.



(Membership Committee Report cont'd)



Application to Purchase Lapsed Years of Membership to ASPIRE, Inc.

Current ASPIRE members may now purchase lapsed years of membership at the rate of \$60 per year. To purchase, please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Program: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of years to purchase: _____ X \$60/year = \$ _____

My payment will be made by: Personal Check. Please make check payable to ASPIRE, Inc.
 Credit Card

Credit Card Payment Information

Visa Master Card Please bill me: One Time Payment
 Monthly installments to be completed by 8/1/08

Name on the card: _____

Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit your completed form to:

Dawn Eckhardt, Membership Chair
TRIO Talent Search
University of North Dakota
2891 2nd Ave N, Stop 9027
Grand Forks, ND 58202

Telephone: 701-777-4373
Fax: 701-777-3816
Email: dawneckhardt@mail.und.nodak.edu



(Committee News cont'd)

From the Governmental Relations Committee

Appropriations Bill Kills UB Evaluation

On December 26, 2007, President Bush signed the omnibus appropriations bill, H.R. 2764, into law. While this bill maintains the current TRIO funding level of \$828.2 million for FY08, it includes language to halt the evaluation of Upward Bound.

As a result of this language, the evaluation of Upward Bound is suspended for the life of this bill; that is, until September 30, 2008. However, COE is working with Congressional staff to permanently eliminate this and all other provisions of the Absolute Priority in the Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization process. We expect Congress to conclude reauthorization over the next several months.

COE will send letters to institutions involved with the evaluation to explain what they can expect to occur in the coming weeks. The most important development is, of course, that Upward Bound projects can now admit all eligible students into their programs, as space permits. (Please note that the remainder of the Absolute Priority, prohibiting the recruitment of 11th graders and requiring that 30% of newly-admitted 9th graders be at "high academic risk for failure," is still in effect for all Upward Bound projects.)

It is rumored that Secretary Spellings plans to continue with the evaluation. However, COE is working to learn more about this rumor.

U.S. Department of Education Unveils Plan to Contract Out Monitoring of TRIO Programs

On December 27, 2007, the Department of Education issued a request for proposals to solicit contractors to conduct on-site reviews and engage in virtual monitoring of TRIO programs to ensure compliance with federal regulations. The monitoring of TRIO programs is a duty vested in the program officers within the Office of Postsecondary Education. Given the events of the last few years, it is difficult not to view the plan as another attempt by the Administration to impair the TRIO programs. COE does not believe it is desirable for the Department to keep TRIO programs, administrators, and students at arm's length by privatizing its legislative duty to monitor these programs.

The COE Government Relations team is currently working with Members of Congress to combat this outsourcing initiative and will need to act quickly as the Department has indicated an intention to award these contracts in February 2008. Please be on the lookout for forthcoming alerts regarding this matter.

HEA Reauthorization on the Horizon

We expect the U.S. House of Representatives to consider the HEA reauthorization bill, H.R. 4137 or the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007, on the House floor in late January or possibly early February. The version approved by the House Committee on Education and Labor includes several provisions that benefit the entire TRIO community -- expanding program eligibility, eliminating the entire Absolute Priority, and installing an award notice and appeals process. The COE Government Relations team is working with Congressional staff to enhance the legislation even further to increase opportunities for severely disadvantaged populations and to refine the criteria used by the Secretary of Education to determine whether sufficient "need" exists in a community to warrant a TRIO grant. If you have any stories to share regarding students in pockets of poverty who miss out on opportunities for TRIO programs because of surrounding wealth in local communities, please contact Kimberly Jones at kimberly.jones@coenet.us.

Department of Education Audit

In response to a recent request by 15 Senators, the Department of Education's Inspector General has begun an internal audit of the TRIO Division, particularly on the processes used to analyze Prior Experience points. This investigation came as the result of a months-long process, at the expenditures of significant sums in lawyer fees by COE as a result of what we perceived to be inappropriate practices in the 2006 Talent Search and EOC competitions.



News from South Dakota

NCLB Impacts Talent Search *By Marion Blue Arm, USD Talent Search*

The main challenge TS advisors have been faced with these last few years is that we are getting access to less students and are allowed less frequent contact hours throughout the year. NCLB and other requirements to meet standards are compelling teachers to get their subjects taught and nothing else. They fear that they may not be able to fulfill their requirements throughout the year if they give up student contact time to outside presenters. Advisors are struggling more to meet their total student numbers and most are allowed less frequent contacts than the two per month hoped for.

