

ASPIRE, Inc.

Annual Report



Submitted to ASPIRE Members
October 9-12, 2011
Radisson Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dawn Eckhardt, President

2010-2011 Annual Report
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ASPIRE Inc. Mission Statement & Purpose

ASPIRE, Inc.'s mission is to "increase the educational and success opportunities for low-income and first-generation college students through professional development and legislative advocacy". ASPIRE is a professional organization of persons engaged in the administration, recruitment, mentoring, instruction, tutoring or other support services for eligible students. ASPIRE serves as a vehicle which provides professional development and technical assistance to increase the expertise of individuals who are involved in services to TRiO students. ASPIRE strives to organize program personnel into a cohesive unit, to facilitate open communication between program personnel, and to disseminate legislative and Department of Education information to ensure that program personnel are well informed on current issues.

ASPIRE, Inc. is one of ten regional associations that form the Council for Opportunity in Education, a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of educational opportunities throughout the United States. Through its numerous membership services, the Council works in conjunction with colleges, universities, and agencies that host TRiO Programs to specifically help low-income Americans enter college and graduate. The mission of the Council is to advance and defend the ideal of equal educational opportunity in postsecondary education. As such, the focus of the Council is assuring that the least advantaged segments of the American population have a realistic chance to enter and graduate from a postsecondary institution. A secondary purpose of the Council is to provide a voice and a political vehicle for administrators, counselors and teachers who are employed in institutionally-, state- and federally-funded opportunity programs, especially those professionals with TRiO programs. For more information regarding ASPIRE, the Council or the Department of Education's TRiO programs visit the following web sites:

www.aspireonline.org

www.coenet.us

www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

President's Summary of Accomplishments

Submitted by Dawn Eckhardt

October 6, 2011

ASPIRE Inc's mission is to increase the educational and success opportunities for low-income and first-generation college students through professional development and legislative advocacy. The work of ASPIRE's membership, committee chairs, state presidents, and executive board over the last year compiles to quite a list of accomplishments toward that two fold mission.

Professional Development Accomplishments for 2010-2011:

- 25% of regional membership revenue was granted back to the states to fund professional development at the state level (or other purposes as approved by the state association).
- Six state meetings were held in the spring. The regional president personally attended and presented at the meetings held in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah. The president presented via Skype at the Colorado meeting, and the regional president elect attended the Wyoming meeting.
- Several members of ASPIRE attended the Leadership Summit in Washington DC prior to Policy Seminar.
- ASPIRE's annual Leadership Development Institute will be held October 8-9, 2011.
- Two half-day, pre-conference workshops will be held prior to the regional conference. Topics covered are: TRIO Program Evaluation Techniques, and Using Census Data in Grant Writing and Community Needs Assessment.
- Regional conference will be held October 9-12, 2011 in Salt Lake City, UT, with representatives from COE and Department of Education on the agenda.

Legislative Advocacy Accomplishments for 2010-2011:

- ASPIRE offered matching funds to all six states to conduct state initiative activities. Three states applied for and received the matching funds.
- Three ASPIRE states were awarded matching funds from COE to conduct state initiative activities.
- Granted travel stipends to state presidents to attend COE Policy Seminar and meet with congressional leaders.
- Hosting regular conference call meetings with representatives of all six states to discuss strategies and progress being made to gain and build legislative support for TRIO and GearUp programs.
- ASPIRE members attended several Town Hall meetings across the region during the fall legislative recess.
- ASPIRE members attended a roundtable discussion held by Arnie Duncan, Secretary of Education, in South Dakota.

Other Accomplishments for 2010-2011:

- ASPIRE remained a valued and supportive region to COE by:
 - Meeting 136% (\$224,547.38 of \$165,377 goal) of COE Fair share, with all six states exceeding their goals: CO 133%, MT 110%, ND 162%, SD 134%, UT 150%, WY 166%.
 - Michael Wade served as COE Treasurer (2009-2011).
 - Amy Verlanic elected as COE Treasurer (2011-2012).

- Dawn Eckhardt served on the By-laws, Governmental Relations, Resource Development, and Strategic Planning Committees, and chaired the Personnel Committee.
- Rachel Martinez served on the Conference, Governmental Relations and TRIO Achievers & Alumni committees.
- Lynne Brown served on the Governmental Relations, International Access, and State Leadership committees.

ASPIRE, Inc.

Board of Directors



ASPIRE President

Dawn Eckhardt, Assistant Director
TRIO Talent Search
University of North Dakota
Phone: 701-777-4373
Email: dawn.eckhardt@email.und.edu

ASPIRE President Elect

Rachel Martinez, Advisor
Student Support Services
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Email: rmartine@lccc.wy.edu

ASPIRE Past President

Lynne Brown, Director
Student Support Services
Southern Utah University
Phone: 435-586-7771
Email: brown_lj@suu.edu

ASPIRE Treasurer

John Shafer, Academic Support Coordinator
Student Support Services
Southern Utah University
Phone: 435-586-7848
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ASPIRE Secretary

Lori Brown-Wirth, Project Coordinator
Upward Bound Math/Science
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-237-2410
Email: lbrownwi@uwyo.edu

Colorado State

President

Nickie Archibeque, Site Coordinator
Educational Opportunity Center
Colorado State University
Phone: 970-352-3235
Email: nickie.archibeque@colostate.edu

Montana State President

Zach Hawkins, Associate Director
Upward Bound
Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Phone: 406-496-4878
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North Dakota State President

Lori Larson, Assistant Director
Upward Bound
University of North Dakota
Phone: 701-777-4962
Email: lori.larson@email.und.edu

South Dakota State President

Cody McMichael, Assistant Director
Student Support Services
Black Hills State University
Phone: 605-642-6651
Email: cody.mcmichael@bhsu.edu

Utah State President

Lindsay Beddes, Coordinator
Talent Search
Weber State University
Phone: 801-626-7006
Email: lindsaybeddes@weber.edu

Wyoming State President

Sandy Straley, Project Director
Student Support Services
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-4896
Email: sstrale2@uwyo.edu

ASPIRE Committee Chairs

| Committee | Chair | Phone |
|---|---|--------------|
| <u>Archivist</u> | <u>Michael Wade</u> | 307.766.6189 |
| <u>Awards</u> | <u>Juli Larson</u> | 605.642.6596 |
| <u>By-Laws/Operating Guidelines</u> | <u>Lynne Brown</u> | 435.586.7771 |
| <u>Conference – 2011</u> | <u>Jami Bayles</u> | 435.678.2201 |
| <u>Conference – 2012</u> | <u>Barb Waters</u> | 406.657.1675 |
| <u>Corporate Development</u> | <u>Amy Verlanic</u> | 406.496.4289 |
| <u>Development</u> | <u>Carol Gritts</u> | 605.642.6120 |
| <u>Elections</u> | <u>Elaine Metcalfe</u> | 701.777.3627 |
| <u>Finance</u> | <u>John Shafer</u> | 435.586.7848 |
| <u>Financial Aid</u> | <u>Cody McMichael</u> | 605.642.6651 |
| <u>Governmental Relations</u> | <u>Cheryl Kingsbury</u> | 701.777.4966 |
| <u>International Access</u> | <u>Michael Wade</u> | 307.766.6189 |
| <u>LDI</u> | <u>Oscar Felix</u> | 970.491.6473 |
| <u>Membership</u> | <u>Lori Larson</u> | 701.777.4962 |
| <u>Multi-Ethnic Advocacy</u> | | |
| <u>National TRiO Day</u> | <u>Susan Stoddard</u> | 307.766.6525 |
| <u>Personnel (Inactive)</u> | - | |
| <u>Professional Standards</u> | <u>Andrea Reeve</u> | 970.491.6129 |
| <u>Publications</u> | <u>Russ Lamson</u> | 406.756.3885 |
| <u>State Initiative</u> | <u>Amanda Hildebrandt</u> | |
| <u>Strategic Plan</u> | <u>Ryan Ross</u> | 303.352.4045 |
| <u>Student Leadership Congress</u> | | |
| <u>TRiO Achievers</u> | <u>Juli Larson</u> | 605.642.6596 |
| <u>TRiO Alumni</u> | | |
| <u>Web Site</u> | <u>Barb Waters</u> | 406.657.1675 |

Colorado State Report 2010-2011:

Membership & Recruitment:

We currently have over 250 TRiO employees in the state of Colorado, and our current membership is 150. To offer better communication throughout the state and to increase membership, we email everyone in the state even those who are not current members of ASPIRE and we encourage them to become members. I have seen a positive outcome to this new process because I have newly hired staff emailing me on now to become a member. Our old system would just email paid members, but as President I established this new system where we email all state TRiO employees and ask directors to let us know when they have hired someone new. I also personally email staff that are inactive and encourage them to join and participate in our state's professional development and conferences.

Alumni Development:

Colorado holds an annual barbeque on the CSU-Ft. Collins campus in the fall season for all Colorado TRiO Alumni and current participants.

