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

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6 ASPIRE Board Meeting
7 October 6, 2012
8 APPROVED January 15, 2013
9 Submitted by: Lori Brown-Wirth

10
11 **Present**

12 ASPIRE President Rachel Martinez
13 ASPIRE Past President Dawn Eckhardt
14 ASPIRE President-Elect Derek Sporbert
15 ASPIRE Treasurer Cody McMichael
16 ASPIRE Secretary Lori Brown-Wirth
17 Colorado State President Henry Ornelas
18 Montana State President Dugan Coburn
19 North Dakota State President Lori Larson
20 South Dakota State President Tina Ludens
21 Utah State President Craig Harter
22 Wyoming State President Jayne Pearce

23
24 **Guest**

25 Carol Gritts, Development Committee Chair

26
27 **Call to Order**

28 The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. on October 6, 2012 by Rachel Martinez.
29 Dawn Eckhardt was appointed Parliamentarian.

30
31 **Approval of Minutes**

32 Minutes were distributed for the May 2012 Board Meeting, as well as for the conference
33 calls on July 31, 2012 and August 14, 2012. Minutes for the July 31, 2012 conference
34 call were viewed on the overhead. The minutes for all three meetings were reviewed and
35 discussed.

36
37 Suggested edits for the May 2012 minutes included the removal of the word “only” from
38 Line 97. Line 211 was reworded to say “and other possible entertainment and
39 transportation for Monday evening.” Remove the word “considerable” from Line 227.
40 Correct the spelling of Kara on Line 411. Remove “for failing” from Line 534.

41
42 Line 44 of the July 31, 2012 minutes should read January 2013.

43
44 No changes were suggested for the conference call minutes of August 14, 2012.

45
46 **Motion to Approve Minutes for May 2012**

47 A motion was made by Lori Larson to approve the minutes as amended. Jayne Pearce
48 seconded the motion and the minutes for the May 2012 Board Meeting in Ft. Collins, CO
49 were unanimously approved.

50

51 **Motion to Approve Minutes for July 31, 2012 Conference Call**

52 Cody McMichael made a motion to accept the July 31, 2012 minutes with correction.
53 Henry Ornelas seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

54

55 **Motion to Approve Minutes for August 31, 2012 Conference Call**

56 Dawn Eckhardt moved to approve the August conference call minutes. Derek seconded
57 the motion and the August 14, 2012 conference call minutes were approved.

58

59 **President's Report**

60 Rachel Martinez began her President's Report with an update on competitions for this
61 year. She asked for clarification from each State President on the refunding of TRiO
62 programs within ASPIRE. Rachel Martinez shared information she learned from the
63 Department on Education and reported that the Department of Education will be calling
64 in to the conference on Wednesday with a report.

65

66 Rachel Martinez thanked the State Presidents for continuing their government relations
67 efforts and for providing follow-ups. She reminded everyone of the importance of
68 staying in touch with legislators.

69

70 Rachel Martinez reported that she, Derek Sporbert, and Dawn Eckhardt attended the COE
71 meeting discussing the McNair situation and learned more about State Initiatives. She
72 gave a brief update on Kaplan, which is partnering with COE in providing test prep
73 materials to TRiO programs. They will be doing a session at this conference, which
74 Dawn Eckhardt encouraged everyone to attend.

75

76 Rachel Martinez gave a brief update on her involvement with the Department of
77 Education Bus Tour when it came through Cheyenne, Wyoming. Jayne Pearce reported
78 that she and Michael Wade visited the Bus Tour in Rawlins, Wyoming. Henry Ornelas
79 gave an update on Colorado visits and Craig on Utah visits. Overall, the reports were
80 positive. Photos can be found on the COE FaceBook page. Discussion ensued.

81

82 **Development Report**

83 Carol Gritts reported on the Development Committee. She, Rachel Martinez, and Dan
84 Bengé will serve on the ASPIRE Development Committee. This committee is a name
85 change from Fair Share.

86

87 This committee will consist of State Development Leaders, which are traditionally the
88 Past-President from each state. Carol Gritts asked who the leaders are from each state for
89 this year. She reminded everyone that we need committed people and Derek Sporbert
90 spoke of the importance of accountability. The Development Committee will offer more
91 support to state leaders.

92

93 Focus for this year is ASPIRE Development, using the slogan “100% and Nothing Less.”
94 The goal is to achieve 100% Project membership within each state. Incentives were
95 discussed.

96
97 Much discussion took place on the importance of Regional support. COE exists because
98 the regions support it. We (TRiO) have jobs because of COE. State Presidents were
99 encouraged to make a push at their state meetings. Rachel Martinez reiterated the
100 importance of getting money in early to help with advocacy. Discussion ensued.