Successful strategies:

Faced with the increased difficulties to be allowed in classrooms to visit with students, I came up with a, if not innovative so different, strategy for my target school. At the beginning of the year, I offered the counselor and teachers to blend my activities with theirs, thus complementing what classroom teachers have to cover anyway. This way, I am hoping to become less someone who is taking away academic teaching time and more a resource person who adds to what students are required to learn. Other advantages include that I can take the group on days the teacher is absent, that I am present in the study hall to help with assignments and subject-related homework, and that the students feel it is “worth” doing the work because they receive credit for it. So far, I am doing a career unit with the English teacher in grade 10, a unit on civic responsibility and decision making in the 9th grade with the history teacher, and another career project related to science occupations with the science teacher.

In addition, I made two innovations this school year. One is to have a prize drawing per semester to entice students to return completed applications. The drawing gets announced in the school paper two weeks ahead of time, and every counted student gets to partake. Prizes in the first drawing were two t-shirts, 8 water bottles with the TRIO TS logo, and two pencils each with the TS logo to seven students – not much, but it advertizes the program and catches the attention of school staff, students, and parents alike.

The second new strategy is a publication of a short blurb on what TS is and does in the local school paper about once a month. This also helps inform all of the school staff on the goals and purpose of TRIO TS.

From Oglala Lakota College *By Milton Fineran, SSS Director Oglala Lakota College*

The SSS program at Oglala Lakota College is encouraging our students to actively participate in the Annual American Indian Higher Education Consortium conference at Bismarck, North Dakota. The date for the conference is March 17-20, 2008. Some of the student competitions are: Speech contest, Critical Inquiry, Knowledge Bowl, Science Bowl and writing contest. There are workshops for students and professional staff as well. Many of our project participants have been on the academic teams over the years and they look forward to meeting other Tribal College students, attending seminars and meeting new friends during spring break, which co-insides with the Annual conference.

Supplemental Instruction Is A Hit At SDSU *By Linde Murray & Billy Thomas, SDSU TRiO SSS*

Retention Interns

At South Dakota State University, as with any other college or university, there are courses offered on campus that are known for their challenging nature. When students are required to take these difficult courses, it can cause a great deal of anxiety.

One way for the students to combat their anxiety and improve grades is by attending the weekly Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions. South Dakota State University's TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) program sponsors Supplemental Instruction for a variety of courses. At SDSU, TRiO SSS offers Supplemental Instruction in Chemistry, Biology, Anatomy, Physics, and Accounting. Each

(News from South Dakota cont'd)

section of SI is currently offered two nights per week for approximately one hour.

Supplemental Instruction offers students an opportunity to compare notes, discuss concepts presented in class, discover effective study strategies, and prepare for upcoming examinations. Participation in the SI sessions is active, as students have the chance to interact with other students also taking the class. This interaction provides students with an opportunity to involve themselves with their peers and increase their understanding of course material.

Kendra Hill, a Biology instructor at SDSU, sees firsthand how SI benefits students. Instructor Hill said, "Supplemental Instruction helps students be successful by reinforcing the skills and knowledge learned in the course. Students should take advantage of the service! Participants show significant improvements on their test scores."

Supplemental Instruction sessions are facilitated by a SI leader. The leader is a student who has previously taken the class and performed well. While the SI leader does not lecture, he/she has a strong knowledge base and works to inspire students to fully learn and integrate the course material. Instructor Hill feels that, "The ideal SI leader not only facilitates the instruction, but also helps the students actively learn the course material."

The leaders of the SI sessions attend the class on a daily basis for the discipline they are facilitating. Additionally, the leaders are encouraged to build a strong relationship with the professors in their topic area. Regular class attendance and a strong relationship with the professor help the SI leaders promote the program and guide the students.

Attendance at SDSU SI sessions has grown tremendously within the last year. In fact, this semester, a record for attendance was set! During one week, attendance at the Anatomy Supplemental Instruction sessions totaled 289 students!

It has become apparent at SDSU how many students are reaping the benefits of the Supplemental Instruction sessions. We strongly encourage other campuses to develop Supplemental Instruction programs to help students find their full potential!

