



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, INC.

TRIO

January—April 2008



ASPIRE 2008

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LDI at ASPIRE Conference

LDI (Leadership Development Institute)

Join us in an engaging approach to developing the leader within you! You will discover what ASPIRE Inc. is all about and how to develop into an effective advocate for TRIO on your campus, and on the state, regional and national levels.

There are two strands of leadership development available to you. The first includes the history of TRIO, what is important knowledge about the Policy Seminar as well as in Governmental Relations. The second strand has information on team building, Aspire Committees, and what it means to be political. Both groups will study current issues in TRIO, networking, parliamentary procedure, and the cost of leadership, as well as other timely topics.

LDI takes place on-site at the Aspire Conference in Fargo ND this year, beginning Saturday, Oct. 4th at 9:00am until 4:30 pm and meeting again Sunday Oct. 5th, from 9:00 am until 12:00. Please plan on joining us for up-to-date information about our region. The cost is \$40 and covers the cost of materials and noon lunches both days.

Susan Bornsen

Chair of Professional Development Committee

Student Loan Update

By Clark J. Wold President, Education Assistance Corporation (*Article submitted by Peggy Kuck*)

One can hardly pick up a newspaper or watch a television newscast these days without reading or hearing something about the turmoil in the student loan industry. The combination of the cuts in the yield to lenders in the September '07 budget reconciliation act (College Cost Reduction and Access Act) and the meltdown of the money markets has caused uncertainty in the availability of student loans for the coming school year.

The turmoil has not gone unnoticed. Congress and the Administration worked together to pass HR 5715 in less than a month, record time by DC standards. HR 5715 addresses the financial difficulties in the student loan market, and we are all cautiously optimistic that it will have the desired effect to bring stability to the student loan industry.

However, we dare not assume that HR 5715 will cure all of the ills in the industry. To that end, the thirty-five state and non-profit guarantee agencies across the country are working diligently with the Department of Education to prepare the Lender of Last Resort (LLR) program for operation, should that become necessary.

Each guarantor has LLR responsibility for the states in which it is the "designated guarantor" to provide student loans in those states in the unlikely event that traditional lenders cannot do so. HR 5715 clarifies that the Secretary of Education may obtain funds for student loans from the US Treasury, which she then forwards to guarantee agencies for making loans to students. While we are confident that the traditional student loan system will be available for the coming student loan cycle, LLR is our "backstop" to assure access to student loans, should that become necessary.

Congress, the Administration, and all of us in the student loan industry agree that access to student loans is absolutely critical to assure that students can pursue their personal and career goals and objectives, regardless of the postsecondary institution they choose. Students and their families are encouraged to work with the financial aid administrator of the college of their choice to choose a lender and to complete the loan application process in timely manner.

News from South Dakota



University of South Dakota SSS Student Receives Udall Scholarship

By Chuck Swick



The University of South Dakota SSS program is proud to share that **Damon Leader Charge** was named a 2008 recipient of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship. Leader Charge, one of only eleven native students nationwide to earn this award, is a junior from Mission, SD and is double majoring in Alcohol and Drug Studies and American Indian Studies. Damon is also a peer mentor in the SSS Wawokiya Mentoring Program at USD.

This year 510 students applied to the Udall undergraduate scholarship program and 80 received awards. As one of 80 Udall Scholarship winners nationwide, including just 11 Native American students, Leader Charge will receive a \$5,000 scholarship towards his undergraduate degree at The University of South Dakota. He will also attend a week-long seminar in Tucson, Arizona this August to receive the award in addition to meeting with policymakers and community leaders in environmental fields, tribal healthcare and governance.

USD is one of only fourteen institutions nationwide to have one or more students win a Goldwater, Truman and Udall scholarship in 2008. The list of other schools with this record include: Arizona State University, Brown, Columbia, Grinnell, Oberlin, Stanford, University of Georgia, University of Iowa, University of Virginia, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Washington University - St. Louis, and Yale.

University of South Dakota SSS Host Reception for TRIO Students

By Chuck Swick

The University of South Dakota Student Support Services program hosted a reception for TRIO students on Monday, April 28 at the Neuharth Conference Room. Misty Bruguier and Stephanie Cournoyer were acknowledged as 2008 spring graduates. Shannon Petree spoke on behalf of the SSS students to thank Billie James, SSS Assistant Director, and presented her a USD sweatshirt for her many years of service to students. Billie will be retiring from USD in June. Dr. Rebecca Watson, who works with veterans in Sioux Falls, returned to campus to give a talk on her experience as a non-traditional student and how she benefited from TRIO-SSS at USD as an undergrad. Harold Marshall and his daughter provided music for the reception.



L-R: Stephanie Cournoyer, Billie James, Misty Bruguier

(News from South Dakota continued)

Letter from University of South Dakota SSS Assistant Director

Dear TRIO friends. I am going to retire at the end of June, and I just wanted to send a note of appreciation to you. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you and with the Student Support Services program and students for over 25 years. I have learned a lot from many of you.

I am 68 and will be 69 in a month, so I decided that it was time to retire and go see some of my family in the south. We will still live in Vermillion, but we will probably go south – especially in the winter!!!

I cannot tell you how much it has meant to me to have you answer my questions, help me know what to do in certain situations, etc. I also enjoyed serving in various capacities in TRIO. Keep up the good work not only with your students but with each other and especially new staff.

Again I nominated someone this year for the national TRIO award in D.C., but I have not heard anything yet. They said that it would be June 16 before they know. If my nominee is selected, I will certainly let you know.

Thanks again for all of your training, support, encouragement, love, etc. through the years.

Love and prayers for all,

Billie James in SSS at USD in Vermillion

ETS 7th and 8th Grade Girls Participate in Girls Day By Marion Blue Arm

The 7th and 8th grade girls of Dupree School participated in Girls' Day at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City on Tuesday, April 15th. This was a special event organized by the college to get females excited about studying math or science, since this is an area still dominated by males. There are numerous scholarships available for girls who choose a major in math or science!

We had lots of fun touring the campus and visiting different work stations, each of which offered activities with a particular focus: thus, we watched a film on the various engineering majors and careers; we learned how to calculate coordinates on a Cartesian plane; we observed little robotic cars that can negotiate obstacles via tactical, sonar, or optical sensors; and we toured the Museum of Geology with its dinosaur and ancient mammal skeletons.



Altogether, it was a day well spent learning for the future! Hopefully, it helped inspire some of our young ladies to pursue a college education in math or science!



(News from South Dakota continued)

SDSU Celebrates TRIO Day 2008 *By Carla Anderson*

TRIO day 2008 was celebrated on the SDSU campus by TRIO Upward Bound and TRIO Student Support Services recently. Both TRIO chapters brought together past and current students of their programs to celebrate the successes of the SDSU programs and to recognize the students that have excelled through the services provided by the TRIO programs.

Students and staff had the opportunity to hear the encouraging words of keynote speaker Dr. Tim Nichols from the SDSU College of Ag & Bio Sciences as well as hearing proclamations, read by TRIO students, from Senators Tim Johnson and John Thune, Representative Stephanie Herseth – Sandlin, and Brookings Mayor Scott Munsterman.

The final speaker of the day was Sioux Falls mayor Dave Munson. Mayor Munson thanked the students for the opportunity to speak at the event and implored them to stay focused on their future and their educational goals. The mayor related his story of coming from meager means and the importance of his early educational efforts in seeing his goals through.

TRIO Day 2008 was culminated with cake, punch, and fellowship by all celebrating student success!!



Mayor of Sioux Falls, Dave Munson, addresses students.

(News from South Dakota continued)

South Dakota ASPIRE Creates Banner

South Dakota ASPIRE is pleased to showcase their new state ASPIRE banner. With input from South Dakota ASPIRE members, the SD ASPIRE Executive Board worked with SSS student Kelly Bail from Black Hills State University to design the banner. Kelly is a senior with a double major in Art and Business. Kelly's emphasis in her Business major is Entrepreneurial Studies, which is very appropriate, since she and her husband have operated several small businesses from their home in rural Buffalo, South Dakota. Like many of our rural students who are determined to earn their bachelor's degree, Kelly has a 90-mile one-way commute from Buffalo to Spearfish. Kelly is the owner of a business called "Waves of the West," which she started in 1987. She is well-known on the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) circuit and is locally and regionally known for her quality work. For anyone interested in further information on Waves of the West, please visit Kelly's website at <http://wavesofthewest.com/index.html>.