State Meeting/Conference:

This year, we moved the state meeting from Denver to Pueblo, Colorado to try and accommodate everyone in the state. We had one of the highest participations rates within the past three years. We had 90 Registrants with 87 present for the conference. During this conference we invited our newly appointed Lt. Governor Joe Garcia to come and speak during our luncheon. The Lt. Governor's office is in charge of the states Department of Higher Education and we were lucky enough that Lt. Governor Garcia gladly accepted our invitation.

He encouraged us to stand strong and persevere even though there are budget cuts. He fully supports TRiO programs and gave us hope for a better outcome for our state. A representative from Senator Mark Udall's office and a representative from Senator Michael Bennet's office were also present for our TRiO achiever's luncheon.

We had two workshops in the afternoon presented by College in Colorado on Education Cents and Challenge Access Grants for our state.

Fund Development:

We exceeded 100% Fairshare in 2010-2011. We did have over 10 contributors to COE, however we did not meet our \$10 for 10 campaign in time for a free policy seminar registration.

Leadership Development:

During our official state meeting on Friday April 29, 2011, we elected a president-elect, a treasurer, two representatives at large and one support staff. We have encouraged members to attend the LDI Seminar in Utah and I believe we will have at least three new members attend.

Government Relations:

Our state initiatives team is highly involved at the state level. Oscar Felix, the chairperson is always on the lookout for events where TRiO can be at the table. This past year Oscar and his team orchestrated a "Meet & Greet" reception for local representatives to join TRiO for dinner and discuss the future of education in our state and how TRiO changes student's lives every day. Those in attendance were Jim Reisberg, from Greeley and Randy Fisher from Ft. Collins. Gully Stanford from College in Colorado was also present. Our state initiatives committee also attended a "Day at the Capital" on February 10, 2011 as part of the Colorado Counselors Association Annual event. During this event, Colorado TRiO programs have access to a productive lobbyist firm Salazar & Associates who has a history in moving education forward in our state.

PR & Marketing:

Our fact book was re-created and used during one of our state initiatives functions in February, we took them to policy in March, and we handed them out to our membership at our state conference in April. State Fact Book was given to Federal and State legislators and our state fact book is being distributed throughout Colorado through our membership. At our state conference, the board encouraged all projects to deliver fact books to their communities and local representatives.

The Colorado ASPIRE website was updated with current information and is user friendly.

Montana

Annual Report

Sept. 16, 2011

President: Zach Hawkins

Officers: Michelle Christianson Secretary/Treasurer

State News:

(Instructions: Examples include new initiatives, ongoing activities and meetings, changes in membership, partnerships, fundraising, and professional development.)

- All existing ETS programs were refunded (MT Tech, OCHE, MSUB, Fort Belknap)
- Statewide MSU Northern EOC program refunded
- Joseph Hickman named new director of UM SSS

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

(Instructions: Please report on the activities/accomplishments of the committee since the last report. A matrix showing the goals that apply to each committee can be found at the end of the Strategic Plan. You need not report on the other goals and should delete them from the report.)

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO and other educational opportunity programs, such as GEAR-UP.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Letter writing campaign to Denny Rehberg over summer from MT Tech and MSUB Upward Bound students.
- Op-Ed letters submitted by Zach Hawkins and Dan Benge. Ray Carlisle Op-Ed pending. Zach's Op-Ed published in Helena Independent Record Aug. 16th.

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Increase MT ASPIRE account balance from \$8,325.18 to \$14,792.44 from Dec. 2011-July 2012
- Received \$1,250.00 in sponsorship funds from MT Student Assistance Foundation to help with costs associated with State Meeting and Best Practices in 2 yr. Ed. Conference.
- \$988.28 in matching funds for Fact Book printing costs and Keynote Speaker at Best Practices Conference pending from COE for State Initiative Grant award.

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Statewide Best Practices in 2 Yr. Ed. Conference attended by 25 MT ASPIRE Members.
- MT ASPIRE members participating in 1st annual Montana College Access Network (MCAN) conference Sept. 19th and 20th.

Strategic Goal # 4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Nominated and awarded MT Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester with Champion of ASPIRE. Plaques to be presented during Hill visits over COE conference and staff members asked to be present during ASPIRE awards Banquet.
-

Strategic Goal # 5: Further develop and utilize communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Continuing to set up Facebook pages for TRiO programs across the state.
-

Strategic Goal # 6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Inviting all Alumni in program Facebook networks to join National TRiO Alumni and COE FB pages.
-

Strategic Goal # 7: Strengthen relationships with ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Received ASPIRE State Initiative Grant for help with statewide best practices conference.

North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE

Quarterly Report

October 6, 2011

President: Lori Larson

Board Members: Cara Davis
Theresa Leiphon

Treasurer
Secretary

State News:

(Instructions: Examples include new initiatives, ongoing activities and meetings, changes in membership, partnerships, fundraising, and professional development.)

- ND ASPIRE continues to develop our state website, www.ndaspire.org
- ND ASPIRE has a member serving on the board of the College Access Challenge Grant
- ND ASPIRE has a member serving on the board of the Adult Education Access Committee
- ND ASPIRE is planning a state wide alumni reunion
- Mary Fredricks, State Initiative Chair, continues to spearhead legislative efforts in the state of North Dakota
- ND ASPIRE is amending their operating guidelines to be in line with regional ASPIRE by-laws.
- ND ASPIRE members have been meeting with Legislative offices and attending town hall meetings to educate them about TRIO.
- UND and Minot State SSS programs received funding from the CACG as a subgrant.
- Both Talent Search Programs and the EOC program in the state were refunded.
- NDSU TRIO is hosting a TRIO Programs night to celebrate veterans and to get the word out about TRIO
- University of Mary UB received two grants to supplement their summer program one from a career academy and another for students to take classes in Aviation, Engineering and Graphic Design
- NDSU VUB partnered with Self-Sufficiency Center, US bank, and Heart Springs Therapeutic Farm to assist their students
- NDSU UB was recognized by the Scheels Fargo Marathon for their contributions.

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

(Instructions: Please report on the activities/accomplishments of the state chapter since the last report.)

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO and other educational opportunity programs, such as GEAR-UP.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ND ASPIRE members continue to responded to the call for action about the TRIO budget
- ND ASPIRE members have met with legislators about TRIO funding and general TRIO knowledge
- ND ASPIRE members have attended town hall meetings held be legislators
- LRSC SSS has developed a very close relationship with their president who is a great advocate for TRIO

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Programs in ND ASPIRE wrote for and received grants from the CACG
- ND met fair share goals
- ND ASPIRE is working on Institutional Memberships
- ND ASPIRE has a development committee that is working on additional ways to increase revenue

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities to the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ASPIRE conference
- NDSU has a staff presenting at the Regional Conference
- UND has 3 staff presenting at the Regional Conference
- UND has a staff member present at the COE Conference

Strategic Goal # 4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- State Initiative Committee continues to advocate, and work with state legislators to develop legislation and opportunities for TRIO eligible students in the state
- ND ASPIRE member is a sitting member on the advisory board and steering committee for the ND College Access Network
- Met with national Legislative offices and attended town hall meetings.
- Continued work with NDUS and CACG officials to access support for TRIO programs in the state

Strategic Goal # 5: Further develop and utilize communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- TRIO programs in the state continue to strengthen our relationship with the North Dakota University System. This includes working with NDUS, to gather information regarding first generation students on the standard college application form.
- ND ASPIRE members continue to work with the College Access Challenge Grant program within the state
- State Initiative committee members are working with state legislators to access TRIO eligibility information on college applications, so that we may better serve our target population

Strategic Goal # 6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- UND TRIO programs have held mentoring activities that include alumni from various programs
- ND ASPIRE maintains a ND state fact book for use when advocating for our students
- UND TRIO programs maintains a fact book, including alumni stories and notes
- State Initiative Committee continues to develop an alumni outreach program
- ND TRIO programs have held TRIO Day activities (Lake Region State College, NDSU, and UND)
- ND ASPIRE is beginning an alumni committee to come up with ways to engage additional alumni

Strategic Goal # 7: Strengthen relationships with state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- TRIO personnel are working with Adult Education Programs, to partner and develop services for participants
- The ND State Initiative Committee continues to work to guide legislators on issues affecting TRIO students
- NDUS has reached out to ND ASPIRE for suggestions regarding partnership opportunities with the CACG
-

Committee Activities related to COE Board Initiatives:

(Instructions: Please report on activities related to initiatives that the COE Chair or Board have highlighted for the year. Examples include Get 3 for TRIO and incorporating a service component into TRIO Day activities.)



