



Join us for the 2006 Regional Conference in Missoula, Montana

October 7-10, 2006

Holiday Inn-Parkside 1.800.399.0408

The ASPIRE Annual Conference is fast approaching! The Montana Chapter of ASPIRE under the leadership of Lynn Francis, Conference Chair, has pulled together an outstanding conference agenda. The conference site, Holiday Inn-Parkside, is located on the Clark Fork River, providing great views, accommodations, and proximity to downtown Missoula. Pre-conference workshops include the ASPIRE Leadership Development Institute (LDI), Financial Aid Advising in TRiO, and the University of Washington Technology Training. Highlights of the conference include keynote speaker Dr. Janine Pease, and COE President Dr. Arnold Mitchem. Registration for the conference continues through C-vent at the ASPIRE website: <http://www.aspire-online.org/>. Join us in Missoula!

ASPIRE Student Leadership Congress

By Kristy Salisbury, Director, Gear-Up/Educational Talent Search, CWC

Please join us for an exciting ASPIRE Student Leadership Conference (SLC), hosted by Central Wyoming College, to give your students real life experiences in the legislative process. The SLC will be held in Riverton, WY, November 9-11, 2006. Mark Harris, a former Wyoming State Senator, is spearheading the effort to demonstrate the ins and outs of working in the political process. This year's theme is "Change Starts at Home," looking at how students can make a difference by understanding the dynamics of state legislatures.

Students will arrive for registration between 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 9. A reception and ice breaker activity will follow from 5:00-6:00 p.m. At the reception, students will draw cards to find out if they are in the House or Senate and if they are in the Majority or Minority party. After the reception, students will split into Party Caucuses to review the roles of Party Leadership and will be given a selection of laws, statutes, and bills to choose from for the rest of the session. To close out the evening students will watch a short documentary produced by Wyoming Public Television on the Legislative Process.

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Inside Story Headline

On Friday morning, students will start the day with a continental breakfast before they break into Caucus for Party Leadership elections.. Participants interested in running for party leadership positions will be asked to give a short speech. Following the elections, students will listen to a guest speaker explain the bill drafting process and answer questions. Students will have a short break and then Party leadership will give committee assignments to their membership. Students will enjoy a guest speaker at lunch before breaking into committees to draft bills. Students will be assisted in drafting the bills with staff attorneys, legislators and other political players. Friday night will bring pictures, a banquet, and a dance.

Saturday morning students will have a quick breakfast and get started on a mock session. Three bills will be introduced in each house and run through the process. Following the session, will be a closing luncheon with farewell speeches from the party leadership.

For more information, please call or e-mail Kristy Salisbury or Marcia Himes at 307-855-2246 or 307-855-2047 ksalisbu@cwv.edu or mhimes@cwv.edu.

Sandberg Installed as COE Treasurer

By Sher Warren, Director of SAGE TRiO

In May 2006, Curtis Sandberg, APSIRE President (2002-2006), was elected by the ten sitting Regional Presidents of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Board of Directors to serve as COE Treasurer for 2006-2008. Sandberg was officially installed as Treasurer at the COE conference in New York September 9, 2006.

Sandberg has been a strong presence at both the national and regional levels of TRiO leadership. He is well respected across the country for his fairness in decision-making, his willingness to hear all sides of issues, and his ability to provide keen insight to TRiO challenges. According to Amy Verlanic, "Curtis has been a wonderful mentor, helping me to learn the ropes of ASPIRE and COE leadership and supporting me from the moment I took office as ASPIRE President-Elect." Verlanic agrees that Sandberg is well-respected across the country. "His election as COE Treasurer attests to his strong abilities and his principled character on the COE Board."

"I value the work of COE and the COE Board of Directors," Sandberg stated. "I wanted to continue my involvement with the Board at an officer level. It was an honor to be elected as the Treasurer. I will work closely with COE senior administrators and the Board to advance TRiO advocacy and services. This is another avenue for me to continue my service to the TRiO community."