Kelly has volunteered much of her time and expenses for the banner; South Dakota ASPIRE made a contribution toward the cost of the materials. Kelly has frequently expressed her thanks to SSS staff for the support she has received since returning to college in 2003. In a recent scholarship essay, Kelly shared the following: *"I intend to learn more in order to improve the businesses my husband and I have developed and to influence the economic development of Harding County. Eventually, I want to be able to manage the talent pool in Northwest South Dakota to manufacture fabric goods to be dispersed through national and international markets. Student Support Services has helped me grow by removing barriers in my mind, identifying my strengths as a student, and receiving academic and personal support. I have received assistance in making more objective decisions about my academic career and life."* Kelly has earned a 3.8 GPA to-date and has been recognized on a regular basis as a student on the Dean's List.



Pictured displaying the new South Dakota ASPIRE Banner are (L-R) Kelly Bail, SSS student at BHSU, and SSS staff Juli Larson, Peggy Madrid, Cody McMichael, and Susan Hupp.

News from Wyoming



TRIO and GEAR UP Students Visit State Capitol for TRIO Day

By Rachel Martinez

Around 50 TRIO and GEAR UP students, parents and staff attended Wyoming Educational Access Day (in conjunction with TRIO Day) on Thursday, February 21st at the Capitol in Cheyenne. The day kicked off with a proclamation signing by Governor Dave Freudenthal and ended with a city-wide proclamation signing by Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker. One of the highlights of the day was when the TRIO and GEAR UP students visited both chambers in session and were introduced and recognized by the House and Senate. Representative Floyd Esquibel introduced the students, staff and parents to the House members. Senator Kathryn Sessions made a similar introduction to Senate members.

Both chambers gave a standing round of applause to our group. In addition to visiting the Capitol on that day, TRIO staff delivered goodie bags filled with healthy snack and information on the TRIO and GEAR UP programs to the desk of each member of the House and Senate (96 total) that morning before session started. After the visit to the Capitol, students, parents and staff from the Cheyenne TRIO and GEAR UP programs headed to the mayor's office for a city-wide, mayoral proclamation. The mayor and mayoral staff also received goodie bags.



TRIO and GEARUP students from LCCC and UW representing the programs of EOC, SSS, UB and GEARUP with Governor Dave Freudenthal



Rachel Martinez, chair of TRIO Day, encouraged everyone who couldn'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.

L-R: Maria Simental, Governor Dave Freudenthal, Tara Dailey, Amanda Simpson



(News from Wyoming continued)

Spring Highlights from Project Succeed at Northwest College *By Lisa Smith*

Forensics Award Winners: Project Succeed students **Nolan Goubeaux** and **ReAnna Kero** were on Northwest College's award-winning forensics team. At the Phi Rho Pi National forensics tournament, Goubeaux earned three bronze medals and Kero earned one bronze medal. They assisted the team in earning a gold medal in Debate Sweepstakes, and a bronze medal in Overall Sweepstakes. Goubeaux was also the President and Debate Captain of this year's forensics team.



Peer Mentors: **Carolyn Barnes**, **Erika Partenheimer**, and **Cara Zeller** served as peer mentors during 2007-2008. They assisted with workshops, met with new students, promoted Project Succeed, and helped Director Cindy Newberry Childs develop the one-credit Peer Mentor Leadership Skills class that will be offered beginning in Fall 2008.



Jeremiah Howe, student, with Cindy Newberry Childs (staff)

Transfer Trips: Career/Transfer Coordinator Lisa Harsh organized and took sixteen students to the University of Wyoming, six students to Montana State University – Billings, and two students to Rocky Mountain College for transfer orientations and registrations.



L-R: Lisa Smith (staff) with students Jen Williams, Talena Stuck, Amy Case

NEW! Advising Workshops: Director Cindy Newberry Childs and Career/Transfer Coordinator Lisa Harsh organized workshops this semester bringing faculty advisors and Project Succeed advisees together. Our four workshops covered specific divisions or combinations of divisions and included our students and the faculty advisors from those divisions. These were our most well-attended workshops of the semester, drawing an average of 12 students and 8 faculty advisors each.



L-R: Lisa Harsh (staff), Jen Schwan (staff), Lisa Smith (staff), Yasu Hata (hostess)

NEW! International Cooking Classes: This year we implemented new cultural events into our schedule by offering German and Japanese cooking classes hosted by international students. These classes have been popular with our students, and because of the interactive nature our students are developing relationships with the instructors, each other, and our staff. Plus, there are delicious leftovers!



(Project Succeed continued)

Project Succeed Hosts 7th Annual TRIO Celebration

On May 2, Northwest College's Project Succeed (Student Support Services) hosted their seventh annual TRIO Celebration. Current Project Succeed students, students' families, faculty, and staff were invited to attend.

This year's theme was *Together We All Succeed*, highlighting the successes of our students and recognizing the people who have encouraged and supported them along the way. Twenty-three Project Succeed students nominated twenty-six faculty or staff members (excluding TRIO staff); each student wrote a thoughtful statement explaining how the nominee had positively impacted his or her life. Northwest College's Vice President for Student Affairs Dana Young and Project Succeed Director Cindy Newberry Childs read these nominations and statements to the campus audience while students and nominees stood.

Another highlight of the program was the acknowledgment of students. Peer mentors, honor roll members, students transferring to other colleges, and graduates were recognized.

This was an encouraging event for all who attended, emphasizing how seemingly small things can make a big difference in someone's life and how acts of kindness do not go unnoticed.

Project Succeed Staff Member Published in *On Course Newsletter*

Lisa Smith, Academic Success Coordinator for Project Succeed (SSS) at Northwest College, wrote the feature article published in the March 19, 2008, edition of the *On Course Newsletter*, an online newsletter that reaches over 40,000 educators.

The article, *Top Ten Tips for the Successful Student*, describes an interactive activity Smith uses during workshops to get students thinking about effective study skills. In the introduction, she writes, "This activity, which is a variation of the television program 'Family Feud,' could be used in any workshop or course that teaches effective study methods; however, the list of tips could easily be modified to use in any academic course, e.g., 'Top Ten Tips for the Successful Math Student' or 'Top Ten Tips for the Successful Writing Student.'"

To use this activity (approximately 30 minutes, using five lists):

- Create Top Ten Lists - Smith polled faculty and staff at Northwest College to develop five lists regarding study practices: *Best Study Practices*, *Best Ways to Study for a Test*, *Best Ways to Succeed in Class*, *Best Resources to Help You Succeed*, and *Common Mistakes Students Make*.
- Form groups of students for each topic and give each group four minutes to develop their own Top Ten List for the given area.
- Compare the students' lists to the faculty/staff lists in a lighthearted competition, acknowledging that the faculty/staff lists are not all-inclusive and that students may think of excellent new ideas.

(News from Wyoming continued)

SAGE TRIO Celebrates 3rd Annual Graduation & Transfer Ceremony

By Rachel Martinez, SSS Advisor

SAGE TRIO Student Support Services program at Laramie County Community College celebrated its 3rd Annual Graduation & Transfer Ceremony on May 9, 2008. This year's celebration was bigger than ever and celebrated 20 graduates and/or transfer students.

Jan Felton, guest speaker for the evening spoke on cultivating relationships and how learning is a lifelong journey. She is Director for LCCC's Partnership Diploma Program, a nationally recognized leader in promoting professional leadership roles for women, a SAGE TRIO mentor, former high school principal and SSS Director. SAGE TRIO alumni **Josh Nicholas** also was a guest speaker for the evening and focused his talk on networking and the nonprofit sector. Josh is notable for his work with local nonprofits and, to date, has raised a quarter of a million dollars for Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army and March of Dimes. Josh will proudly receive a Volunteer Service award given by President Bush next month.