South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE

Annual Report
September 16, 2011

President: Cody McMichael

Board Members: Susan Hupp, Past President
Tina Hartley, President Elect
Carol Gritts, Secretary/Treasurer

Date: September 16, 2011

State News:

- The South Dakota TRIO Day reception took place at the state capital in Pierre, SD on March 1st from 10:30am to 12:00pm. TRIO professionals, program participants and alumni from across the state gathered with state legislators, cabinet members, constitutional officers and interested public to promote TRIO programs and their impact on education in South Dakota.
- SD ASPIRE President, Cody McMichael, USD Upward Bound Advisor, Aaron Poor Bear and two TRIO alumni met with the South Dakota legislative team in Washington, D.C. in March as part of COE's Policy Seminar. The South Dakota ASPIRE team effectively advocated for increases in TRIO funding.
- Tina Hartley, Assistant Director of Student Support Services at Dakota Wesleyan University will assume her two-year term as president in the October 2011.
- Cody McMichael, President of the South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE, submitted an application for the COE State Initiative Grant. The grant application was accepted, and is funded at \$1480. COE Initiative Grant funds were used to print the South Dakota TRIO Fact Book and help promote SD TRIO programs at the state TRIO Day reception at the state capitol.
- The South Dakota ASPIRE state conference was held in Chamberlain, SD, April 18-2, 2011. It provided 32 TRIO professionals in South Dakota with valuable networking and professional development opportunities. General sessions provided valuable information on TRIO advocacy, public relations, alumni and financial literacy.
- TRIO staff from across the state volunteered for the College Goal Sunday event that was held February 23, 2010. TRIO staff volunteered their time, energies, and expertise to make this a very successful event.

- The South Dakota ASPIRE website has been completed and is available online. The website contains valuable information about SD Trio Programs. The web address is <http://www.sdaspire.org>.

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO and other educational opportunity programs, such as GEAR-UP.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The South Dakota ASPIRE spring conference was held in Chamberlain, SD on April 10-12. It provided 32 TRIO professionals in South Dakota with valuable networking and professional development opportunities.
- SD ASPIRE President, Cody McMichael, USD Upward Bound Advisor, Aaron Poor Bear and two TRIO alumni met with the South Dakota legislative team in Washington, D.C. in March as part of COE's Policy Seminar. The South Dakota ASPIRE team effectively advocated for increases in TRIO funding.
- SD TRIO Day was hosted by TRiO Professionals from six different Trio programs, participants and alumni on March 1, 2011 at the state capitol in Pierre, SD. TRIO professionals and students met with state senators and representatives in the lobbies of each chamber to share the TRIO message at the South Dakota state capitol.
- TRIO personnel from across the state of South Dakota volunteered at College Goal Sunday events held in seven locations around the state.

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- South Dakota finished the membership year with 48 members, 42 of which were professional members of ASPIRE.
- The annual South Dakota ASPIRE spring conference was completely paid for in registration fees. Additional funds were generated through a silent auction and raffle at the conference.
- The South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE financial goals include meeting ASPIRE/COE Fair Share goals every year.
- The South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE to the ASPIRE region basket to be used as a fundraiser at the COE Annual Conference in San Diego.
- Carol Gritts (Upward Bound Director – BHSU) made a concerted effort into securing COE project memberships with those programs who have not supported TRIO in this way.
- Personal donations from SD ASPIRE members to ASPIRE were above average for the year.

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities to the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Several workshops, covering a wide variety of topics, were offered at the SD ASPIRE state conference held in Chamberlain, SD, April 10-12.
 - **Professional development sessions included:**
 - Dusty Johnson, chief of staff for Governor Daugaard, was the keynote speaker at the state conference. Trio professionals had an opportunity to ask questions and promote Trio to one of the top government officials in the state
 - Non-Trio staff from Great Lakes Higher Education presented a session on Financial Literacy.
 - A general session on developing alumni relations was presented by DWU Trio Director, Kate Miller.
 - A general session teleconference with Alvin Phillips. Carol Gritts updated SD Trio programs on the importance of meeting Fair Share and where the state was in reaching the goal of 100%.
- Professional development opportunities have been assigned to South Dakota ASPIRE members who volunteered their services and expertise on standing committees and leadership positions of South Dakota ASPIRE.

Strategic Goal # 4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Cody McMichael, SD ASPIRE President:
 - attended COE Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. He and a team of four other South Dakota TRIO professionals met with the legislative staff in all three of South Dakota's legislative offices to advocate for additional funding for TRIO programs.
 - forwarded messages and action alerts from COE to all TRIO employees in South Dakota.
 - participated in conference calls organized by COE which provided information on governmental relations and Fair Share.
- The South Dakota TRIO Fact book was distributed to all three legislative offices in South Dakota and to state legislators during SD TRIO Day on March 1 in the state capitol.

Strategic Goal # 5: Further develop and utilize communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- COE action alerts were forwarded to SD ASPIRE membership as requested, with updated information provided as appropriate.
- A South Dakota ASPIRE email contact list was maintained by the state president.
- Conference registration materials, agenda, and membership materials were sent to all TRIO staff in South Dakota in preparation for the spring co-state conference.
- Both program specific as well as all TRIO program networking opportunities were provided at the South Dakota ASPIRE state conference April 10-12.

Strategic Goal # 6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- A variety of workshop topics were presented as part of the state conference in Chamberlain, South Dakota.
- Student memberships are promoted in each SSS program in the state.

Strategic Goal # 7: Strengthen relationships with state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Correspondence went out to all TRIO staff in South Dakota promoting the spring state conference.
- During the South Dakota ASPIRE state conference Dawn Eckhardt educated those in attendance on the importance of our relationship with COE and our relationship with the Regional ASPIRE. He also updated members on the fiscal status of the Regional ASPIRE.

Utah

Quarterly Report

August, 2011

Officers
President: Lindsay Beddes
President Elect: Craig Harter
Past President: Yvette Rosenberg
Treasurer: Monique Reymus
Secretary: Roxana Luna

State News:

MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP/STATE MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to increase state membership, ASPIRE Utah offered a reduced registration rate at the state conference for ASPIRE Utah members. All TRiO and GEAR UP staff in the state were invited to attend. Approximately 70% of the state membership attended the spring conference, and an additional 14 attendees chose to pay the higher registration rate rather than become members. State conference workshop presentations were run by TRiO and Non-TRiO personnel.

We extended invitations to our congressmen and senators and were pleased to have a representative from Senator Hatch's office attend our State TRiO Achievers Luncheon.

With the passage of our State Bylaws and Operating Guidelines this past December, we have instituted a ceremony for the succession of officers, which will help to outline the duties and responsibilities of the ASPIRE State Board of Directors. Not only is this information available to the membership via the State website, it is to be repeated annually at the swearing in of officers to remind new leaders and the membership alike of the responsibilities being placed on the shoulders of their leaders. This, along with informal training of Past-Presidents, will help to create a sense of continuity in our State leadership.

ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT

ASPIRE Utah is proud to be hosting the Regional ASPIRE Conference this coming October. As a part of the annual conference, we are hosting our first ever Regional Alumni Conference – a one-day event that will run alongside the opening day activities of the regular conference. Though difficult to brag about at this point, we as a state are very excited for the Alumni event and have been putting a lot of thought and planning into ensuring it's success.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

As the ASPIRE Region is still working toward achieving a 501c3 status that will encompass the state chapters, it is difficult to do direct fundraising. Despite this limitation, we have received support from Carl Porter, Director of Academic Support Centers and Programs at Weber State University in the form of matching monies for our TRiO Day/State Policy Seminar this past February. Additionally we were awarded a Regional State Initiative grant in the amount of \$250.

Also notable are the fundraising efforts being conducted by the corporate development committee for the upcoming Regional Conference to be held in Salt Lake City. Though technically a Regional committee, all on the committee are Utah ASPIRE members. As of August the committee has generated over \$4500 in donations, with more monies expected to come in by October.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CRITERIA

This past year, Utah held its first ever state Policy seminar in conjunction with our annual TRiO Day. In the morning we held workshops focused on TRiO advocacy and civic engagement. TRiO staff, students, and alumni from around the state were in attendance. Additionally, we had representatives from Senator Hatch's office, as well as from Congressman Bishop's and Congressman Chaffetz' offices. The representatives held an open forum Q&A during the morning workshop sessions.

In the afternoon we held a luncheon where the legislative representatives heard from Utah state-level TRiO achievers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING CRITERIA

Thanks in part to some matching funds received through a Regional State Initiative grant, Utah has developed a state ASPIRE website. A former TRiO Talent Search student volunteered to compile information for the website, which was then uploaded to

<http://www.ASPIREut.org>. The site has a digital newsfeed of current happening in TRiO statewide, pictures of events, and a link to our current Fact Book. The site has links for various audiences, including staff, students, alumni, and legislators or interested parties.

Wyoming Annual Report

September 16, 2011

President: Sandy Straley

Officers: Jayne Pearce, President-Elect
Cindy Gustin, Past President
Susan Stoddard, Secretary
Paul Hesco, Treasurer

State News:

- Increased membership in Wyoming-ASPIRE by 67%
- Awarded a COE State Initiative Matching Grant for Alumni Development
- Awarded an ASPIRE State Initiative Matching Grant for Building Media and Government Relations
- Increased balance in state account
- Voting in October on proposal to change to two year presidency and add a member-at-large.
- Wyoming met 166% of COE Fair Share

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO and other educational opportunity programs, such as GEAR-UP.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Four Wyoming TRiO staff and one alumnus visited all three federal legislators in DC on March 8.
- TRiO and GEAR UP students visited the Wyoming legislature in February; the governor proclaimed it Educational Access Day.
- SSS students visited state offices of the three federal legislators.