News from Utah

Talent Search Participant Receives Hispanic Business Leadership Foundation Scholarship

Anyuli Cano, high school senior from Ben Lomond High School in Ogden, Utah, and participant in the Educational Talent Search program at Weber State University was awarded the *Hispanic Business Leadership Foundation Scholarship* being the only high school recipient from the Northern Utah area. The Foundation only awarded 40 scholarships throughout the state of Utah for this year; their purpose is to recognize Hispanic students' academic and vocational achievement, and demonstrated leadership in their school and community. Anyuli is currently taking multiple AP classes with a 3.8 cumulative GPA. She is involved in her school and community participating in varsity soccer, high school drill team, working part-time as a Certified Nursing Assistant and contributing service to St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She plans to attend Weber State University to become a labor and delivery nurse. The ETS program at WSU is very proud of her!



News from North Dakota

2008 ASPIRE Regional Conference News

Be sure to mark your calendars now for the 2008 ASPIRE Regional Conference to be held October 3 – 8 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND. The North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE is thrilled to be organizing this event, with leadership from Cheryl Kingsbury and Dawn Eckhardt, conference co-chairs.

Thanks to a host of volunteers from across the state of North Dakota, the 2008 ASPIRE Regional Conference is shaping up to be a fantastic event. Sub-committees have been identified, volunteers have accepted their challenges, and work is well under way. A conference budget was presented to the ASPIRE Board during their January meeting, and has been approved. The agenda sub-committee is planning to put forth a call for proposals by January 31. Be sure to look for this and submit your ideas. We are eager to see them and to build a conference that will benefit you both personally and professionally.

Turtle Mountain Upward Bound Students: Lessons in Archery and an Upward Bound Reunion

A reunion of former Upward Bound students from the Turtle Mountain area was held August 29, 2007 at the Anishinabe Wellness Center of Turtle Mountain Community College. Neil Reuter, retired UND TRIO Director, with local assistance from UB Alumni Willie Davis, organized the event. The afternoon included dinner and music by Eddie King Johnson and approximately 25-30 people attended to visit, look at scrapbooks from the years they attended Upward Bound, and reminisce. Alumni from the program's inception in 1968 came together to talk with old friends about what they have accomplished since high school, and how their experiences with Upward Bound helped them to go on to college. Thank you to everyone who came; it was a great event!

Prior to the reunion, current Upward Bound students from Turtle Mountain were treated to a great speaker, Willie Davis. Willie shared stories about his experiences with the Upward Bound program, as well as words of encouragement to stay the course to reach their educational goals. Willie also gave the students lessons in archery. Students who participated were Caleb Enno, Curtis Lenoir, Josh Zaste, Dylan LaVallie, Natasha Houle, Ciera Nadeau, Mykel Hiatt, Jacey, and Jessica Gladue. As a prize at the end of the activity a bow was won by Josh Zaste. Curtis Lenoir took second place in the competition and was the winner of a hunting hat.



(News from North Dakota cont'd)

ASPIRE State Initiative LEAPS Into Action

The North Dakota ASPIRE State Initiative Committee was awarded a \$500 COE grant to fund the Legislative Education Action Plan, or LEAP in 2008. The LEAP initiative has two goals. The first involves building a TRIO student database by collecting and aggregating data from all TRIO programs in the state. Initially, data will include the last two years, but will be designed so that additional years can be added over time, similar to the model developed by Minnesota TRIO in its 20th Year Evaluation Project.

To implement the second goal of the LEAP project, members of the State Initiative Committee will meet with North Dakota State legislators to build relationships, and to share the facts about TRIO programs and students that have been gathered. Since members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly are currently working in study committees that will recommend legislation for consideration by the 2009 Legislative Assembly, this an opportune time for the State Initiative to engage in this effort. The State Initiative plans to attend meetings of the Education, Higher Education, Human Services, and Workforce interim committees, since they are addressing issues of interest to the TRIO community.

All North Dakota ASPIRE members are asked to visit with these legislators, as well. During this interim period when these committees are focused on education issues, it would be a great time to visit with them individually, invite them to your TRIO Day, or just for a visit to your program. By going to the North Dakota Legislative website, you can find out which legislators in your districts serve on these committees. It also contains lots of interesting information about what these committees are working on. Here is the link to the Legislative Interim Committee website: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/60-2007/interim-info>,

NDSU Veterans Upward Bound Students Thank US Senator

US Senator, Kent Conrad, was in Grand Forks to promote his Market Place for Entrepreneurs at the Alerus Center. North Dakota State University's Veterans Upward Bound students thought this would be the perfect time to thank him for his support of TRIO programs and to get some quotes from him for our newsletter. Senator Conrad's aid Shawn Ferguson was most helpful in making sure we had the opportunity to speak with Senator Conrad and of course have our picture taken with him. Senator Conrad voiced his strong support for both veterans and TRIO.