A highlight of the ceremony is when SAGE honors three "Friends of TRIO." The FOT award is given yearly to three outstanding faculty or staff members that go above and beyond throughout the year to support TRIO students. The FOT's are chosen by the SAGE staff and from student recommendations. This year's recipients were **Arshi Rizwani-Nisley**, English Instructor; **Marlene Lyday**, Student Accounting Technician, and **Cathy Rogers**, Business and Computer Instructor. In addition, many VIP's attended including LCCC President Dr. Daryl Hammon, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Marlene Tignor, Director of Accounting Services Harold Andrews and two LCCC Board of Trustee members Brenda Lyttle and John Kaiser. Many staff and faculty turned out to support the students, too. The graduates were presented with a certificate of accomplishment, a TRIO pin, and a wooden desk-post-it-holder engraved with the SAGE TRIO logo. Texas Roadhouse donated dinner for the event, thanks to Josh Nicholas' employment with the Roadhouse.





News from Colorado



Colorado Statewide TRIO Day Celebration *By Ryan Ross*

Colorado's statewide TRIO Day celebration was held on February 25th, 2008. The event was a great success due to the teamwork of many dedicated Colorado Aspire members. I would like to thank publicly: John Henneberg, Jessica LanFranco, Oscar Felix, Lavonne Martinez, Henry Ornelas, Jan Chavez, Shannon Westermeyer, Katherine Stafford, Pamela Haban, Kim Boysen, and Andrea Reeves for a job well done. These individuals made serving as the conference chair smoother than the ride of a luxury vehicle. Conference attendees included 78 ASPIRE members, 5 non-members, 6 legislators, 5 VIPs and invited guests and 12 students and alumni.

Although the conference took place on February the 25th, the celebration truly started on Friday the 22nd with a community service outreach project. Colorado Aspire President Ryan Ross, attended the Gilliam Youth Services detention center and talked about TRIO, the importance of second chances, and the fact the access to education is not a privilege but a right! The actual conference activities began at 9am at the Denver Consistory located across the street from the Colorado State Capitol Building offering an optimal opportunity for legislators to join Colorado ASPIRE members for lunch.

This year's event was jammed packed with learning, development, and networking. Michael Wade, ASPIRE President, started the day in the right direction with an update to attendees on government relations at the federal level. The general body described him as refreshing, informative, and to the point. We were also joined by an amazing educational panel that consisted of: TRIO Achiever Carlos from the National Counsel of State Legislators, Dr. Janet Lopez, the Deputy Director of the Governor's P-20 council, and our very own Dr. Paul Thayer, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs at Colorado State University, noted researcher, P-20 council member, and TRIO advocate for over 20 years! The panel gave an informative update on educational legislation, trends, and the direction of our State's leadership and how that correlates with the mission of TRIO in Colorado.

For professional development the phenomenal Anthony Graves of Excellence Ventures, LLC; a boutique management consulting and educational services company, provided training on emotional intelligence and leadership using examples of our past and previous presidents. It was an amazing training that was described as "elegant, excellent, and inspiring." At the end of his presentation every attendee present had increased their emotional intelligence and leadership capabilities.

To kick-off the luncheon with state legislators, the first African American President of the Senate, Senator Peter C. Groff, addressed the audience. He gave thanks to TRIO and the work we do, emphasized the need to invest more into education in order to compete in a global community, and that educational access to all was key. Later, Antoinette Hudson was honored as the 2008 Colorado TRIO Achiever. Antoinette moved the audience with a message of paying it forward, being thankful, and realizing it is important to have supporters that motivate you and expect nothing less than the best. Antoinette, a participant from the Educational Opportunity Center at the Community College of Denver shared how she was supported by the EOC and motivated to continue her education. She has since then earned two master's degrees from the University of Phoenix and her teaching credentials from the Metropolitan State College of Denver. To date, Antoinette is an accomplished young woman who has overcome numerous barriers, is on the verge of becoming a middle school principle, and is truly a TRIO works example.

(Colorado TRIO Day continued)

Opportunity Center at the Community College of Denver shared how she was supported by the EOC and motivated to continue her education. She has since then earned two master's degrees from the University of Phoenix and her teaching credentials from the Metropolitan State College of Denver. To date, Antoinette is an accomplished young woman who has overcome numerous barriers, is on the verge of becoming a middle school principle, and is truly a TRIO works example.

After the luncheon, a Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE Business Meeting was held. During the meeting, the importance of action at the state level was reemphasized and a call to attend the policy conference was given. The meeting also included state elections. Shannon Westermeier, Director of the Educational Talent Search Program at the Arapahoe Community College, was elected President-Elect for 2008-2009, Veronica Herrera, from Colorado State University – Pueblo Educational Opportunity Center, was elected secretary, and Jessica LanFranco, Office Manager at the Community College of Denver Educational Opportunity Center, was elected Support Officer. The general body approved two member at large positions at last year's regional conference which were filled by Derek Grubb, Upward Bound Director from Trinidad State Junior College, and Amanda Berry, from the Upward Bound program at Colorado State University. The treasurer for the 2008-2009 term will continue to be John Henneberg, Assistant Director from Colorado State University student Support Services Program.

This year's inspirational and productive TRIO Day culminated with an optional tour of the Colorado capitol building.

EOC Client Conquers All On Road to Success By Ryan Ross

"Motivated" is a word **Antoinette Hudson** uses a lot. However, the single-mother-of-four and Education Opportunity Center (EOC) client doesn't use the word when describing herself. Hudson uses it when describing those who have guided her along her own road to success.



"I didn't do this myself," said Hudson, while wiping away tears of gratitude. "My success is dependent on other motivated people who have been there for me in my life. I've had some really good mentors, and of course my own children, who have inspired me. They're my motivation to move beyond myself and achieve in greater ways than I ever thought I could."

Still, nobody can argue "motivated" pretty much sums up Hudson herself. This vibrant 30-year-old woman holds a long list of accomplishments, many achieved in the face of adversity.

At age 16, Hudson was a junior at South High School in Denver. She was also a National Honor Society student, a leading SHS basketball team player with WNBA aspirations, SHS volleyball team member, enrolled in advanced placement classes... and a third-generation pregnant teenager from a broken home.

"I grew up on welfare, money was tight," recalled Hudson. "I went from living with my mother to living with my father, and years later with my grandmother. My grandmother died and I was very



(Road to Success continued)

close to her. And, like so many teenagers out there in similar situations, I was looking for reassurance from somebody else – you know, a boyfriend.”

Hudson said she was one of those students who loved school and was the last person anybody thought would end up as a teenage parent. But, she said terminating the pregnancy was never an option she would consider. Instead, Hudson turned a difficult situation into an inspirational one.

“I struggled all my life,” said Hudson. “I wanted a better life for my baby and for myself.”

Not wanting to go to an alternative school, Hudson acted with maturity beyond her years and graduated from high school a semester early in order to take care of her daughter. She maintained a high GPA and never missed an assignment. To this day, Hudson is remembered by SHS staff as an exceptional individual.

“I’ve never been more proud of a kid than I have been of her,” said Jamie Lofaro, SHS assistant principal and athletic director. “Things were hard for her, but she always put the team first. She always put others first. She’s a self-made woman.”

Realizing a high school diploma alone wasn’t enough to reach her goals and provide the quality of life she wanted for her baby daughter, Hudson came to the EOC for guidance.

The EOC is a non-profit program funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

EOC services are free and available to residents in the six-county Denver metropolitan area who are low Income and/or the first generation in their family to attend a postsecondary establishment.

EOC services include: Educational Planning Counseling; Career Exploration Counseling; Student Financial Aid Advising; and, Scholarship Search.

Following the advice of an EOC advisor and utilizing EOC services, Hudson graduated from CCD in 1998 with an Associates of General Sciences degree in Early Childhood Education, a Director’s Certificate and a Group Leader Certificate. This, while raising her daughter alone with no emotional or financial support from the child’s father nor his family. She lived in low-income housing and held down a work-study job.