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- President donated portion of travel allowance back to ASPIRE
- Increased state membership benefitted ASPIRE financially
- Wyoming-ASPIRE hosted the annual conference last October which netted ASPIRE \$50,000.

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Held state conference in April in Casper, Wyoming. Three GEAR UP staff participated. The editor of the state's largest newspaper presented a session on "Working with the Media." Three financial aid staff from the university gave a session on SAP and upcoming changes to student financial aid.
- Other sessions pertained to financial and economic literacy, a new statewide college access website, and a poverty simulation.

Strategic Goal # 4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Held an Alumni Dinner during the state conference. Field representatives for our senator and our representative attended and asked many questions about TRiO.
- TRiO and GEAR UP students visited the Wyoming legislature in February; the Governor proclaimed it Educational Access Day.
- SSS students visited state offices of three federal legislators.
- Four Wyoming TRiO staff and one alum visited all three federal legislators in DC on March 8.
- At our second Alumni Dinner in September, a state representative presented on "Political Advocacy."

Strategic Goal # 5: Further develop and utilize communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Northwest College had a TRiO article published. Two television spots covered our state legislative Educational Access Day events.
- Improved the Wyoming-ASPIRE website and linked it with the ASPIRE website.
- In process of updating and printing new Wyoming-ASPIRE brochures.

Strategic Goal # 6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRiO.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Awarded a \$350 matching COE State Initiative grant to develop alumni. Had an Alumni Banquet in April at the state conference.
- Have developed an alumni database with 60 alumni; have started an alumni Facebook page.

- Held second Alumni Dinner in southeast Wyoming in September. Over 30 were in attendance.

Strategic Goal # 7: Strengthen relationships with ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- President participated in all ASPIRE board meetings.
- Solicited Wyoming members to participate in Leadership Development Institute.

ASPIRE - Archives Committee

Quarterly Report

4/27/11

Chair: Michael Wade

Committee Members: N.A.

Committee News:

(Instructions: Examples include new initiatives, ongoing activities and meetings, changes in membership, partnerships, fundraising, and professional development.)

Currently, our storage unit is being shared with the University of Wyoming TRiO Student Success Services Program. We have not paid for this storage prior to this year as the SSS Program was able to provide this service. Due to their current limited budget constraints, we are now paying our share of the storage unit expenses equivalent to the number of file boxes we store in the unit.

Committee Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

(Instructions: Please report on the activities/accomplishments of the committee since the last report. A matrix showing the goals that apply to each committee can be found at the end of the Strategic Plan. You need not report on the other goals and should delete them from the report.)

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO and other educational opportunity programs, such as GEAR-UP.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Committee will continue to ensure archives are securely stored in storage facility in Laramie, Wyoming.
- Committee will review current storage facility and cost of relocating archives for upcoming year if requested by ASPIRE Board.

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ASPIRE archives to be maintained in secure location.

Strategic Goal # 5: Further develop and utilize communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Committee will continue to network with the University of Wyoming TRiO SSS Program in regard to sharing their storage unit.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wade

Awards/TRiO Achievers Committee

Quarterly Report

September 16, 2011

Chair: Juli Larson

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Committee Members: | Troy Abfalter | Colorado |
| | Zach Hawkins | Montana |
| | Roberta Kudrna | North Dakota |
| | Jeff Vostad | South Dakota |
| | Nancy Cannon | Utah |
| | Cindy Gustin | Wyoming |

Committee News:

Committee Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal # 6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRiO.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Solicited nominations from the membership for the Rising Star, Friend of ASPIRE, TRiO Achievers and Champion of TRiO awards and winners were determined by the committee
- Notified nominators of the final selections and asked them to invite the recipients to the ASPIRE Conference
- Updated the length of membership records and corrected records so as to not be operating in the arrears for presenting awards
- Determined the recipients of the 5-year, 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, 25-year, 30-year and 35-year (new) membership awards
- Solicited names of retirees from State Presidents—one retiree was named
- Ordered awards for the Membership awards, the Art Quinn Memorial Award, the TRiO Achievers and the retiree
- Sent all awards information for conference agenda to Conference Chair
- Notified TRiO Achievers of award
- Made travel arrangements for TRiO Achievers (Conference Chairs made flight reservations)
- Sent Art Quinn presentation information to ASPIRE President
- Sent biographies and pictures of Achievers to Conference Chair to be used in the conference agenda
- Assemble TRiO Achiever appreciation baskets

2011 Region Conference Committee Report

September 16, 2011

Conference Chair: Jami Bayles

Sub-Committee Chairs:

Agenda: Kathy Felker

Conference Program: Krystal Sorensen

Corporate Development: Dorothy Hill/Ruth Stubbs

-*Conference Ads & Vendor Booths:* Sheldon Cheshire

Entertainment

- *President's Reception/other:* Lindsay Beddes

- *Awards Banquet:* Adrienne Howell

- *Fun Run:* Tami Shugart/Luke Harris

- *Oktoberfest:* Jami Bayles/Nancy Cannon

Evaluations: Lindsay Beddes

Special Guests: Mike Anderson

Head Table: Donalyn Sessions

Moderators: Carol Sainsbury

Raffle: Kristina Fox

Registration: Lynne Brown/Barb Burkart

Silent Auction: Claudia Olsen

Budget: John Shafer

Logistics: Adrienne Howell/Colin Ben

Pre-con & Community Service Project: Nancy Cannon

News Media/Coverage: Kitty Hughes

Newcomers Reception: Lindsay Beddes

Alumni: Lindsay Beddes

Planning and preparation for the ASPIRE 2011 regional conference is underway thanks to an amazing group of volunteers. The sub-committee chairs are working hard to finalize the small details in order to ensure that this year's conference is a success. The following sub-committee reports have been provided for review by the ASPIRE Board:

Agenda & Conference Program – Kathy Felker distributed and collected the calls for proposals of presenters. At first there was some hesitation to commit because of the funding status of the TS and EOC grants. However, we now have more proposals than we can accommodate and Kathy is in the process of eliminating „filler“ sessions such as round tables. A variety of topics will be offered during each breakout session, meeting the needs of administrators, advisors, and personal/professional development. To save money, this year we decided to use 3-ring binders with inside pockets for materials and printing „in-house“ instead of purchasing conference bags and ordering spiral-bound programs. Information for the agenda booklet has been collected from a variety of sources, and Kathy is working with Krystal, Julianna Larson (Awards), and myself in creating the complete conference program.

Corporate Development – To date, this committee (which was led by Dorothy Hill, then handed over to Ruth Stubbs after Dorothy accepted a position outside of ASPIRE) has raised \$4,150 through the WSU Diversity Office, Utah Higher Ed, the Franklin & Elizabeth Alex Foundation, and two

personal donations secured by Dave Trujillo. One thing that we tried this year was seeking contributions from universities within the state of Utah. A letter was sent out to all program directors at each campus asking them to approach their respective administration and request a donation of \$500. Our goal was collect a donation from each university, which would have contributed an additional \$6500 to the conference. However, we were only able to collect one donation due to tight budgets across the state.

Conference Ads & Vendor Booths: This sub-committee (Sheldon) under Corporate Development is working closely with Krystal (Conference Program) and is in the process of collecting all ads from the region and states, as well as individual programs and vendors. Requests were sent to TRIO programs and higher education institutions across the region, as well as individual businesses, via the ASPIRE listserv. Many ads have been received, with a final acceptance date being late September. A full accounting of ads received and revenue generated will be provided as part of the conference report following the conclusion of the 2011 conference.

Entertainment –

President's Reception/Other: Lindsay Beddes suggested a former TS student of hers who is a beautiful folk singer/songwriter. She and her father are huge TRIO supporters and she volunteered to play at the reception for free (although we will pass around a tip jar for her). Lindsay is also organizing the annual Pub Crawl and will have details secured in the next week.

Awards Banquet – Adrienne is in the process of securing the DJ/Karaoke event. She has a student who has DJed at several other functions and is working with him to finalize details. Also, Oscar Felix is stepping down this year as the banquet MC and Rachel Martinez has volunteered to take his place. Andrea Reeve is planning on performing the induction ceremony again.

Fun Run – Tami and Luke have been mapping out several different routes in the SLC area. Since transportation to SLC area parks is an issue, they are looking at routes that are within walking distance of the hotel. The cost for this is \$10 which includes a T-shirt with the conference logo on the front, and to date, we have 26 registered.

Oktoberfest – I have been working closely with Nancy Cannon to organize an excursion to the Oktoberfest festival at Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort. The fee is \$15, which will go towards the cost of fuel. Nancy has reserved three minivans from Enterprise Rental agency, with a rate of \$50 per van. Several colleagues had volunteered to use their state vehicles, but as I discussed this further with Kathy, she informed me that it was illegal to use state vehicles for transportation; furthermore, we did not want to ruffle feathers by having state vehicles with institution logos be seen at this particular event. This excursion is optional and currently we have 16 people registered, with a cap of 24.