101
102 The COE table was discussed as an incentive. The COE table is an important factor in
103 providing recognition for levels of success within our program. Discussion took place on
104 ASPIRE paying their portion of the COE table for the first State to get 100% program
105 membership. This should be further discussed in State meetings.

106
107 Discussion ensued on raising Project Memberships. The amount has been \$100 for many
108 years. This is something for future discussion.

109
110 Carol Gritts distributed a list of Fair Share (or ASPIRE Development) for each state as
111 well as a list of Program Directors for each state. Carol promised to send follow up
112 communication to everyone. Rachel Martinez commented on the amount of work Carol
113 Gritts puts into this committee, and appreciation was given to Carol Gritts by the Board.

114
115 **Recess**

116 The Board was recessed at 10:53 a.m.

117
118 **Reconvene**

119 The Board reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

120
121 **Guest**

122 Conference Chair Barb Waters joined the meeting.

123
124 **2012 ASPIRE Conference**

125 Barb Waters, the 2012 Conference Chair, distributed agendas and schedules to Board
126 members and went through them. 205 people are registered to date, with 216 anticipated.
127 Twenty-one people are registered for LDI.

128
129 Discussion ensued on conference activities. Thanks were given to Barb Waters before
130 she left the meeting.

131
132 **Treasurer’s Report**

133 Cody McMichael, ASPIRE Treasurer posted the Treasurer’s Report on the overhead
134 projector and went through the income and expenses line by line. State reports are
135 accurate, and personal donations for the fiscal year look good.

136
137 Cody McMichael reported that the ASPIRE accountant found some numbers that did not
138 match up with Quickbooks. This was a technical error by the auditors that could have

139 caused problems if it had not been found. Cody McMichael suggested we not use the
140 same auditing firm in the future.

141
142 Our CVent contract expires in 2015. Dawn Eckhardt encouraged the Board to start
143 looking at possible options for the future. Discussion ensued.

144
145 Cody McMichael reported that COE Table amounts have been removed from State
146 accounts and membership rebates will be given after the conference. Brief discussion
147 ensued. ASPIRE's membership with COE is current.

148
149 Discussion ensued on conference expenses, which are currently less than anticipated.
150 The bottom line is that ASPIRE has a net gain of \$16,557.43 to date. This number will
151 change somewhat after the conference. Overall, Cody McMichael reported that our
152 bottom line is going up. Money was accepted from each Board member for the Board
153 Advertisement in the Conference Agenda.

154
155 The Treasurer's Report will be presented to the Membership at the Business meeting.
156 Thanks were given to Cody McMichael for all his work, and the Treasurer's Report was
157 accepted.

158
159

160 **State Scorecards**

161 Discussion began on State Reports, and the transition from the State President Reports to
162 State Scorecards. The timeframe and helpfulness of this tool in gathering information
163 were discussed.

164
165 State Presidents had previously been given access to EduGuide, which has been
166 developed by COE, where the State Scorecards are found. Much discussion ensued. The
167 Scorecard is not yet official. Due to technical difficulties, information cannot yet be
168 entered electronically. Rachel Martinez reported that it should be ready by January.
169 Meanwhile, Derek Sporbert converted the PDF document to Word and emailed it to the
170 Board for a working copy; to be completed and forwarded to the Board President.

171
172 The time line for information to be reported was discussed. COE requests information in
173 March and September, but ASPIRE would like the information before each Board
174 Meeting. The purpose of the Scorecard is to keep us all better informed.

175
176 Discussion ensued on working with EduGuide and action steps. Rachel Martinez
177 encouraged everyone to spend some time getting to know the program and getting the
178 information compiled and reported. She also encouraged everyone to help each other
179 with the program and to share ongoing data. We need ASPIRE presence on EduGuide.

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181 Rachel Martinez gave an overview of State Chapter Excellence Awards and other
182 available COE resources. She encouraged State Presidents to bring all their state leaders
183 up to speed with all the information and resources that are available.

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Recess

The Board was recessed at 12:40 p.m. for lunch.

Reconvene

The Board reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

State Reports

Colorado

Henry Ornelas distributed copies of the Colorado report and summarized with state news and strategic goals. Great things are happening in Colorado. A complete quarterly report will be posted on the ASPIRE website.

Montana

Dugan Coburn gave the Montana report. He gave appreciation to Barb Waters for chairing the conference which Montana is hosting, and welcomed everyone to Montana. He presented a poster, funded with the help of a State Initiative Grant, which lists all TRiO contacts in Montana. He reported that Government Relations are going well. A complete report will be posted on the ASPIRE website.