“EOC was the stepping stone that helped me achieve my dreams and goals,” said Hudson. “Having gone through EOC is one of the best things that ever happened to me.”

Others say Hudson, and people like her, are one of the best things that happens to institutions promoting education and career advancement.

“It’s because of clients like Antoinette Hudson who make everyone’s job here at the EOC so rewarding,” said EOC Director Pat Middleton. “We strive to bridge that gap between higher education and those looking to enrich their lives. It can be daunting for anyone unfamiliar with the application and admissions process, so we’re here to help connect EOC clients to their future.”

earned a B.A. in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, and a Teacher’s License in Early Childhood Education in 2001. Hudson worked as a student teacher at Wyman Elementary School and substitute teacher at the Temple Buell/Clayton Foundation. She also married and had another child during this time.



(Road to Success continued)

Next, Hudson moved on to the University of Phoenix and completed her Master of Arts in Education in Administration and Supervision, along with a Type-D Principal's License this year. Moreover, she found out she was pregnant again – **only this time with twins**.

However, while Hudson's academic achievements, professional life and family grew - her marriage crumbled. Nevertheless, she completed her first masters program and is only a few classes away from earning her **second** master's degree. Her twins were born in September, 2005.

"Her perseverance is amazing," said Jill Simms, a fellow master's student with Hudson. "Here she was pregnant with twins, has two other children to take care of, working full-time, contemplating a divorce, earning two masters degrees and she didn't give up. I admire her for her strength, honesty and hard work."

Obviously, that hard work is paying off. Hudson starts a new job as a first-grade teacher with the Cherry Creek School District this fall. She's being groomed as a school principal.

In hindsight, Hudson says her career path in education scores far higher than earlier aspirations of becoming a WNBA basketball star.

"I affect more lives this way," she said. "I want to give back what others gave me. I'm not a millionaire, but the gift is priceless."

Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE Update *By Andrea Reeve*

Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE Spring Professional Development

The Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE (CCA) sponsors two spring professional development opportunities for CCA during the spring in addition to a National TRIO Day Colorado Legislative Seminar held this year in Denver, Colorado on February 25, 2008.

National TRIO Day

The TRIO Day legislative gathering of over 100 CCA members was located across the street from the State Capitol to facilitate visits with state legislators. Speakers included Michael Wade, ASPIRE President; Carlos Valverde, Senior Education Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures; Paul Thayer, Associate Vice President Student Affairs, Colorado State University and member, Colorado Governor's P-20 Education Council; Janet Lopez, Deputy Director, Governor's P-20 Education Council; Anthony Graves, founder and CEO of Excellence Ventures; and Peter Groff, President of the Colorado State Senate. During the TRIO Achiever Luncheon honoring Antoinette Hudson, M.Ed. Cherry Creek Schools, CCA hosted nine Colorado representatives and senators.

College in Colorado

For the third consecutive year, the Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE co-sponsored the College in Colorado Pre-Collegiate Conference on March 14, 2008 at the Auraria Campus in Denver, Colorado. Over 300 participants representing Colorado TRIO programs, GearUp, the Pre-Collegiate Network, high school and college admissions counselors, and scholarship providers attended sessions focused on parent engagement, counselor issues, diversity, paying for college, partnerships, and best practices. The Colorado statewide Pre-Collegiate Conference is designed to bring together college access programs, high schools, and advocates in

(Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE Update continued)

partnership dialogue to share best practices, formulate plans for collaboration, explore essential reform, and identify areas of partnering that support Colorado students' college access. Concurrent session TRIO presenters included: Nathan Cadena, EOC and Liz Mendoza, Talent Search, Community College of Denver, and Andrea Reeve, CSU SSS. Several CCA TRIO members were on the conference Steering Committee and CCA President Ryan Ross spoke during the lunchtime practitioners plenary. Other plenary sessions included a student panel—two panelists were TRIO participants, and a policy plenary with state education policy representatives. This annual event demonstrates the great partnerships that the Colorado CCA pre-college programs have formed with other Colorado pre-collegiate programs and College in Colorado.

Postsecondary and Adult Conference

The CCA 2nd Annual Postsecondary and Adult Conference will be held June 9th at the Tivoli Center on the Auraria Campus in Denver, Colorado. "Stepping Stones to Student Success" is a professional development conference with idea exchanges, and concurrent and plenary sessions for SSS, McNair, EOC and VUB. Audrey Osswald, Director of Financial Aid for the Colorado Community College System will be the opening speaker, and Mr. David Skaggs, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education and Colorado Commission on Higher Education will provide an overview of higher education in Colorado. In addition to CCA members, we hope that Wyoming TRIO staff will join us. Co-chairs for the conference are Michael Manos, EOC-CSU-Pueblo; Laurie Marano, SSS-Colorado Mountain College; and Andrea Reeve, SSS-CSU-Fort Collins.

Colorado State University CEO Director Receives Multi-Ethnic Award

By Andrea Reeve



Dr. Oscar Felix, Executive Director of the Center for Educational Access and Opportunity (CEO – Upward Bound, Talent Search, EOC, University Bridge) at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, was honored in April as the Administrative Professional recipient of the 2008 Multi-Ethnic Faculty and Staff Distinguished Award.

The Multi-Ethnic Award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to CSU, their profession and the multi-ethnic community. In the nomination from CSU colleagues, Oscar's service and contributions were described as, "(he) serves in his professional role to empower underrepresented people...and foster a climate of multiculturalism, acceptance and understanding..." (Michelle Wellman). In addition to his twenty years of work with TRIO programs, students and communities, Oscar has provided leadership for TRIO as ASPIRE President, faculty on numerous TRIO training seminars, serving on the COE Board of Directors, participation in the American Council on Education "College is Possible" grant, and the COE International Initiatives Committee.

Oscar also has served as PTO President for Harris Bilingual Elementary school, as a member of the Cinco-Cinco Scholarship Committee, as a faculty for the CSU Student Affairs in Higher Education graduate program (SAHE), co-advisor for the SAHE Student of Color Network, and was recently appointed as the NASPA Region IV West Chair for the International Initiatives Knowledge Community. Please join the CSU TRIO programs in congratulating Oscar on this outstanding honor.



(News from Colorado continued)

Colorado TRIO Has a Voice in State Educational Policy *By Andrea Reeve*

In February 2007, in conjunction with Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE TRIO Day activities, Paul Thayer, Michael Manos and several TRIO staff and students testified at a Colorado State Joint House-Senate Committee on Education. As a result of this testimony, the Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE (CCA) learned about a new education advisory committee being formed by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter. Mike Manos, then President of CCA, nominated Dr. Paul Thayer, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Assistant to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs at Colorado State University, for membership on this committee and he was appointed as a member of the Colorado P-20 Education Council in June 2007.

The Colorado P-20 Educational Coordinating Council was formed during spring 2007 as a special Governor's advisory panel to address challenges facing Colorado's pre-school through graduate school educational systems. The 29 Council members, including Dr. Thayer, include representatives from higher education, K-12, early childhood education, business, and other stakeholders. The three co-chairs are Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien, businessman Bruce Benson, Colorado State University-Pueblo President Joe Garcia. Governor Ritter established the Council to provide recommendations on strategies and educational policy to decrease the state high school drop-out rate and close the achievement gap and double the number of postsecondary education degrees and certificates by 2017. The Council will help ensure that Colorado's education systems are seamless and are meeting state employment needs.

The P-20 Council has five subcommittees: P-3, Teacher Retention and Compensation, Dropout Prevention, Preparation and Transition, and Data and Accountability. Dr. Thayer was appointed to the "Preparation and Transition" committee that focused on creating a statewide guidance policy, concurrent enrollment programs, diploma endorsement, and modifications to the statewide educational assessments. He also chaired a subcommittee on "Postsecondary Preparation" that examined issues related to the statewide guidance policy.