Senator Kent Conrad (center) with Colleen Reuter and program participants from North Dakota State University Veterans Upward Bound.

EOC Expands Service Area

University of North Dakota's Educational Opportunity Center was able to add an Outreach Advisor position to the Fargo-Moorhead area this fall. Lori Mattison started in this position on Nov. 5th, and is housed on the Minnesota State University – Moorhead campus.

She has been busy networking with and informing potential community partners within Fargo-Moorhead of our new EOC program and services in the area. The response has been favorable, and while it is early in the development, she is getting individual referrals and setting up presentations with several of the agencies already. Lori is very much looking forward to continuing to help individuals in their pursuit of post-secondary education.

Hiring for an additional outreach post in Devils Lake is currently under way at UND. Office space has been approved for the post at Lake Region State College, just down the hall from their Student Support Services program. This will surely prove to be a great arrangement when it is up and running.



News from Wyoming

Upward Bound Participant Semi-Finalist for Daniel's Fund Scholarship

Cheyenne's Upward Bound/Math Science Initiative Project is excited to announce **Jessica Chadwick** as a semi-finalist for the Daniel's Fund Scholarship. Jessica is a senior at East High School graduating in May. This fall, Jessica plans to attend college and major in Veterinary Medicine. Congratulations Jessica!

The Daniels Fund Scholarship is a supplemental scholarship given to students who meet the following criteria:

- *Be nominated from a Daniels Scholarship Referral Agency
- *Demonstrate financial need
- *Graduate from a Colorado, New Mexico, Utah or Wyoming high school in Spring 2008
- *Be eligible to receive federal financial aid
- *Have a composite score of 17 or higher on the ACT or 810 or higher on the SAT
- *Apply to at least 3 colleges
- *Apply for at least 3 other scholarships

The Daniels Fund Scholarships are renewable annually up to a maximum of 4 years if the student has met certain requirements.

LCCC VUB Hires Two Retention Specialists

Laramie County Community College's Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Project has hired two Retention Specialists: **Bill Lindsay** and **Lisa Akbari**. Bill is a 24-year veteran of the Air Force who used his GI Educational Benefits to obtain his Bachelor's Degree in Business management. He has many community connections, which will be invaluable for this project to succeed. Lisa's experiences include working with TRiO programs and in research. She is completing her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology. Her expertise in educational planning and personal development will be of great help to project participants wishing to attain their educational goals.

After spending the month of January in training, developing forms and resources, and meeting our partner Veteran Organizations to ensure effective referrals to VUB, we will begin providing direct services to Laramie County veterans starting in February. For further information on this new project, please contact Sher Warren at 307.778.4314 or swarren@lccc.wy.edu

TRIO and GEAR UP Students, Parents and Staff Look Forward to Wyoming Educational Access Day

TRIO and GEAR UP students, parents and staff are looking forward to Wyoming Educational Access Day (in conjunction with TRIO Day) to be celebrated on February 21st at the Capitol in Cheyenne. The day will kickoff with a proclamation signing by Governor Dave Freudenthal and end with a city-wide proclamation signing by Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker. One of the highlights of the day is when the TRIO and GEAR UP students get to see both chambers in session and are introduced and recognized by the House and Senate. Rachel Martinez, chair of TRIO Day, encourages everyone who can't make it to the Capitol on Wyoming Educational Access Day to consider proclamation signings with their own city mayors and/or city officials. "It's a great way to promote locally the educational opportunity programs that we have in our state and highlight the accomplishments of our students," she stated. For more information on Wyoming Educational Access Day, contact Rachel at 307-778-4387.

News from Montana

FVCC SSS Program Loses a Cherished Team Member By Lynn Farris

It is with great sadness that I tell you of the passing of our colleague, Robbie Sullivan, here at Flathead Valley Community College.