Sandberg is the Associate Director of Student Educational Opportunity at the University of Wyoming where he supervises five TRiO Outreach Projects, the Veteran's Office, and the state-wide Wyoming Gear-Up project.

University of Montana Upward Bound News

On July 17-19th, the University of Montana Upward Bound Project hosted Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President of COE, in conjunction with the project's first annual Career Day Seminar. Delivering a speech that shook students to the core, Dr. Mitchem addressed the need for students to have a voice in America's political agendas by voting; finishing high school with competitive grades and enrolling in math, science, and engineering college majors to compete with the world's established leaders in those fields—China, Japan, and India; are arming themselves with a great education—today's bows and arrows.

Though speaking to UB students was Dr. Mitchem's priority, he also kept a busy schedule by meeting with Montana Commissioner of Higher Education's Sheila Stearns, Student Assistance Foundation President Jim Stipich, Educational Talent Search Director Rene Dubay, University of Montana Student Support Services Director Ray Carlisle, and President of the National Association of School Board Associations Diane Fladmo. A highlight of Dr. Mitchem's stay included a dinner with Pat Williams (past 12-year Montana U.S. Congressman and ardent TRIO supporter), Jon Stannard (UM UB Director), Ray Carlisle, and Rene Dubay.

Several years ago, Dr. Mitchem was bestowed a Blackfeet name by the late George Kicking Woman, spiritual leader of the Blackfeet Tribe. Known in Blackfeet Country as Blue Bird Calling, Dr. Mitchem was honored after his speech by UM Upward Bound Blackfeet students, parents, and community members with traditional prayer, song, and gifts.

Montana Upward Bound Summer Olympics

By Mike McLean, Upward Bound School Coordinator Kalispell Jr. High, and Columbia Falls High School

Over three hundred Montana Upward Bound students and staff gathered in the Flathead Valley for the annual Upward Bound Summer Olympics on a hot summer weekend this past June. The Upward Bound programs from University of Montana, Salish Kootenai College, Montana State University-Billings, Montana Tech, and the University of Montana-Western's Math /Science Upward Bound Program were hosted by the Flathead Valley Community College's Upward Bound program at FVCC.

The Olympics were kicked off on a Friday evening with a pizza dinner followed by a welcoming speech by staff and alumni students. The students were then mixed into groups for icebreakers and wacky competitions of card tossing, sunflower seed spitting, cracker chewing/whistling, and an egg toss game, just to name a few.

On Saturday morning, the academic competitions got things rolling with events of math, speech, spelling bee, business, art, college bowl, engineering, chess and others. After lunch, students competed in athletic events including volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer, golf, track & field, and dodge ball. After dinner, the awards ceremony honored top individuals and teams with medals and ribbons.

A dance wrapped up a fun and exciting weekend. Flathead Valley Community College's Upward Bound staff would like to thank all of the participants and staff from around Montana that made the 2006 Upward Bound Olympics a success.

Big Changes to TRIO programs at Montana Tech

By Amy L. Verlanic, Technical Outreach Director, UBD, & ASPIRE President, Montana Tech

Montana Tech's Technical Outreach Department was recently awarded a U.S. Department of Education \$1,060,000 grant to establish one of 55 new Talent Search programs nation-wide. Talent Search was established as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. The program's purpose is to identify qualified youths with potential for education at the collegiate level and encourage such youths to complete high school and undertake a program of postsecondary education. These new funds will allow Montana Tech to partner with ten middle schools and high schools in Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge and Helena. Supplementing their services to include; personalized academic advising, help with completing college and financial aid applications, career counseling, tutoring, exposure to college campuses, culturally enriching experiences, and motivational workshops.

"Here in Southwest Montana 40% of our children live in poverty. The real injustice is that these students' socio-economic circumstances should not destine them to remain in poverty. Our children are brilliant and creative and have the potential to be successful. They just need the educational playing field leveled for them - and that is what the purpose of Montana Tech's Talent Search program will be!" says Amy Verlanic, the director of Technical Outreach and author of the grant.