Because CCA leadership and members were actively involved with state educational policy in 2006-2007, TRIO had an opportunity to nominate a member to the Council. Among Paul's important credentials was his experience working with pre-college-TRIO programs. CCA's involvement in educational policy development resulted in actual legislation that will impact schools and students served by TRIO.

The statewide guidance policy recommendations had substantial involvement from pre-college interests, including TRIO staff and school counselors. Ryan Ross, Oscar Felix, Shannon Westermeier, and Michelle Wellman, among others, attended and spoke at subcommittee meetings. As a result, a statute has been approved that will establish postsecondary preparation as a primary purpose of K-12 education in Colorado. Also the "Colorado Counselor Corps Bill" will increase the counseling capacity at high need schools (serve large numbers of low income and low-postsecondary entry students, potentially schools served by TRIO programs) with the addition of counseling positions, professional development resources, partnerships with pre-college service providers and the involvement of the whole school in postsecondary preparation. The legislation language includes "postsecondary service providers", and that will include TRIO and other pre-college programs.

CCA TRIO active involvement with educational policy is a great opportunity to have a voice in creating legislation that positively impacts low-income and first-generation students and their schools. But Dr. Thayer points out that with the opportunity is a major challenge: we must have continuity in our policy relationships and we have to plan how we will organize to sustain a high level of involvement over time. With continual changes in ASPIRE leadership, TRIO associations must strategize how to be involved for the long run, knowing that there may not be immediate payoffs. And we need to participate in broader education policy activities so we'll be at the table when policies directly affecting TRIO programs emerge.



News from Montana



President's Update: Montana ASPIRE State Meeting Features an Educational Summit and a Special Guest from D.C. *By Mica Slavenlamothé*

With the boom of the new college access industry sounding, TRIO is redefining its role within a changing context, recognizing our powerful history as advocates and educators. We also need to understand that not all of our partners see education the same way; they bring new perspectives including philanthropy, corporate interests, and even business models to the game. I think we should welcome these new opportunities while embracing our unique role as a collective voice for people who don't have equal access. After all, with this changing paradigm comes great resources, not the least of which is attention to the educational gaps and barriers our students face and an urgency to let no talent go wasted. Finally, there's a spotlight on the students we have been serving for 40 years! And without the expertise of how to attract and serve hard-to-reach students, this new industry can't succeed. TRIO is critical to the planning, philosophy and stewardship of college access, and we must step up now.

In order to help us do so, Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President of The Council for Opportunity in Education has given us the charge of "partnership, policy, and politics". He has challenged us to get involved at every level by getting informed, being leaders, and bringing the voice of our students to the table.

With all of this in mind, the Montana TRIO Advisory Policy Committee was formed to establish that voice and began meeting with agencies in Helena this winter to create visibility (To find out more about the committee, please get a copy of our state meeting minutes or get in touch with me).

Next came the idea of hosting a college access summit to gather the players in the Montana educational landscape and get a conversation started. The timing was very right because of shifts in the postsecondary sector, including the re-visioning of two-year colleges, the twin issues of declining enrollment and proficiency admissions, and to a lesser extent, the modest but galvanizing college access challenge grant that will bring \$330,000 to Montana this year.

In planning the state meeting, we decided there needed to be a different feeling this year that embraced the momentum and sophistication of last year's stellar meeting in Helena but also kept things grassroots and about access.

Furthermore, we all know that we should get out there and network, but the trough on our desks is so high, and the students who need our attention are so close. I wanted the meeting to include tools and encouragement everyone could take home with them and do something with. We knew that Johnavae Quinn, formerly of COE, and now Deputy Director of College Goal Sunday at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), would be the perfect guest to help us with that mission and she graciously accepted our invitation. Both the conference and summit featured Johnavae, who really helped us get closer to our partners in education.

On April 9th and 10th Montana Chapter of ASPIRE met in Butte for the 2008 state meeting, "Partnering for College Access". Eighty-three attendees converged at the historic Finlen hotel in Uptown Butte for the day-

(President's Update continued)

and-a-half event.

We featured a pre-conference college access summit , “Emerging Themes in Montana’s College Access”. It turned out be a rich parallel process where policy-making guests from state educational agencies and TRIO staff came together to learn from one another, all the while raising TRIO’s profile. Guests on the summit panel were asked to identify the unique challenges and strengths their agencies bring to the table of access, and their ideas and their candor were inspiring. They genuinely reached out to the TRIO audience and asked for feedback and collaboration on how to do our work better, together. Panelists included Bud Williams and Steve Meloy of the Board of Education, Jackie Boyle from the Office of Public Instruction, and Roger Barber and Bill MacGregor of the Office of the Commissioner for Higher Education.

Our other special guest, ASPIRE President Michael Wade, kept the membership abreast of financial and political news with critical updates from the regional and national levels. Mr. Wade also lead an “Emerging Leaders” session to help Montana TRIO staff prepare for future leadership roles in ASPIRE and which laid important groundwork for the election of officers that followed.

We also had wonderful volunteers, presenters and sponsors from the ever-supportive Student Assistance Foundation, Ellen Swaney of Indian Education For All, and local Uptown Butte businesses. I want to thank everyone who made state meeting so successful. The conference was well-attended, and under budget. You couldn’t ask for more!



TRIO Achiever William James Polk speaking at the TRIO Achievers Luncheon during Montana’s State TRIO Conference in the beautiful and historic Finlen Hotel located in downtown Butte America.



(News from Montana continued)

TRIO Achievers Honored at Montana State Meeting

TRIO Achiever William James Polk

William James Polk, an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe, graduated from Browning High School in 1992. William postponed his college enrollment and joined the United States Air Force where he served his country for 6 years. While serving in Korea, he volunteered at a Korean Orphanage organizing activities, coaching sports and assisting with a toy drive. At the end of his service, William was honored with the Air Force Achievement Award.

In 2003, William decided to enroll in college and pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a math teacher. His love of math began in the 8th grade when he enrolled in an algebra class and for the first time felt challenged and was no longer bored with school. While math came easy to William, his peers struggled with the subject. He later found out that students on the Blackfeet Reservation consistently score much lower in math than the national average. William believed that through his education he could give his family a better life and also make a difference in the lives of the children in his community on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. William graduated from the Blackfeet Community College (BCC) in 2005 with an AS degree in math and science. He was the class valedictorian at BCC with an impressive 4.0 cumulative GPA. He transferred to the University of Montana and graduated with Honors, earning a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics with a Secondary Education Endorsement. William earned several honors in college including the BCC Math Excellence Award, the University of Montana Presidential Medal and the University of Montana Campus Diversity Award. William was the first in his family to earn a Bachelor's degree. He is in now the process of pursuing a Master's degree.

William is currently teaching math at the Blackfeet Community College in Browning Montana. The students at BCC feel they can relate to William because he understands their needs and the obstacles they face. He goes the extra mile and is always there for his students. William is extremely involved in his community. He is a football coach for Browning High School and Co-Advisor for the American Indians in Science and Engineering Chapter at BCC. While attending college, he worked as Peer Tutor for the BCC Student Support Services Program, a Service Learning Tutor for Hawthorne Elementary School and as a Math Instructor for the Washington Middle School Gifted and Talented Program.

"The BCC Student Support Services program encouraged and supported me throughout my academic career. It was nice to know that whatever happened or was going on with me academically or personally, there was always someone there to assist me, point me in the right direction, or just listen to me. The SSS program hired me as a peer tutor while I attended school at BCC. Being a tutor helped offset my financial situation during the winter months while I was a student and wasn't able to work."

TRIO Achiever Arlan Edwards

Arlan Edwards is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe. He was born and raised on the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Montana. Arlan is the oldest of 10 children and was raised by a single parent, his mother Earlina Old Person. Arlan gladly played the role of big brother as well as father to his younger siblings. His family struggled financially but he felt like the wealthiest person on earth because his home was always filled with love and laughter. His mother and grandparents taught him about his traditional Blackfeet



(TRIO Achievers continued)

culture. Through their teachings, Arlan has learned to live a life of respect, humor and humility.