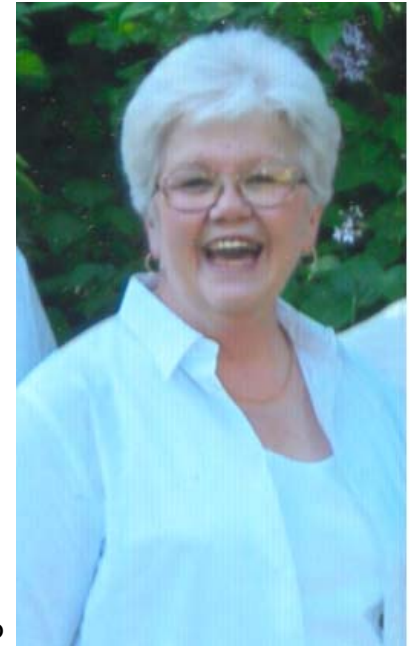
On November 3, Robbie was diagnosed with Stage IV bladder cancer. It proved to be an extremely aggressive cancer. Robbie passed away on January 10th surrounded by her family and friends. Besides losing a friend and colleague, we've lost a wealth of knowledge and wisdom about education, specifically in regard to disadvantaged students. She will be sorely missed on many planes.

Robbie leaves behind her husband, Mark, son Robert, and daughter, Martha, Martha's husband, Joe, and two small grandchildren, Sophia and Blake who were the apples of her eye and brought her much joy. Her concern all along was for her family and their well-being. She died with a grace and dignity that reflected the way she lived.

A fund has been set up to help defray the medical costs incurred during her two months of treatment. One of the ways that we can honor Robbie and help take care of her family is to send contributions to this account. If you would be interested in contributing in this way, just send a check to the following address:

*First Interstate Bank
100 Hutton Ranch Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901*

*Make checks payable to: The Robbie Sullivan Benefit Fund
In the Memo: account number 6403011643*



Robbie Sullivan 1946-2008

TRIO Students Heading to South Africa to Study Abroad

Three Montana State University-Bozeman TRiO/Student Support Services students have won TRiO-sponsored scholarships to study abroad at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban, South Africa through the Office of Study Abroad at Michigan State University. Guthrie Meeker, Avereë Bliese, and Katie Hurlbut will be spending spring semester 2008 taking courses in their respective disciplines along with a course in the Zulu language. All courses are taught in English, and the primary form of instruction is lectures with tutorials and small independent study groups. Guthrie, Avereë, and Katie will fly together to Durban for on-site orientation in late January. Durban is Africa's busiest harbor, South Africa's second largest city, and a large multicultural metropolitan city with modern facilities. Guthrie (Fine Arts), Avereë (Premed), and Katie (Premed) competed with other TRiO students from across the country for these scholarships. We are proud of them and wish them the best in this exciting adventure.



News from Colorado

Greely Dream Team 6th Annual Program Orientation a Success By Marisol Gutierrez

The Greeley Dream Team held its 6th Annual Program Orientation meeting on Saturday, December 8, 2007 in an effort to educate parents about the many services offered to their Educational Talent Search and Gear Up students to prepare them for college. Not only did the parents learn about the things they should be doing now to help their student, but also about ways to get involved in their child's education. The event was very successful and beneficial for families. Below is an article by Jakob Rodgers published in the Greeley Tribune.

Though college is still seven years away, Nicole Ruffles admits it may seem a bit early to begin preparing her 11-year-old daughter, Shelby. However, she notes, it would be far too costly for her children to not earn a degree.

"That's what I thought at first, but no," said Nicole Ruffles. "I really hope that they go to college because you can't earn a living anymore without (a degree)."

Looking to offer assistance to people such as Nicole and Shelby Ruffles, the Greeley Dream Team held its annual Dream Team program orientation on Saturday to help better inform parents about the program which aims to help prepare students for college. More than 150 people attended the event at the Greeley-Evans School District 6 Administration Building, 1025 9th Ave. in Greeley.

After listening to the presentation, Victoria Williams, whose 12-year-old daughter Natalie is enrolled in the program and attends Franklin Middle School, liked what she saw.

"I'm impressed at how they're following these kids," she said "It's not just a one-year thing. They're following them all the way up to high school and hopefully up into college, so I think it's kind of nice."

The Greeley Dream Team recruits children as they enter sixth-grade and, through the use of special programs and assistance, aims to help them graduate and go to college. The parents of the children involved are required to attend meetings once a month because parent involvement is vital for the program.

"A big part of what we try to do is to get parents involved in their children's education," said Charlotte Jimenez, Dream Team director. "I think it's real, real important."

In the eyes of Victoria Williams, however, the program helps serve a much more important role -- one she feels is vitally important to the future of the community.

"If kids don't have a good foundation of education then this community is going to suffer because they're our hope, they're our future and if we don't invest in our future, you know then it's not going to be good."