The addition of Talent Search to the existing Upward Bound program at Montana Tech has raised the visibility of TRIO on our campus. In fact, campus agreed to reinvest our indirect funds so we can hire more staff than the grant could fund. Verlanic said, "One of the exciting side effects of the expansion is that RuthAnne Shope has agreed to accept a promotion to Upward Bound Associate Director. I have worked with RuthAnne since she was an undergraduate student and have watched her grow and mature into an impressive leader. I can not think of a better person to give my program over to. The students and community adore her and I am looking forward to the improvements she will make while at the reigns."

News from Montana State University-Bozeman

By Sara Vaccaro, TRiO/Student Support Services Administrative Assistant, Montana State University

Florence Garcia attended the COE Conference in New York City in September. Other attendees from Montana included: Amy Verlanic, Lynn Farris, Deborah Yarlott, Jonella Hill, Rene Dubay, Jamie Schell, Marsha Hammett, Mickey Brockie, Marlene Azure, and Lonette Blackcrow. Besides learning about revisions to the APR and getting updates from COE and ED, Florence saw Usher in "Chicago," Beyonce on "Good Morning America," and had her picture taken with John Quinones.

Forty-six SSS students graduated from Montana State University in the spring of 2006. Three of them were featured on the front page of the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* in May. All three have overcome tremendous obstacles and are now either permanently employed or working on graduate degrees.

Bill Yellowtail, who ran for the U.S. Senate in the 1990s and was also a TRiO Upward Bound counselor (1968), is currently working in Bozeman as the Senior Project Specialist for the Cook Center for Sustainable Agriculture in the American West. Bill attends monthly meetings at MSU to network with programs providing assistance to American Indian students.

Montana Upward Bound Summer Olympics

Shootin' Hoops



No pain, no gain



Installation of COE Officers at New York Conference, September 2006. I-r: Ronnie Gross, Chair; Lucy Jones, Past Chair; Jose Martinez-Saldana, Chair-Elect; Curtis Sandberg, Treasurer; and Darlene Renee Conwell, Secretary.



ASPIRE members attending COE's Reception for Corporate Sponsors, September 2006. I-r: Sue Misoc, ATI Director; Curtis Sandberg, Past-President; Amy Verlanic, President; Sher Warren; Krisan Crow, Treasurer; Allyn Kostecki, President-Elect; Dr. Babette Patton, CCAMPIS Director.

Goodbye from Aspire Training Institute

By Sue Misock, Project Director, Strategies for TRiO Counselors, ASPIRE Training Institute

Hello everyone in ASPIRE. It is with a heavy heart that I am writing to you. The word is spreading and I want to make sure you know that the ASPIRE Training Institute (ATI) did not receive funding for the next two year training cycle. We submitted our proposal in April and anxiously waited until the end of July to hear if we were funded. We scored a total of 114 points. The Department of Education started funding at 115 points. There are only two TRIO training grants funded for each of the four priorities this biennium. The loss of the ATI program will most certainly be felt.

TRIO training grant proposals are submitted every two years. In the biennium 2002-2004, there were **29 training grants** specifically **designed for TRIO personnel**. ATI received three of those 29 grants. The Department reduced the number of grants in the 2004 -2006 biennium to 13. ATI received only one of those grants, losing two of our previous cycle grants. With the 2006 -2008 biennium, only **8 training grants were awarded**. The Department believes that the training grants do not offer “direct service to students” and cost savings can be made through fewer grants addressing more priorities. One can only assume that the training programs will continue to suffer cut backs until TRIO has no training programs dedicated to them specifically.

The staff of ATI, both current and former, have thoroughly enjoyed providing a unique style of training for the past 10 years. As well, we have enjoyed meeting so many lovely, dedicated TRIO people from Florida to Maine, California and Micronesia, and all states and territories in between. We have met wonderful people from ASPIRE through the years and it was always fun to see people return to our workshops every time we offered new training. We will miss you. Thanks for supporting us all these years. We would like to send out a particular thanks to all of the ASPIRE Boards who have supported us through these 10 years, with a special shout out to Ray Carlisle!