When Arlan was in High School he was selected as a participant for the Montana Educational Talent Search Program. His counselor, Anne Racine, described him as a very traditional and spiritual individual who knew what he wanted but was unsure about his abilities. He would be the first in his family to go to college and was all too aware that his younger siblings were watching him and would surely follow his lead if he chose to go to college.

Anne left Talent Search and took a job with the Blackfeet Community College's (BCC) Student Support Services Program. She encouraged Arlan to sign up for classes at BCC. Arlan met with Glenda Gilham at the Educational Opportunities Center and enrolled in college at BCC in the fall of 1999. Arlan soon became a participant of the BCC SSS Program. He proudly graduated from BCC with a degree in Blackfeet Studies. As far as Arlan was concerned he had accomplished his goals and was finished with school. Anne saw his potential and convinced him to transfer to the University of Montana. He hadn't even considered transferring until that point. The transition was difficult. Arlan experienced culture shock and missed his family but he wanted to set an example for his younger siblings. He persevered and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Native American Studies with a minor in Anthropology.

Upon completing his degree, Arlan moved home, determined to put his degree to use by helping the people in his community. He is now a Talent Search Coordinator for the Blackfeet target area. Arlan is a great role model that kids can identify with. He tries to instill in his students that they can succeed just as he has. His motto is simple, "put your studies first and do your work."

When asked who was the most influential person in his life was, Arlan said it was his mother and grandmother. His grandmother was extremely proud that he was in college but did not live to see him graduate. When Arlan graduated he brought his diploma to his grandmother's grave and told her "I did it grandma!"



TRIO Achievers
William Polk (left)
and Arlan Edwards

Flathead Valley Community College SSS Celebrates National TRIO Day

By Russ Lamson



On February 28 TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) at Flathead Valley Community College celebrated National TRIO Day. Charlene Herron and Dan Voermans emceed the event. TRIO SSS Director Lynn Farris started things off, giving a historical perspective on TRIO and TRIO Day. Featured speakers for the event were TRIO students **Bill Hartman** and **Erin Giefer**. Bill, who recently received an honorable mention from Writer's Digest out of 19,000 entries for a narrative he wrote, expressed his gratitude for TRIO Services at FVCC, in particular the writing lab, crediting them for helping him return to school and finish his degree. Bill plans to transfer to the University of Montana to pursue a B.A. in English. Current student body president and long-time TRIO student Erin Giefer spoke about her struggle with math and how the tutoring and math lab support provided by TRIO were invaluable in helping her get a B+ and two A's in her required math courses. Erin also shared how it is scary for her to leave FVCC, but knowing that TRIO staff and students await her at her transfer institution (University of Montana) helps her feel more confident and less afraid. Finally, Erin recognized TRIO Career Counselor Charlene Herron as a great resource for her in deciding a career path.

TRIO Student Support Services participant Bill Hartman speaking on National TRIO Day

FVCC TRIO SSS Gives Money As Well As Support By Charlene Herron

The FVCC TRIO Student Support Services project is proud to announce the selection of **Julia Fehrs** and **Rebekah Smith** as recipients of this year's TRIO Employee Scholarships. Each student will receive an award of \$250. The TRIO Employee Scholarship was endowed in 2004 after eight years of personal donations and fundraisers by TRIO staff members. Long time TRIO member Bud Sather would help raise money for the scholarship by selling Lefse. Since Bud's retirement TRIO Transfer Advisor Dan Voermans has picked up where Bud left off by starting a new tradition of a Brat Fry to keep funds available for our TRIO students.



TRIO Career Counselor Charlene Herron (left) with Rebekah Smith at the FVCC Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Check out Brat Fry pics on following page.

(News from Montana continued)

TRIO Brat Fry a Success

By Dan Voermans Pictures By Cathy Fabel



In conjunction with FVCC Green Team's Earth Day, TRIO SSS hosted a Brat sale with all locally produced items with the meat of the matter purchased from Lower Valley Meats, masterly grilled, and placed into buns from Wheat Montana. Condiments included Grandma Hoot's relish from Stevensville, Mojo mustard from Lakeside, and Henry's Ketchup from Bozeman. Those three items can be found in retail stores locally at Rosauer's, Withey's Health Foods, and the Apple Barrel respectively. The TRIO Schol-

arship fund benefited from the sale of about 120 delicious brats at a bargain price of \$2. Thanks also to those employees who purchased the remaining brats (cooked or unthawed courtesy of the gals in Continuing Education) at cost.



TRiO



(News from Montana continued)

UB Director at University of Montana Receives Administrator Award

By Mary Lukin

I attended UM's graduation ceremonies last week end and learned that **Jon Stannard** was awarded the UM Academic Administrator Award. The program stated "the recipient was chosen from nominations submitted by faculty and staff to recognize outstanding performance by an academic departmental chair or program director." Jon was nominated for the award by Twila Old Coyote.

Congratulations Jon for outstanding administrating!

For more on Jon go to: http://www.umt.edu/ub/staff_directory/jon.htm



TRIO News from Montana State University *By Florence Garcia*

TRIO Students Heading to South Africa Three TRIO SSS students have won scholarships to study abroad at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. **Avery Bliese, Kate Hurlbut** and **Guthrie Meeker** are spending spring semester 2008 taking courses in their respective disciplines along with a course in the Zulu language. This program is part of the study abroad program at Michigan State University.

TRIO Math Instructor Receives Award **Shae Thomsen**, TRIO SSS math instructor, received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Letters and Sciences in April 2008. Shae is a former TRIO student and has taught TRIO math for nearly 10 years. Congratulations Shae on a well deserved award!

TRIO English Instructor Retires **Cheryl Roller**, TRIO English instructor, retired in May 2008 after 30 years of teaching for TRIO. Cheryl has had a positive effect on thousands of MSU students who were fortunate enough to take Basic Writing and English from her. The students and staff are grateful that she was willing to make TRIO English her career.

TRIO Student Graduation Count 54 students graduated from MSU-Bozeman this spring. That brings the total to 65 for the academic year. Congratulations to all!

News from North Dakota



North Dakota Spring Conference Report *By Dawn Eckhardt*

Our spring conference was held in conjunction with South Dakota in early April. Our hats are off to the South Dakota crew that put together an enjoyable and well rounded conference. Despite a snow storm that greeted us on the morning of the conference opening, attendance was high and a great deal was accomplished.

During the state meeting portion of the spring conference, new leadership was elected for North Dakota. Derek Sporbett (EOC at University of North Dakota) will take the position of state president in October. Lori Larson (UB at University of North Dakota) was re-elected to the position of treasurer for the North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE. Both positions are two-year terms.

Three TRIO staff members and two alumni traveled to Washington, DC, to attend COE's annual policy seminar. Elaine Metcalfe, Cheryl Kingsbury, and Dawn Eckhardt were joined by Wayne Fox (UND McNair alum) and Earl Klug (UND SSS alum) while visiting with our state legislators. It proved to be a successful visit for us as all legislators agreed to support an increase in TRIO funding.



Wayne Fox (left), and Earl Klug (center) visiting with ND Representative Earl Pomeroy during the day on the hill at COE's annual Policy Seminar

Around the state...

Dickinson State University *By Kelly Mattis*

"See the Possibilities....Be a possibility" is the new tagline of the federal TRIO program at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, North Dakota. Thinking outside the box is a goal of this new team of staff in the Educational Enhancement Services program (EES). Utilizing a coaching approach, the staff, numbering four, motivates and inspires students to develop character, responsibility, compassion, and accountability. "This is best accomplished through the recognition of one's own personal challenges and overcoming them with persistence, self-advocacy, and personal support," claims Kelly Mattis, Program Coordinator and Interim Project Director. After eleven years of providing mental health services at a private college in Iowa, Mattis brings a holistic approach to developing each student academically, professionally, socially, and interpersonally. Student needs are complicated, demanding, and multi-faceted these days, requiring new modalities and approaches to overcome their challenges. It is the core values of Educational Enhancement Services that are the driving force behind the program.



(Dickenson State University EES continued)

EES CORE VALUES

Success - Success is defined as students' achieving personal and academic goals, maintaining good academic standing, being accepted into academic majors and advanced degree programs, developing character, and persisting to graduation in the face of obstacles.