(News from Colorado cont'd)

Student Services in France *By Oscar Felix*

I recently had the opportunity to participate on an educational exchange to France to learn how services to college students are provided in their country. The American delegation was comprised of four student affairs professionals, two from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, one from Winthrop University in South Carolina, and me. We were hosted in three cities (Paris, Strasbourg, and Toulouse) by the CNOUS. The CNOUS (national) and its 28 CROUS (regional) centers serve 2.2 million French and international students with housing, grants, food services, cultural programming, and study abroad services (<http://www.cnous.fr>).

The CNOUS is the French counterpart to the United States' NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators), but differ in several key aspects. NASPA is a private, professional association that provides professional development and advocacy for student affairs educators and administrators. The federally funded CNOUS provides services to students through its CROUS regional centers and 12,000 employees.

In the United States, providing student services has long been a central function of each institution. In France however, student services are provided through CROUS office buildings that are not part of the campus. These offices are located in central locations of each region and accessible to students from different institutions. This system creates a higher level of efficiency, as the CROUS center can process housing assignments and grant requests for the colleges and universities in that city and region. Another benefit of a centralized approach is that prices for student meals provided by CROUS restaurants are the same across France. The subsidized price for lunch is 2.80€, which is a great value of students.



Tour of a CROUS cafeteria



CROUS offices in Toulouse



Julie, Kathleen, Oscar, Patrick (CROUS Toulouse) and Kathy in front of CROUS street sign

(News from Colorado cont'd)

The CNOUS and its CROUS centers budget is 2/3 self-funded and 1/3 funded by the federal government. This creates a high level of autonomy from the colleges and universities they serve. One university president lamented his inability to plan the number of international students his institution would like to admit. This occurs because each CROUS center controls the number of international spots, which are determined by the number of residence hall beds available. And each CROUS center controls the construction and maintenance of the residence halls, including employing their own architects and designers. As an American student affairs professional, it was a revelation to hear an academic official wishing for greater control/influence over student affairs functions. His perception of this high level of autonomy was substantiated by a comment from a CNOUS staff member who said that they do not typically engage in pedagogical matters.



CROUS Strasbourg staff present array of services provided to students

Another striking difference is how students are served through housing and counseling services. Culturally and legally, French students are treated as independent, mature individuals. The CROUS Paris for example, makes housing assignments to either its own but limited student housing, or to apartments leased through private owners. Unlike the American model of residence assistants who provide a high level of supervision, French students live much more independently. A French student assigned to an apartment in Paris may not have a need to be in contact with the CROUS office throughout her/his college years. However, students are not left on their own. They are given information and resources to help them receive all the services that a typical American university would provide. This includes counseling services through CROUS counseling staff. Because medical health in France is provided free of charge, CROUS counseling staff can easily refer students to the vast array of medical services provided by the government, including psychological services.

As an expert on access and outreach programs, I was hoping to share my expertise and gain insights into the French approach to educational access. However, France does not have programs which resemble TRIO or other outreach activities. In fact, translation of my job was a little difficult as the word outreach apparently has no direct French translation. The translator explained my job by describing the need to reach out to disadvantaged populations in order to address social issues- such as France's recent riots in the northern suburbs of Paris by segregated populations (mainly from North Africa, but also from other developing nations). This was perhaps a dramatic explanation, yet TRIO programs have their roots in the Civil Rights movement and the War on Poverty which led to their creation through Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. I was glad to engage in several conversations about how outreach programs can be implemented to address social inequalities, and encouraged involvement with organizations such as the European Access Network.

I was fortunate to come across this opportunity through NASPA's International Education Knowledge Community. One of the benefits of joining NASPA is receiving information from its many Knowledge Communities (<http://www.naspa.org/communities/kc/index.cfm>). The CNOUS and CROUS staff members were great hosts and very generous in their funding for this NASPA exchange program, and have posted a story of this exchange on their website: http://www.cnous.fr/_actualites_.htm



Caroline (CNOUS), our awesome host and translator, holds Cam, one of several gifts from CSU to our French hosts; and yes, those are wine glasses; American delegation enjoyed lunch at CROUS Stasbourg cafeteria

(News from Colorado cont'd)



Above: European Parliament in Strasbourg (070 Parlement Europeen)
Left: Koenigsbourg Fortress (198 chateau du Haut Koenigsbourg)



Traditional dish



Tour of CROUS Cafeteria in Toulouse wearing hygienic suits