Evaluations – Lindsay has been working on putting together a draft of questions that will be used to create an evaluation for each session, and the conference overall. This year we are trying a new online tool called Student Voice. Lindsay is very familiar with it and expects that more people will participate in the evaluations since they can pick and choose the evaluation for the specific session that they attended. This will also eliminate the need for paper evaluations at each session.

Special Guests – Invited speakers for the conference included Dr. Arnold Mitchem, Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Jonathan McKenzie, and Lucy Jones. With the exception of Dr. Byrd-Johnson, all special guests are confirmed to attend and all hotel and travel arrangements have been made. Dr. Byrd-Johnson would like to attend but has not yet confirmed.

Head Table – Donalynn has received a list of names of the board and all special guests, and is working on creating the „table tents“ for each session.

Moderators – A call for moderators will be sent out on Monday. Carol will conduct the moderator training on Sunday, October 9 from 1:30-2:00.

Raffle – Kristina and her committee are asking for donations for the raffle. An email was sent to each state president asking to donate a „theme basket“ or one „large ticket item“ of their choosing. In addition, Donalynn Sessions has donated a quilt. Kristina is also working on securing smaller items to be given away as a „daily door prize“. Unfortunately, due to limited budgets and the poor economy, businesses have been hesitant to donate larger, more expensive items.

Registration – Dawn Eckhardt developed the registration site on C-vent. Invitations to register for the conference were sent via C-vent, the ASPIRE and TRIO listservs, as well as flyers to all programs in the region. This year the conference is offering One-day registrations to those who cannot commit to attending the entire conference, as well as a special Retiree fee. To date 221 people have registered for the conference, and Lynne Brown has been collecting all payments. Barb Burkart will be working at the registration desk for the purposes of on-site registration, check-in, payments, and membership.

Silent Auction – Lori Larson has sent out several emails reminding people to bring items to the silent auction. Claudia will have the forms on site for people to fill out.

Budget – I have been in constant contact with John, making sure all payments have been received and accounted for.

Logistics – Adrienne and Colin met with the Radisson and became familiar with all rooms and meeting spaces. They are working with the hotel to make sure all details of the conference are covered. With minor changes, rooms, meals, decorations, equipment, and a host of other details are being finalized this week.

Pre-conference and Community Service Projects – Nancy secured three pre-con workshops. Lucy Jones will conduct a 9-2 workshop titled “TRIO Program Evaluation Techniques” on Saturday, October 8th. Tim Border, who is a TRIO Achiever this year, is holding a half-day pre-con on Sunday morning titled “Building an Organizational Culture within TRiO Programs”. The other Sunday morning pre-con will be offered by the US Census titled “Using Census Data in Grant Writing and Community Needs Assessment.” In addition, Nancy organized two community service projects that ASPIRE participants can volunteer at their leisure. We will be assembling hygiene kits for the Days for Girls International organization as well as writing letters and Christmas cards for care packages that will be assembled and sent to soldiers serving our nation. The times are Monday, October 10th from 11am - 4pm and Tuesday, October 11th from 11am – 3pm. The Community Service Project room will be open during those times for any and all who wish to volunteer their time when they have a few moments, or just feel the need to decompress, serve, and connect with other TRiO folks.

News Media/Coverage – Kitty has a family member, Tamara Vaifanua, that is a news anchor/reporter at Fox 13. If her schedule allows, we hope to have her attend the conference.

Newcomers – Lindsay is organizing a Newcomer’s Breakfast on Monday morning in lieu of the traditional Newcomer’s Reception on Sunday night. This event will be held before workshops begin for the day and will be by invitation only, and invitations will be included in packets at check-in. In addition, Oscar Felix has been invited and is planning on giving a brief description about LDI in order to help promote it for next year’s conference.

Alumni – Due to lack of registration, the Alumni event that was schedule for Sunday afternoon was canceled.

The anticipated conference expenses are in full compliance with the conference budget approved by the Board in January, 2011.

2012 Conference Committee

Quarterly Report

September 16, 2011

Chair: Barb Waters

Sub-Committee Chairs: Agenda: RuthAnne Shope
Agenda Ads: Rob Rust
Corporate Development: Zach Hawkins
Entertainment: Michelle Watson
Evaluations: Kelly Buck
Fun Run: Heather Hibbard
Head Table: Ray Carlisle
Logistics: Aaron Murish
Moderators: Russ Lamson
Newcomers Reception: Jacee Martin
Raffle: Darlene Sampson
Registration: Christiana Ricci
Charlene Herron
Silent Auction: Charlotte Kobold
Rhonda Mason
Special Guests: Dan Bengé
Chris Sullivan

Committee News:

(Instructions: Examples include new initiatives, ongoing activities and meetings, changes in membership, partnerships, fundraising, and professional development.)

Preliminary planning and preparation for the 2012 ASPIRE conference in Billings continues to progress. Many members of the Montana state membership volunteered to help with the conference and all sub-committee chairs are now filled. Many subcommittee chairs will be attending the 2011 conference in Salt Lake City. They will be observing the conference and taking notes in preparation for more conference planning. The following sub-committee updates have been provided for review by the ASPIRE Board:

Agenda – RuthAnne Shope and Barb Waters have begun discussing a proposed agenda for the 2012 conference. Plans are in progress to develop a Veterans' information track and a 21st century technology track for the breakout sessions of the conference.

Agenda Ads/Corporate Development – After speaking with Rob Rust and Zach Hawkins it has been decided to merge the efforts of the Agenda Ads and Corporate Development subcommittees. Zach and Rob will work together to identify businesses in Billings and Montana to approach for

donations and advertising. A list of potential businesses is being drafted and the heads of the subcommittees will meet in Salt Lake City to discuss strategies.

Entertainment – Michelle Watson and Barb Waters have met to discuss possible excursions around the Billings area including a “pub crawl” in downtown Billings utilizing the Topsy Trolley service and an afternoon/evening trip to Red Lodge. Ideas are also being discussed for the President’s Reception.

Logistics – Aaron Murish is attending his first Regional ASPIRE conference in Salt Lake City to begin his preparation as the Logistics subcommittee chair. He and Barb Waters will observe and speak to the Utah conference team to gather information needed to make the conference in Billings run smoothly. An excursion to the Holiday Inn is planned after returning from Salt Lake.

Development Committee Report October 2011

Chair: Carol Gritts

State Development Coordinators:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Colorado | Derek Grubb / Travis Annameier |
| Montana | Michael McLean |
| North Dakota | Derek Sporbert / Lori Larson |
| South Dakota | Susan Hupp |
| Utah | Yvette Rosenberg |
| Wyoming | Rachel Martinez |

Committee Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE’s Strategic Plan:
Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

ASPIRE achieved 134% for the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Fair Share for their Fiscal Year (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). All states exceeded 100% for the COE Fair Share. COE Fair Share includes Regional Dues, Institutional Memberships, and Personal Donations.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE COE FAIR SHARE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR!

The total amount contributed to ASPIRE Development (Fair Share) was \$13,169 for the Development (Fair Share) Year (September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011). Development (Fair Share) for ASPIRE includes Project Memberships and Personal Donations. The amount for a Project Membership is \$100 per project.

The total amount contributed for Personal Donations totaled \$4,569 (\$1,636 less than 2009–2010). The total amount contributed for ASPIRE Project Memberships was \$8,600 (\$1,100 less than 2009–2010).

The chart below indicates the number of Project Memberships by state.

| | Number of Projects | Project Memberships 2009-2010 | Project Memberships 2010-2011 |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Colorado | 48 | 22 | 25 |
| Montana | 30 | 19 | 15 |
| North Dakota | 19 | 13 | 14 |
| South Dakota | 12 | 13 | 8 |
| Utah | 26 | 21 | 14 |
| Wyoming | 12 | 9 | 10 |

**AGAIN, THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT (FAIR SHARE)
PROJECT MEMBERSHIP AND PERSONAL DONATION FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!**

Strategic Goal # 7: Strengthen relationships with state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

The State Development Leaders, with assistance from State Presidents, contacted projects to purchase ASPIRE Development (Fair Share) Project Memberships.

Projects that contributed to ASPIRE Development (Fair Share) by paying a Project Membership are listed on the following pages. Personal Donations are listed by category following Project Memberships.