Concern for others – Concern for others is based on the principle that individuals are unique beings with a wide variety of perspectives, goals, style, desires, needs, and wants. Respect for those differences acknowledges that each individual contributes in tangible and intangible ways.

Responsibility – Responsibility is the process by which individuals are held accountable for the commitments, decisions, and choices they make. Responsibility sets the course for future growth. Accountability encourages commitment, independence, self-confidence, character development and persistence.

Inclusion – Students with a sense of belonging have an investment in the outcome. Public recognition, doing things together, and having fun as a group promote a feeling acceptance. With acceptance comes self-work and self-assurance. A variety of experiences enriches student's lives and fosters a sense of their place in the world.

Keeping these values at the center of focus in all practice will help to build integrity and trust in the EES program

Lake Region State College By Andy Wakeford

TRIO Students and Supporters Honored

Three LRSC graduates, one faculty member and one staff member were honored at the second annual TRIO Day celebration. The ceremony honors TRIO graduates for "outstanding academic and professional achievement". This year's honorees were Laurie McGlone, Karmel (Stockton) Wanzek and Bruce Werven.

Laurie McGlone graduated from LRSC in 2005 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Practical Nursing. In 2006, Laurie completed her Associate of Arts degree and in 2007, she completed her Registered Nursing degree. She is now employed with Altru Health System in the birthing unit. While attending LRSC, Laurie spent two summers delivering babies in the American Samoa.

Karmel (Stockton) Wanzek graduated from LRSC in 2002 with an Associate in Arts Degree in Liberal Arts. She then transferred to Valley City State University and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Vocational Education. Karmel now lives in Jamestown with her husband. She works at the Anne Carlson School for Children as a general education instructor in a special needs classroom.

Bruce Werven graduated from LRSC in 2004 with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Information Technology. He works from home selling cars on the internet. Bruce has more than 500 pre 1960 cars that he sells as restorables.



Karmel Wanzek (left) and, Laurie McGlone, SSS alumni honored at Lake Region's TRIO Day celebration

(Lake Region State College continued)



Shaun Prince, (left) and Katie Nettel, Lake Region State College Friend and Champion of TRIO award recipients

Shaun Prince, Friend of TRIO, is an instructor who always goes the extra mile for her students. She goes far beyond what is expected to help her students understand, catch up, and succeed. She spends extra time with them, counsels them, and encourages them do their best in all classes. She never gives up on her students.

Katie Nettel, Champion of TRIO, is the Financial Aid Director at LRSC. Her support of students' financial needs from the earliest days of the TRIO program ensure that TRIO students have financial aid plans in place to cover 100% of their cost of attendance. She works with TRIO staff to award \$30,000 of grant-in-aid awards annually to eligible TRIO students.

This year's TRIO Day Program featured keynote speaker, **Derek Sporbert**. Derek is the Assistant Director of the TRIO EOC program at UND. Derek has helped many students throughout the region attend college, not only at LRSC, but at other campuses in North Dakota.

The TRIO Staff would like to thank the campus for its support of the program. In recognizing these outstanding TRIO Achievers, we thank them for all the unsung students they inspired as they worked hard, met deadlines, attended classes, and struggled to overcome their barriers. One student's success can lead to the success of many students.

Nearly 700 students have been supported in the program at LRSC since its inception in 2001.



Derek Sporbert speaking at the TRIO Day celebration at Lake Region State College

University of Mary By Steve Schanandore

The Student Support Services program has submitted a grant application for the Wal-Mart College Success Award. The grant is for independent colleges who serve high numbers of first generation students and have success in retaining and graduating these students. If awarded, University of Mary's SSS program would receive \$100,000 over a two-year period. They anticipate knowing the outcome of their grant application by the end of May.



(Around the State continued)

University of North Dakota By Dennis Stangl

TRIO Day 2008—UND TRIO Showcasing Student Success

To honor the students who have succeeded in college and those who are currently working hard to reach their academic goals, UND TRIO Programs celebrated National TRIO Day on Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

The celebration began with a presentation by **Tim Mosser** designed to motivate students and staff. Tim Mosser is founder of SOAR (Students Owning and Accepting Responsibility, aka Standing on Absolute Rock), a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing a positive influence for today's youth. SOAR uses the popular sport of volleyball as a springboard to illustrate the challenges students face when making difficult decisions. This fascinating format features Mosser taking on six staff or students in a volleyball match – seemingly impossible odds. Mosser then continues his message with a parallel challenge of making responsible decisions. Just as young people find it hard to believe that one person can defeat six, they also find it hard to believe that they can remain chemical-free, make consistently responsible choices, and achieve almost any goal on which they set their minds. The six on one volleyball demonstration gives them a visual link to this concept.



UND President Charles Kupchella

Following Mosser's presentation, an awards luncheon was held at which awards were presented to **UND President Charles Kupchella**, UND Staff, students and alumni of TRIO programs at UND.

President Kupchella was recognized with the Advocate for UND TRIO Award, which is given in recognition of strong advocacy and commitment to the mission of TRIO Programs.

"I have been an advocate because I believe in programs like (TRIO)," said Kupchella. He said that he would like to tell legislators that TRIO is "One of the most effective federal programs that we've ever had."

Francine McDonald received the Outstanding UND TRIO Alumni Award, which is given to honor educational and career success by a former participant in UND TRIO Programs.

Bonnie Nerby, UND Accounting Services won the Friend of UND TRIO Award, which is given in recognition of outstanding support for TRIO Programs operations given by a UND staff person.

Francine McDonald, UND Outstanding Alumni Award recipient



(UND Showcasing Student Success continued)



Branden Kaste, Outstanding SSS Award recipient

Branden Kaste received the Outstanding TRIO/Student Support Services Award, which is given to a UND student participating in that program who has achieved academic success.

A part of the luncheon program was also devoted to student speakers who described their experience in each of the UND TRIO Programs. Those speakers were: Vincent Keener, former Talent Search student (current Student Support Services student); Jessica Pacheco, Upward Bound student; Jen Moreland, Educational Opportunity Center student; Branden Kaste, Student Support Services student; and Sarah Landsem, Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate student (former EOC and SSS student).

North Dakota State University *By Jeri Vaudrin*

NDSU TRIO Program Celebrates Students at Annual Banquet

Thursday, April 17th, proved to be an exciting night at the largest TRIO Days banquet to date for North Dakota State University. With approximately 250 seated, Mistress of Ceremonies Kris Mickelson invited guests to enjoy the sumptuous meal catered by NDSU's Dining Services, followed by the presentation of the colors, the National Anthem and a rifle presentation by North Dakota 2006 I Jr. ROTC Color Guard. Letters of support were read by representatives of Senators Conrad and Dorgan and Congressman Earl Pomeroy.

Following the welcome by Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Kate Haugen, awards were distributed to recipients in each of the five TRIO projects. Project Director Kay Modin announced McNair Scholars (MSP) recipients of the Merit Award were Heather K. Mertz, Ph.D., and Nicole M. Very, Ph.D. Assistant Project Director Kris Mickelson announced the High School Upward Bound (UB) recipient was Machien Luoi. Danielle Simpson and Andrea Lyon were the honorees for Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), as announced by Project Director Babette Cuadrado. Student Support Services (SSS) Associate Director Susan Bornsen designated Katie Elvehjem as their award recipient and Bruce Steele, Project Director for Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) gave Achievement Awards to Dave Hagberg, Lisa Mowry, Nate Nieman, John Trautman, and Gary Moore.

A special award was given by Vice President of Student Affairs Prakash Matthew to Delores (Dee) Pavicic for Service in Excellence. Pavicic will be retiring this year following many years of dedicated service to TRIO Programs and NDSU.

The Fargo-Moorhead YWCA was the recipient of the community service project with hundreds of items donated from across the campus and multiple or-



Donations gathered for the Fargo-Moorhead YWCA

(NDSU continued)

NDSU TRIO Program Honors McNair Scholars Media Specialist

At the recent TRIO Days Celebration, held April 17, 2008, at NDSU, Vice President of Student Affairs Prakash Matthew presented **Delores (Dee) Pavicic** with an award for her hard work and years of devotion to the TRIO Program.