As a previous Director of TRIO once said, *“Nothing is impossible when TRIO starts to dream....”* Remember to keep dreaming and keep TRIO strong and continue to do great TRIO work. TRIO is such a wonderful concept and program which is much needed. Maybe ASPIRE and ATI will write again in two years and receive new funding. That would be grand!!

Till we meet again....

“Leaders are like eagles; they don't flock; you find them one at a time.”



South Dakota Upward Bound Symposium

By Charles Luecke, President South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE

South Dakota held the first SD Upward Bound Symposium in Chamberlain, SD, September 29th and 30th. The agenda included:

- Review of the latest Department of Education information on the “UB Program Competition.”
- Review of the potential partnership with the State Gear-Up Program.
- Bridge Components
- Effective Project Practices: AY and Summer Components
- 2007 SD UB Olympics
- Sharing with our SD Congressional Delegation/Aides
- Tracking students

TRIO Math/Science Upward Bound at Montana Western

By Brian Pilcher, TRIO Director

Our TRIO Math/Science Upward Bound (TRIO MSUB) program was first funded in 1999. It is structured after a hybrid model—a mixture of a local and regional math/science programs, serving students year-round. It is like a local UBMS in that most of our students are not associated with any other TRIO program. But we also accept students from other Montana UB programs, and now ETS, too. We take students from many schools in Montana that fit our definition for targets—10% or more Native students are rural (which we define as Class C). In these respects, it is similar to regional UBMS programs where students come from many different schools and/or return to their home TRIO program for the academic year. Our exclusive focus on math and science projects has always been aligned with the intent of UBMS grants.

Our summer program academics are integrated around research projects. We typically offer one engineering and three science research projects. Students select one topic area for their summer experience. Examples of projects include:

- Trebuchets—designing and building trebuchets (catapults) followed with a range prediction contest and “war.”
- Dinosaurs—exploring paleontology resources of Montana including excavation of parts of a triceratops with a paleontologist, working in a fossil prep lab, and studying life of the Cretaceous.
- Insect diversity—sampling insects to compare diversity in various habitats, including sampling techniques, data analysis, and preservation of collections.
- GIS habitat model validation—field sampling of pygmy rabbit distribution to check the accuracy of distribution maps generated by a GIS model.
- Bridge design—construction and design of “popsicle” bridges with a competition for weight bearing.
- Acidification of high alpine lakes—sampling of lake chemistry to compare influence of acid rain in various geological substrates.

Students work on projects in teams for two solid weeks of lab/field time. They write individual reports in their technical writing class and prepare team presentations in PowerPoint and Public Speaking classes for the final symposium. We teach the use of Excel spreadsheets for data analysis, teach math classes, and explore the use of Latin in the scientific names of plants and animals.

We do not stop with academics alone. Much of college attainment is dependent on our students’ ability to make wise choices and develop other life skills. Therefore, we foster a culture of mutual respect and mutual support in our residential program. Our Life 101 series explores money management, resumes, communication styles, and other life skills. In the end, much of our success is dependent upon the relationships our students develop with our staff and with each other.

News from North Dakota

Greetings from North Dakota!

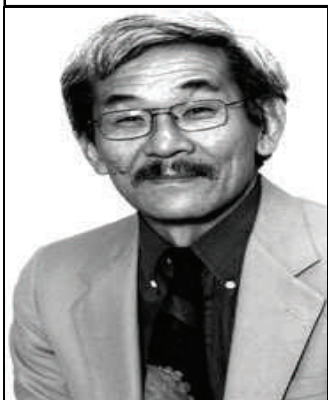


The North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE would like to express our best wishes to Neil Reuter, TRIO Director at the University of North Dakota, on his retirement this summer. Neil has been instrumental in developing the five UND TRIO Programs and is truly an example of "student focused" administration. For thirty-five years he has supported and advocated for the TRIO Programs mission of equal educational access for all students. We salute his accomplishments and wish him all the best in his retirement!