**ASPIRE FAIR SHARE
2010**

PROJECT MEMBERSHIPS

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| COLORADO | Arapahoe Community College | Student Support Services |
| | Colorado Mountain College (Rifle/Edwards) | Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| | Colorado State University | Educational Opportunity |
| | Center | Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound |
| Center | Colorado State University – Pueblo | Student Support Services |
| | Community College of Aurora | Student Support Services |
| | Community College of Denver | Educational Opportunity |
| | STEM | Fort Lewis College |
| STEM | Lamar Community College | Student Support Services |
| | Metropolitan State College | Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| | Northeastern Junior College | Student Support Services |
| | Pikes Peak Community College | Student Support Services |
| | Pueblo Community College | Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| | Trinidad State Junior College (Valley Campus) | Student Support Services Student Support Services Upward Bound Math / Science Upward Bound |
| | University of Colorado at Denver | Student Support Services |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| MONTANA | Dawson Community College | Student Support Services |
| | Flathead Valley Community College | Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| | Montana State University – Billings | Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound |
| | Montana State University – Bozeman | McNair |
| | Montana State University – Northern | Educational Opportunity Center |
| | Montana Tech of the University of Montana | Student Support Services – STEM Talent Search Ruby Valley Upward Bound Lower Clark Fork Upward Bound Montana Tech Upward Bound |
| | University of Montana | Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| NORTH DAKOTA | Cankdeska Cikana Community College | Student Support Services |
| | Dickinson State University | Student Support Services |
| | Lake Region State College | Student Support Services |
| | Minot State University | Student Support Services |
| | North Dakota State University | McNair Student Support Services Upward Bound Veterans Upward Bound |
| | University of Mary | Upward Bound |
| | University of North Dakota | Educational Opportunity Center McNair Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | Black Hills State University | Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| | Dakota Wesleyan University | Student Support Services |

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| | Northern State University | Upward Bound |
| | Sisseton Wahpeton College | Student Support Services |
| | University of South Dakota | Talent Search Upward Bound Math / Science Upward Bound |
| UTAH | Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah / Price Campus | Upward Bound |
| | Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah / San Juan Campus | Talent Search Upward Bound |
| | Dixie College | Student Support Services Talent Search |
| | Salt Lake Community College | Student Support Services Talent Search |
| | Southern Utah University | Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound |
| | Utah State University | Student Support Services |
| | Weber State University | Student Support Services Talent Search |
| | Westminster College | McNair |
| WYOMING | Central Wyoming College | Upward Bound |
| | Laramie County Community College | Student Support Services |
| | Northern Wyoming Community College | Student Support Services |
| | University of Wyoming | Educational Opportunity Center (North / South) McNair Student Support Services Math / Science Upward Bound Student Educational Opportunity GEAR UP |

**ASPIRE DEVELOPMENT
2010
PERSONAL DONATIONS**

ASPIRE ADVOCATES (\$50 - \$99)

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Jami Bayles | Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah / San Juan Campus | Talent Search |
| Lindsay Beddes | Weber State University | Talent Search |
| Kathy Hamilton | Laramie, Wyoming | ASPIRE Accountant's Office |
| Mary Jo Hinsdale | Westminster College | McNair |
| Laurel Johnson | University of North Dakota | Talent Search |
| Sandra Lanier | Snow College | Student Support Services |
| Brandon McLean | Montana Tech of the University of Montana | Upward Bound |

MEMBERS OF THE ASPIRE COUNCIL (\$100 – \$249)

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dan Benge Bound | Montana State University – Billings | Talent Search / Upward |
| Oscar Felix | Colorado State University | TRiO Programs |
| Susan Hupp | Black Hills State University | Student Support Services |
| Cheryl Kinsbury | University of North Dakota | Student Support Services |
| Lori Larson | University of North Dakota | Upward Bound |
| Theresa Leiphon | Lake Region State College | Student Support Services |
| John Shafer | Southern Utah University | Student Support Services |
| Derek Sporbert | University of North Dakota | Educational Opportunity Center |
| Sandra Staley | University of Wyoming | Student Support Services |

ASPIRE PATRONS (\$250 – 499)

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Carol Gritts | Black Hills State University | Upward Bound |
| Andrea Reeve | Colorado State University | Student Support Services |

ASPIRE CHAMPIONS (\$500 - \$999)

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Dawn Eckhardt | University of North Dakota | Talent Search |
| Elaine Metcalfe | University of North Dakota | TRiO Programs |

ASPIRE BENEFACTORS (\$1,000 and above)

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sher Warren / Fuji Adachi | Laramie County Community College | Student Support Services |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|

AND MORE

Personal Donations for the Fair Share Year which began September 1, 2011.

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| COLORADO | Oscar Felix | Colorado State University | TRIO Programs |
| NORTH DAKOTA | Dawn Eckhardt | University of North Dakota | Talent Search |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | Susan Hupp | Black Hills State University | Student Support Services |
| UTAH | Mary Jo Hinsdale | Westminster College | McNair |
| WYOMING | Sher Warren | University of Wyoming | Student Support Services |

Project Memberships for the Fair Share Year which began September 1, 2011.

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| COLORADO | Colorado Mountain College (Steamboat/Glenwood) Fort Lewis College Colorado Mesa University Otero Junior College | Student Support Services Student Support Services Student Support Services Student Support Services |
| MONTANA | Montana State University – Northern Rocky Mountain College Salish Kootenai College | Educational Opportunity Center Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| NORTH DAKOTA | North Dakota State University University of Mary | Student Support Services Student Support Services Upward Bound |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | Dakota Wesleyan University South Dakota State University | Student Support Services Student Support Services |
| UTAH | Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah / San Juan Campus Weber State University | Upward Bound Student Support Services |
| WYOMING | Northern Wyoming Community College | Student Support Services |

ASPIRE Elections Committee

Annual Report

August 13, 2011

Chair: Elaine Metcalfe

**Committee
Members:**

Committee News: Following announcements sent to ASPIRE membership to solicit nominations for ASPIRE office, two nominations were received: Rachel Martinez for President; and Derek Sporbert for President Elect. At the ASPIRE conference another opportunity for additional nominations will be given and elections held.

Committee Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO and other educational opportunity programs, such as GEAR-UP.

Activities/Accomplishments:

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- No ASPIRE funding was required to fulfill committee tasks
- The announcements concerning position descriptions and soliciting nominations were sent out to ASPIRE membership (to assure ASPIRE continued operations)

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Announcements were sent to the ASPIRE membership concerning duties of ASPIRE officers
- Announcements were sent to the ASPIRE membership soliciting nominations for the positions of ASPIRE President-Elect, President, and Treasurer

Governmental Relations Committee Report

Cheryl Kingsbury

August 29, 2011

Executive Summary of Accomplishments

The Governmental Relations Committee disseminated information to the membership regarding legislation, action alerts, and current issues, and answered related questions. Since each state requires an individualized approach, an active Governmental Relations Team who attended COE Policy Seminar worked on the actions alerts and current issues. COE Governmental Relations Conference calls, as well as ASPIRE Governmental Relations Conference calls, were used to discuss strategies.

The Governmental Relations Committee updated membership who attended their State Meetings on current TRIO issues.

The Government Relations Committee was available to advise and support first time attendees at the COE Policy Seminar in Washington, D. C.

2011 COE Policy Seminar

ASPIRE had an excellent representation by state presidents including TRIO Alumni at the 31st Policy Seminar at the Omni Hotel in Washington, D.C., March 6-8, 2011.

The following ASPIRE delegates attended:

Colorado: Team Leader: Oscar Felix, Carmen Rivera, Travis Annemeier

Colorado: Team Leader: Henry Ornelas, Miel McCarthy, Amanda Hildebrandt, Andrea Reeves, David Luker

Colorado: Team Leader: Nickie Archibeque, Katrina Hedrick, Erin Cummins

Montana: Team Leader: Zach Hawkins, Rene DuBay, Amy Verlanic, Dan Bengge, Brandon McLean

North Dakota: Team Leader: Lori Larson, Dawn Eckhardt, Elaine Metcalfe, Cheryl Kingsbury, Derek Sporbert, Kris Mickelson, Michael Harwood, Aide Freeman-Martinez, Bob Hewitt, Karen Grabanski

South Dakota: Team Leader: Cody McMichael

Utah: Team Leader: Craig Harter, Barb Burkart, Kathy Felker, David Trujillo, Daniel Czech, Ruth Patina-Stubbs, Lindsay Beddes, Jami Bayles, Lynne Brown, Diane Gardner, Guadalupe Aguliera, Linda Tobias, Nancy Cannon

Wyoming: Team Leader: Rachel Martinez, Sandy Straley, Mike Wade, Jayne Pearce, David Rivera

On Monday, March 7, each state delegation met to prepare for their meetings with congressional offices on Tuesday, March 8. State Presidents scheduled a Policy seminar report at their state meeting to update membership.

When President Obama released his FY 2012 budget, the President had proposed an 8% increase for TRIO, from \$853.1 million to an appropriation of \$920.1 million. The House then passed a bill, HR. 1, which cut TRIO funding by 2.9% (for a loss of \$24.9 million). Through the leadership of Senators Baucus and Collins, and with the tireless efforts of the TRIO community, HR. 1 was defeated in the Senate. Leaders within the House and Senate then funded the government for the rest of FY11. The bill, H.R. 1473, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 passed easily with a vote of 260-167 in the House and 81-19 in the Senate. This bill, which reduced current spending levels by approximately \$38 billion, included a \$26.6 million cut to TRIO and a \$20.4 million cut to GEAR UP. The House passed its

FY 2012 budget resolution by a vote of 235-193. This legislation proposes drastic changes to the Pell grant program, reducing the maximum award to \$3,040, (45%) the lowest it's been since 1998. The Senate will take up its own budget proposal shortly, setting the stage for an even greater battle for funding in FY 2012. The TRIO community has continued to register their dissatisfaction with the White House. Dr. Mitchem has thanked the TRIO community for their tireless efforts during this serious fight for funding for the low-income, first generation students. Thank you to Dr. Mitchem and the COE staff for their hours of continuous work on the Hill.