South Dakota

South Dakota State President Tina Ludens reported on updates and advocacy efforts in South Dakota. A full South Dakota report will be posted on the ASPIRE website.

North Dakota

Lori Larson shared news on North Dakota and on alumni efforts in their state. Derek Sporbert added comments regarding the College Access Challenge Grant. Lori Larson shared efforts in collecting data from the different programs and on gathering statistics for the scorecard. A full report will be posted on the ASPIRE website.

Wyoming

Jayne Pearce reported on Wyoming updates and efforts, which include discussion of concurrent and dual enrollment alumni. She is working on a State Initiative Grant funded fact book “pipeline.” Rachel Martinez shared some of her experiences with Wyoming government and updates. A complete report may be found on the ASPIRE website.

Utah

Craig Harter made note of TRiO highlights, advocacy, and updates for Utah. He discussed Utah’s efforts to financially strengthen Utah State ASPIRE. He gave a State Government Relations update. A full report may be found on the ASPIRE website.

Committee Reports

Membership

Lori Larson reported that the transition from herself to Cara Davis as Membership Chair has gone well. ASPIRE is down 47 memberships from the previous year. 28 of these

231 were \$5 student memberships and 16 were Professional Memberships. Some of the loss
232 may be credited to the loss of Programs in the region. Many Professional Memberships
233 are renewed at the annual conference. She is expecting 95 people to pay their
234 membership at this conference.

235
236 Rachel Martinez reiterated the importance in pushing at your state meetings for ASPIRE
237 membership. Discussion ensued on establishing a quorum of voting members for our
238 state meetings. Lori Larson was able to share who has not registered as a member for
239 each state.

240

241 **Government Relations**

242 Michael Wade was unable to attend the meeting. Rachel Martinez reported that it is
243 helpful to participate in COE conference calls. She gave a brief update on appropriations
244 and TRiO program gains and losses. TRiO did receive a \$5M increase, but at this time,
245 where it will go is unknown. More information can be found on the COE website.

246

247 Rachel Martinez reported that the Fall Recess Packet has valuable information on federal
248 timelines regarding funding. STEM is a big conversation point right now. Discussion
249 ensued on what sequestration could mean for TRiO.

250

251 Michael Wade will continue as Government Relations Chair with assistance from Rachel
252 Martinez. Michael Wade will give the Government Relations update at the conference.

253

254 **State Initiatives**

255 Rachel Martinez reported that Zach Hawkins is stepping down from this committee, as he
256 is now working with Gear Up. Lori Larson will be heading up this committee. State
257 Presidents need to share who will be their State Initiative leaders. Each state can define
258 and delegate who that person is, but need to bring names to the Wednesday board
259 meeting. Brief discussion ensued.

260

261 National TRiO Day is in February. Planning should commence now. State Presidents
262 discussed some of the different plans and events they have provided.

263

264 **Recess**

265 A brief break was taken at 3:30 p.m.

266

267 **Reconvene**

268 The board reconvened at 3:38 p.m.

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270 **Upcoming Conferences**

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272 **2014 North Dakota Conference**

273 Derek Sporbert reported that all is going smoothly with the North Dakota conference.
274 Conference chairs will be discussed at their State meeting and recommendations will be
275 presented at the January Board meeting. Tentative dates for the January Board meeting
276 in Grand Forks, North Dakota are January 14-15.

277

278 **2013 Colorado Conference**

279 Henry Ornelas reported that the Colorado people will be discussing the conference at
280 their State meeting. Nikki Archibeque is working on committees and moving forward.

281 Derek Sporbert reported that all the major committees have been assigned. They are
282 working on tracks and logistics. A major consideration is transportation from Denver
283 International Airport to Ft. Collins. They are making positive steps toward making this a
284 great conference.

285

286 **New Business**

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288 **Conference Advisory Panel**

289 Rachel Martinez said a few words on the challenges of the work involved in conference
290 planning. She requested feedback from the Board on creating a committee for helping
291 with future conference planning. This committee could help with policies, consistency
292 and various pieces that go much smoother when experience is shared. Much discussion
293 ensued on development of a “Conference Advisory Panel” and the help it could bring
294 regarding timelines, scripts, housekeeping, agendas, etc.

295

296 Derek Sporbert suggested that the Board work on compiling data to readdress this at the
297 January Board meeting.

298

299 **Board Training**

300 Discussion took place on educating new Board members. Derek Sporbert reminded
301 everyone that the Board meets with LDI tomorrow.

302

303 **Motion to Adjourn**

304 Rachel Martinez called for a motion to adjourn. Dawn Eckhardt so moved. Lori Brown-
305 Wirth seconded the motion and the October 6, 2012 ASPIRE Board meeting adjourned at
306 4:22 p.m.

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