Elaine Metcalfe accepted the position of UND TRIO Director after Neil's retirement. Elaine has been with the UND TRIO Programs for 20 years, including the past five years as associate director. She assumed the responsibilities of the new position on August 16, 2006. Please join us in congratulating Elaine and wishing her well as she begins this new phase of her career!

Fuji Adachi Receives Walter O. Mason Award

By Sher Warren, Director SAGE TRiO



Fuji Adachi, first President of ASPIRE and one of the founders of COE, received the Walter O. Mason Award at the recent COE conference in New York. This award was established in 1988 to honor outstanding educational opportunity professionals who exemplify Walter O. Mason's sense of leadership and his ideals.

Adachi was cited for mentoring and producing more COE Board members from the University of Wyoming (UW) than any other college in the nation. He was one of eight TRiO witnesses who brought the National Coordinating Council recommendations to the House Postsecondary Education Subcommittee in 1979 (HR 5192), and authored a critical paper that defined and advanced the first generation eligibility concept. An expert grant writer, Adachi led one of the most comprehensive and successful TRiO programs in the nation at UW and was recently awarded a \$4.1 million state-wide GEAR UP grant.

Adachi retired from UW in August after 30 years where he oversaw five TRiO programs, Disability Support Services, Wyoming Career Information System, and GEAR UP. Throughout his years at UW, Adachi also had leadership and supervisory roles with the Counseling Center, Career Services, and Multi-Cultural Affairs. Adachi returned to his first career choice after his retirement from UW, teaching mathematics. He is employed by Laramie County Community College as a full-time mathematics and statistics instructor. "I am thrilled to be back in the classroom. I love to watch students learn and grow. While I may not have a direct role in TRiO, I will always remain an ardent TRiO supporter," Adachi said.

ASPIRE Elections — 2006

By Brian Pilcher, TRIO Director

This year, we will elect a President-Elect (as we do every year) and a Secretary (alternating election years with the treasurer for two-year terms). As of September 20, we have one candidate for each office—whew!! In my experience as Elections Committee Chair, this has been one of the toughest years to get nominations. Several ASPIRE members have assisted in this search for candidates including Amy Verlanic, Allyn Kostecki, Sher Warren, and one or more state presidents, among others.

This is not an article about one person's endeavor to find candidates. This article is about a region's efforts to find leadership.

The ASPIRE Membership must have a hearty discussion regarding recruitment of members to participate in the nomination and election process. Questions that we should ask are:

- Have ASPIRE officer jobs grown so large that few of us feel we can fit state/regional leadership into our professional and personal lives?
- Are we all weighted down by strains on our grants due to the combination of flat funding and inflation? (Sounds like a call to action.)
- Are the goals and accomplishments of ASPIRE missing what matters most to us and our programs so that it's difficult to get motivated for this service?
- After years of offering leadership training through the ASPIRE Leadership Development Institute, we should have reached the point of fruition where several members are stepping forward each year to serve as a regional officer. Are we still not doing enough to nourish leadership?

I, for one, am thinking that this year may be a temporary downturn in the production of candidates, but I still think we need to explore the problem to check my hopeful assumption. I would hate to let this slide for a year and then discover that the problem is systemic.

It is my belief that we need a strong ASPIRE organization through continued strong leadership especially during these last two years of the current administration that has targeted two TRIO programs for elimination. ASPIRE needs to work closely with our states and COE to head off any endgame maneuvers from this administration. This administration has not accomplished all that they have intended. The challenges our regional leaders face are the same challenges that each of us in TRiO face. Our ASPIRE leadership will give credence to our collective voices. We need ASPIRE members to step into these leadership roles

If you yourself or anyone you know would consider one of these two officer positions, please contact elections@aspire-online.org. Your message will go to the current Elections Chair. It looks like I'll be running for secretary, which means I'll be stepping aside as Elections Chair to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.