During the months following COE Policy Seminar, Congress engaged in heated discussion regarding the debt ceiling. On August 2, 2011 congress approved the deal to increase the debt ceiling. The House approved the deal in a bipartisan 269-161 vote, and the Senate approved the deal 74-26. President Obama signed the Budget Control Act into law. The debt ceiling was increased by \$900 million. The impact of the debt ceiling deal is that funding for FY 2012 is capped at \$4.43 trillion, a \$7 billion cut from FY 2011. Congressional leadership has appointed a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction or "Super Committee" to come up with at least \$1.2 trillion in additional spending cuts over the next ten years. If they fail to do so, automatic across-the-board cuts will be triggered to ensure the federal deficit decreases by \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years. The TRIO community continues to work tirelessly to avoid additional cuts, and will do so throughout the year.

TRIO Appropriations

| Fiscal Year | Appropriation | Fiscal Year | Appropriation |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 2000 | \$645 million | 2006 | \$828.2 million |
| 2001 | \$730 million | 2007 | \$828.2 million |
| 2002 | \$802.5 million | 2008 | \$828.2 million |
| 2003 | \$827.1 million | 2009 | \$848.1 million |
| 2004 | \$832.6 million | 2010 | \$853.1 million |
| 2005 | \$836.5 million | 2011 | \$826.5 million |

State Policy Seminar Initiative

All state presidents have continued to work in their states on the State Policy Seminar Initiative. State senators and representatives have been invited to TRIO Day celebrations, and have also been invited to visit the TRIO Programs in their congressional districts. ASPIRE members have worked tirelessly to develop strong relationships with the senators and representatives in their congressional districts, and have provided detailed information regarding the number of students served in their congressional districts.

Sincere thanks to our ASPIRE President, Dawn Eckhardt, and the ASPIRE Executive Board for their outstanding work this past year.

International Access Committee

Quarterly Report

4/27/11

Chair: Michael Wade

Committee Members: N.A.

Committee News:

(Instructions: Examples include new initiatives, ongoing activities and meetings, changes in membership, partnerships, fundraising, and professional development.)

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Over 1,200 scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded this academic year for U.S. citizen undergraduates to study abroad. Award amounts will vary depending on the length of study and student need with the average award being \$4,000. Undergraduate students who are receiving federal Pell Grant funding at 2-year or 4-year colleges or universities are eligible to apply.

Students who apply for and receive the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad are now eligible to receive an additional \$3,000 Critical Need Language Supplement from the Gilman Program for a total possible award of up to \$8,000.

Critical Need Languages include:

- Arabic (all dialects)
- Chinese (all dialects)
- Turkic (Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Turkmen, Uzbek)
- Persian (Farsi, Dari, Kurdish, Pashto, Tajiki)
- Indic (Hindi, Urdu, Nepali, Sinhala, Bengali, Punjabi, Marathi, Gujarati, Sindhi)
- Korean
- Russian

The application deadline for summer and fall 2011 Gilman awards has passed. The timeline for students to apply for Gilman awards for spring 2012 study abroad semesters are detailed on the Gilman website at: <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program/Apply.aspx#Deadlines-and-Timeline>.

Committee Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

(Instructions: Please report on the activities/accomplishments of the committee since the last report. A matrix showing the goals that apply to each committee can be found at the end of the Strategic Plan. You need not report on the other goals and should delete them from the report.)

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities to the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The next COE staff development professional exchange abroad is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2011. COE's International Access Committee has begun discussions with ECHO regarding the program. Further information will be provided as details are developed.
- The 20th anniversary European Access Network conference will be held from June 20, 2011, to June 22, 2011, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Information on the conference can be found at: http://www.ean-edu.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=38&Itemid=85.
- The Fulbright Scholar Program offers a variety of staff and scholar exchange programs for academic and TRIO professionals. Information on Fulbright opportunities for staff can be found at: <http://www.cies.org/>.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Wade

ASPIRE Leadership Development Institute Committee Report May 5, 2011

Goals for 2011 Leadership Development Institute

The LDI, through engaging and interactive sessions, will provide:

- Foundational content on TRIO and higher education history, and current trends and issues
- Tangible ways to become involved in ASPIRE through the Pledge to Take on Leadership.
- Activities that focus on possible concerns about ASPIRE leadership involvement through interactions with current and past ASPIRE leaders
- Guest LDI faculty with national perspective, including Angelica Vialpando (COE) and Dave Megquier (University of Maine; COE Past-Chair), who will present about TRIO challenges & opportunities, state initiatives, and government relations
- Keynote Speaker and Guest LDI Faculty
- Veteran LDI faculty comprised of national leaders in the TRIO community: Kathy Felker, Andrea Reeve, Oscar Felix and Amy Verlanic

Board members, we need your help in getting the word out in your states and institutions to identify and create pathways for participation in the LDI. This means acting now in planting the seed for emerging leaders to consider this opportunity, and planning (logistics, budget, expectations) to make participation possible.

LDI Agenda

The agenda from last year will serve as the foundation for next year.

- **Foundations:** A primer on the history of higher education and societal events that gave rise to TRIO
- **Building the Capacity of State Associations for Leadership in State Education Policy:** Exploring promising and proven state education policy strategies
- **Advocacy:** Learn to advocate for TRIO & your program in this interactive session
- **Keynote**
- **Removing Obstacles to Involvement & Leadership:** Create leadership roadmap by learning from involvement surveys of TRIO personnel
- **Parliamentary Procedure:** Basic elements to run/attend a successful meeting

- **Thinking Outside of the Box** Learn how to make it all hang together
- **Government Relations 101** The Basics of Washington
- **Putting It All Together:** The structure of ASPIRE and how to get involved

State Initiative Committee Annual Report

Annual Report

Date 09/15/2011

President: Dawn Eckhardt

Board Members: President –Elect- Rachel Martinez
Past- President- Lynne Brown
Treasurer- John Shafer
Secretary-Lori Brown-Wirth
Colorado President- Nickie Archibeque
Montana President-Zach Hawkins
North Dakota President- Lori Larson
South Dakota President-Cody McMichael
Utah President-Lindsay Beddes
Wyoming President- Sandy Straley

(Instructions: Examples include new initiatives, ongoing activities and meetings, changes in membership, partnerships, fundraising, and professional development.)

Committee Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE’s Strategic Plan:

(Instructions: Please report on the activities/accomplishments of the committee since the last report. A matrix showing the goals that apply to each committee can be found at the end of the Strategic Plan. You need not report on the other goals and should delete them from the report.)

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO and other educational opportunity programs, such as GEAR-UP.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- All six ASPIRE states participated in State Initiative activity during 2011; all of these activities involve advocating for TRiO programs with State legislators and/or education officials and policy makers in each ASPIRE state.

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- North Dakota- Through membership and recruitment emailed staff members who were not current members of ASPIRE to become members and as a result, they are currently at 41.

- Met their 10 for 10 goal that was set to receive free registration to the Policy Seminar. They are currently at 75% of their fair share and four schools will receive a discount if paid by the end of May and another school has made a commitment to pay. This amount should help exceed the year's fair share amount.
- North Dakota made 166% of fair share for the year.
- Thirty- nine members attended the state conference. This is 72% of professional staff in the state.
- Colorado- Currently has over 250 TRIO employees and current membership is 150. They will continue to recruit new members.
- Held their state meeting in Pueblo this year which drew in 90 registrants with 87 in attendance.
-
- Exceeded fair share in 2009-2010 and have over 10 contributors to COE. However, they did not meet their 10 for 10 campaign in time for the free policy seminar registration.
- South Dakota- ASPIRE State Conference attendance was 32 which is 71% of TRIO personnel in South Dakota and all new TRIO personnel in the state attended the state conference.
- A general session teleconference with Alvin Phillips was included in the agenda for the state conference in April. Carol Gritts updated South Dakota TRIO programs on the importance of meeting fair share and where the state was in reaching the goal of 100%.
- Wyoming- Had 26 members and a few non-members attend the state conference and 3 GEAR UP staff attended. Fair share is 102%
- Recruitment increase from 18 members to 30 which is a 67% increase
- Met 166% of Fair Share
- Rose over \$600.00 with silent auction and raffle at State Conference.
- Hosted a raffle and silent auction at state meeting which helped raised \$600.00.
- Utah- Increased membership by three between December and April from 52 to 55.
- 88% of membership attended the state conference and there were several attendees who chose to pay the higher registration fee rather than become members.
- Fair share information and donation forms were mailed to eligible EOP personnel and discussed at the state meeting.