Dee has had a long and impressive career at NDSU and she plans to retire in the next few months to enjoy her travel business, Custom Travel, and free time. Born in Kansas City, MO, Pavicic moved to Fargo at the age of seven. Following her elementary and secondary education, she earned her BA at Valparaiso University with a double major in Business Economics and English. Pavicic earned her Master of Arts with an English major at NDSU in 1968, and a Master of Science in 1976 with elective courses in Education, Counseling and Public Relations.

As an instructor at NDSU, she taught Business Letters and freshmen English at the English Department; Writing for Homemakers at the College of Home Economics; Business and Professional Communications and Public Relations – Case Studies Approach at the Communications Department.

In 1979, Dee became Program Specialist for NDSU Extension Home Economics as a presenter and creator of promotional materials and *Young Adults Newsletter*. From 1982-3 and 1986-87, she instructed History of Interiors – Ancient through Contemporary at the College of Home Economics.

In 1990, she became a writer and literature instructor for High School Upward Bound. In 1994, she became media specials for the McNair Scholars Program, where she has remained.

This year, Dee received recognition for 35 years of membership in the North Dakota Press Communicator, and as a member of the National Federation of Press Women.

This gentle lady will be missed by everyone who has had the fortune to work with her. The NDSU TRIO program wishes her the very best in her retirement.



Dee Pavicic (left) with Kay Modine, McNair Director



(Around the State continued)

Turtle Mountain Community College *By Annette Charette*

Dennis DeCoteau has recently joined the TRIO community as the new Upward Bound Director. Turtle Mountain Community College received their first Upward Bound program this year thanks to the passing of HB 2669 last year. Recruitment for new students is under way.

Irene Bear Runner has joined the Student Support Services team, following the departure of Judy Azure.

Cankdeska Cikana Community College *By Cheryl Longie*

The Talent Search program at CCCC has hired several new staff members, and is pleased to report that they are now fully staffed. New staff members include **Delana McLean**, advisor, and **Ronni Ironshield**, administrative assistant.

Activities planned for this spring include a Student Leadership Conference as well as a Senior Banquet for graduating seniors from their five target schools.





News from Utah



Westminster College McNair Scholars Receive Fellowships *By Mary Jo Hinsdale*

Several graduating Westminster McNair Scholars have been awarded prestigious fellowships this spring:

Westminster senior **Raquel Gabbitas** has been selected for the Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellowship at the University of Minnesota where she will pursue a doctorate in child development with an emphasis in cognitive neuroscience. The DOVE Fellowship is awarded to approximately 15 to 20 first-year students from under-represented groups (U.S. citizens or permanent residents) and provides a \$22,000 stipend, tuition at regular graduate school rates (up to 14 credits per semester) and subsidized health insurance for one academic year. As a McNair Scholar, Gabbitas has been on track to pursue her graduate degree since she was a sophomore.

Westminster senior **Dusty Moore** has been selected for the ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship. ThinkSwiss provides a \$700/month stipend (maximum of three months) to 15 talented U.S. undergraduate and graduate students. Awardees are selected to conduct research at a Swiss university or research lab with a research group of their choice. Moore, a biology major, will be working with stem cells through a technique using hydrogels. He will have the opportunity to work with some of the most accomplished stem cell researchers in the world.

University of Utah senior **Nicole Nguyen** has been selected for the YouthLINC Young Humanitarian Award; she was chosen from among approximately 70 high school and college students statewide. An outstanding student academically, Nicole has also volunteered thousands of hours during her college career, working with community organizations to help people improve their lives. The Young Humanitarian award is a \$5,000 scholarship that Nicole will use partly to pay for a two-week YouthLINC volunteer trip to Kenya this summer. The rest of the money will help with her tuition for pharmacy school at University of California in San Francisco, where she starts this fall.

Southern Utah University Talent Search Students Receive Scholarship Funds *By Lisa Livingston*

This year I applied for some scholarship funds from a private corporation.

I received \$4000 in scholarship money that was awarded to three students in Kane County:

Brittney Helms \$1000 Valley High School

Kristina Riddle \$1000 Kanab High School

Morgan Livingston \$2000 Kanab High School



(News for Utah continued)

TRIO Achievers Honored at Southern Utah University *By Lynne J. Brown*

Although National TRIO Day is observed on the last Saturday of February, this is a time that Utah State Legislature is in session and the focus is on the state Capitol in Salt Lake City. Not wanting to compete with the many state issues in education, Southern Utah University chooses to raise awareness of TRIO and educational opportunity and access after the legislative session ends in early March each year. The TRIO Achiever Banquet is an event that not only highlights the success of the TRIO programs but also honors four individual TRIO Achievers at SUU.

On March 7, 2008 the Student Support Services program hosted a luncheon banquet that was attended by community, SUU administration and SSS staff and students. Director Lynne Brown shared the outstanding statistics of the past year's achievements in retention, academic success and graduation for the students served by SSS. Overall, SSS students exceed the retention and graduation rates as compared to the general studentbody. This success is attributed to the excellent staff and program components that support students who participate in SSS.

The four students honored were selected based upon their positive attitude, academic progress and exemplary citizenship. All of them had a chance to speak to the group and share their stories of how SSS assisted them in overcoming barriers and challenges as they achieved their academic goals. Three of the four graduated in May 2008 and will be proceeding on for graduate degrees! In addition to the honor and recognition, a small scholarship was awarded to each student. The staff members of SSS contribute yearly to a special scholarship fund that is then used to award each student. In a recent SUU Employee Gift-Giving Campaign, two of the President's Council members have elected to give to the TRIO scholarship fund also!

Over the years, the TRIO Achiever Banquet has been a major TRIO promotional event at Southern Utah University. Just as with the ASPIRE Conference TRIO Achiever luncheon, this is a "feel great" event that leaves people with an admiration for the students' success against the odds as well as an awareness of the value of TRIO programs. We recommend this type of event for every campus as a way to win support for your TRIO program!

Weber State Upward Bound Student Receive Scholarships *By Linda Tobias*

Nineteen Weber State University Upward Bound graduating students have earned over \$147,000 in scholarships and tuition waivers for college beginning fall of 2008. Four of our students have captured full-tuition, four-year scholarships; two are Weber State University Presidential Scholarships and two are Utah State University Economic Opportunity Scholarships. These scholarships are based on grades and ACT scores. Two additional students earned full tuition, two year scholarships to Snow College. A total of 24 Merit, Academic, and Leadership scholarships were also awarded to WSU Upward Bound students. In addition to these university scholarships, our students applied for and won:

Four Utah Horatio Alger Scholarships	\$5,000 each
Four Utah Standard Examiner Top of Utah Scholarships	\$4,000 each



(Weber UB Students Receive Scholarships continued)

Three Ogden Rotary Service Above Self Scholarships	\$3,000 each
Two Layton Rotary Scholarships	\$1,000 each
Hill Air Force Base Wives Club Scholarship	\$1,000
Comcast Scholarship	\$1,000
Sons of the Pioneers Scholarship	\$1,000
Clearfield High Sterling Scholar in Foreign Language Scholarship	\$700
Danny Taylor Memorial Scholarship	\$500
DOES (Ladies of the ELKS)	\$300

Weber State University Upward Bound was instrumental in admitting 15 graduating senior to Weber State University for fall of 2008. Two of our graduates have been accepted to Snow College, two will be attending Utah State University, one will attend Southern Utah University, and one will go to Utah Valley University.

Tyler Riding, a former WSU Upward Bound student will graduate from Stanford University this June. He has been offered and has accepted a position with a software company called Homestead with a starting salary of \$70,000.

Several former "bounders" have asked to come back to the program and will become residential counselors or summer instructors during our six-week 2008 Summer Residential Academic Program. These students remember the values and training they received from Upward Bound and want to give back to those who helped them so much.