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities to the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Colorado- Completed the state association elections at their state meeting and new board members were sworn in. Following are the new members:
 Gene Lucero- President-Elect (Colorado State University-Pueblo)
 Jessica Yandle- Treasurer (Colorado Mountain College)
 Travis Annameier- Representative at Large (Colorado State University- Ft. Collins)
 Jamie Manzanares- Representative at Large (Pueblo Community College)
 Shawanna Kimbrough-Support Staff (Colorado State University- Ft. Collins)

- They will be taking their new positions at the ASPIRE Regional Conference that will be hosted in Salt Lake City, Utah in October.
- The Treasurer and one Representative at large resigned so new officials will be elected at the ASPIRE Conference in October.
- North Dakota- A board transition plan was adopted by approval of new operating guidelines at the state meeting in April. The plan includes having the President-Elect attend LDI and one ASPIRE Regional board meeting prior to becoming President.
- Wyoming-Currently have two committed to ELI and anticipate more and currently have a full slate of officers.
- Utah- Elections were held at the state meeting in which a full board was sworn in.

Following are the new members:

Tami Shugart- President- Elect

Toni Tuipulotu-Secretary- Elect

They will begin their new positions at the ASPIRE Regional Conference that will be hosted in Salt Lake City, Utah in October.

Strategic Goal # 4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- North Dakota- TRIO members had an opportunity to visit with various legislators at the capital in conjunction with the state conference.
- Fifteen North Dakota TRIO members attended their first North Dakota State Policy Seminar in which State Senator Mac Schneider was a guest speaker.
- Updated their state fact book.
- Wally Earhardt from the College Access Challenge Grant was a guest speaker at North Dakota's State meeting. He spoke on behalf of the College Access Challenge Grant and what sub-grant opportunities were available for TRIO.
- North Dakota held a TRIO Achievers banquet and a State Representative was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included staff from Bismarck State College, The Bank of North Dakota and COE.
- North Dakota TRIO members visited with various legislators at the capital in conjunction with the state conference. Staff from various campuses attended town hall meetings. Staff had the opportunity to meet with Rep Berg's office and North Dakota State University met with Emily Tryon from Senator Hoeven's office.
- Colorado- Had two new TRIO members attend their first Policy Seminar.
- Updated their fact book and copies were made available to those who attended the state meeting. An electronic copy is also available for those who are interested.
- Hosted their state meeting in Pueblo on April 29, 2011 and Lt. Joe Garcia was the luncheon guest speaker and two workshops were hosted by College in Colorado.

- Hosted a TRIO Achievers luncheon and in attendance were State Representatives from Mark Udall's office and Mike Bennett's office.
- Dawn Eckhart was unable to attend the state meeting but thanks to modern technology, she was able to speak to all those in attendance via Skype and provide updates.
- TRIO Advocacy Committee attended an event titled "A Day at the Capitol" this event was a collaboration between the Colorado School Counseling Association, the Colorado Counsel on High School/College Relations, the Rocky Mountain Association for College Admissions Counseling and Colorado Career and Technical Educators. They walked to the Capitol for the morning proceedings and a group was taken to the house floor while house proceedings were taking place. They also had an opportunity to observe from the senate gallery and tour the building.
- In the afternoon they had lunch and heard from a number of legislators. Rep. Ken Summers, Sen. Rollie Heath, Sen. Pat Steadman provided updates about the Counselor Core Program and the efforts being made to save the program and even continue it in years to come. Ron Brady (Sen. Hudak's aide and former president of CEA) expressed support for counselors. The state budget and its impact on K-12 education occupied a great deal of our time. Tonette Salazar and Stacy Lestina gave further updates about the legislation related to education and school counseling. In the afternoon, they went back to the capital and observed committee work.
- Followed by this event, the TRIO Advocacy Committee hosted a meet and greet reception for local representatives Jim Reisberg from Greeley and Randy Fisher from Fort Collins and Gully Stanford was also present.
- Given the success of Day at the Capitol, and in recognition of the strength and effectiveness of the coalition, the Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE membership approved the commitment of \$1,000 to be part of such collaborative efforts. The goals of this coalition align closely with TRIO's State Initiatives and will also allow greater participation by TRIO professionals in advocacy activities, including Day at the Capitol. The coalition also offers numerous professional development opportunities and interaction with school and admissions counselors. Equally important is having access to the coalition's lobbyist, Salazar and Associates, that will be key in the process of passing legislation that supports educational success for low-income, first generation students in Colorado. Oscar Felix has agreed to head this collaboration.
- Colorado- The Colorado State Initiatives Committee will be meeting with Northern Colorado Congressman and Conservative Cory Gardner on Oct. 19th 2011.
- South Dakota- Dusty Johnson, Chief of Staff for Governor Daugarrd, was the keynote speaker at the state conference. TRIO professionals had an opportunity to ask questions and promote TRIO to one of the top government officials in the state.
- Non-TRIO staff from Great Lakes Higher Education presented a session on financial literacy.
- Wyoming- Field Reps from one senator and one representative's office attended the Alumni banquet
- A newspaper editor and three financial aid staff were presenters at their state meeting.
- TRIO and GEAR-UP students had the opportunity to visit WY legislature on ED Access Day which took place on February 24th.
- SSS students visited the offices of three federal legislators.
- Alum visited all three federal legislators in D.C for Policy.

- TRIO and GEAR-UP staff and 2 students are meeting with Reps from our federal legislators on Sept. 15th.
- Utah- One GEAR- UP director attended the state meeting and one representative from Congressman Matheson's office.
- The TRIO Achievers Luncheon that was hosted at the state meeting.

Strategic Goal # 5: Further develop and utilize communication capabilities and network opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- North Dakota- Lake Region SSS was featured on television and other TRIO programs have been listed in various newspapers.
- Now has an updated website with the most current information.
- Colorado- has updated their fact book and printed copies which were shared at the state meeting, Policy, and at a dinner in which state legislators were present.
- The Colorado ASPIRE website has been updated with current information and is user friendly
- South Dakota- Fact book was published and shared with the South Dakota legislative team in D.C for policy and with state legislators at South Dakota TRIO day.
- A statewide press release about South Dakota TRIO programs was provided to each TRIO program in the state. The press release promoted the activities of South Dakota TRIO day and TRIO programs across the state.
- The new South Dakota TRIO website was promoted at the state conference and TRIO professionals were encouraged to share the website with state education leaders.
- Wyoming- Northwest Community College had a TRIO article published
- \$250.00 in ASPIRE State Initiative matching grant fund will help to build media and Government Relations.
- Two Television spots ran that covered our State Legislative Education Access Day events.
- Have further developed WY ASPIRE website linking with ASPIRE website. The website now features a successful student each month. Also in the process of revising and printing WY ASPIRE brochure. All this with the help of the ASPIRE matching grant.
- Utah- In planning for the upcoming TRIO Day celebration, invitations have been sent to legislators and workshops are in the process of being set up. The fact book was assembled and distributed to lawmakers during Policy. The fact book has also been utilized to help raise funds for the Regional Conference as well as to provide TRIO information to local businesses and Universities.
- With ASPIRE State Initiative Matching grant a website has been compiled and is now in the process of being built.

Strategic Goal # 6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Colorado- A few TRIO Alumni were invited to participate at the State Conference but were unable to attend.
- North Dakota- Is planning on hosting a banquet to honor outstanding alum
- University of North Dakota TRIO holds alumni reunions on an annual basis.
- At the TRIO Achievers banquet a State Representative was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included staff from Bismarck State College, The Bank of North Dakota and COE.
- University of North Dakota uses Alumni to mentor students in other TRIO programs
- South Dakota- A general session on developing alumni relations was presented at the state conference in April.
- Wyoming- COE funded State Initiative for Alumni development with a \$350.00 matching grant and the Alumni banquet was hosted at the state conference and is slated to incorporate an Alumni database.
- An Alumni dinner will be held on Sept. 20th in Laramie for Southeast Wyoming Alumni and a state Rep will present on political advocacy.
- Utah- Hosted a TRIO Achiever Luncheon at the state meeting and the legislator that was in attendance was impressed with Alumni's stories. Several of the Alumni voiced the fact that they did not realize they were "TRIO Alumni" let alone TRIO Achievers. Alumni from UB, SSS, VUB and TS programs were present.
- They also met with a small committee from the state to define objectives/garner support.

Strategic Goal # 7: Strengthen relationships with state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The ASPIRE Executive Board continued the State Initiative matching fund program in 2011, offering up to \$1,500 to provide a 1:1 match from ASPIRE to help fund state initiative activities. Each state was encouraged to apply and was allowed to apply for up to \$250.00.

The following states applied and were awarded the \$250.00 matching grant:

- Colorado- Development of an updated fact book and registration fee for Alumni.
- Wyoming- Developed a website, brochure and hosted a TRIO alumni dinner.
- Montana- Hosted their second annual Best Practices in the last Best Place conference. Last year's focus was on two year education and this year scope was broadened to include all higher education in Montana including high school counselors.
- Utah- Developed a website which includes: directories, alumni resources, links to relevant associations and regulations that impact how we work and the services we provide.