

**TRIO** 

Official Newsletter of ASPIRE, INC.

January 2007

# Antoinette Hudson, Motivated Woman & EOC Success

**Story** by Ryan Ross, Assistant Director, EOC, Community College of Denver

"Motivated" is a word Antoinette Hudson uses a lot. However, the single-mother-of-four and Education Opportunity Center (EOC) client doesn't use the word when describing herself. Hudson uses it when describing those who have guided her along her own road to success. "I didn't do this myself," said Hudson, while wiping away tears of gratitude. "My success is dependent on other motivated people who have been there for me in my life. I 've had some really good mentors, and of course my own children, who have inspired me. They're my motivation to move beyond myself and achieve in greater ways than I ever thought I could." Still, nobody can argue "motivated" pretty much sums up Hudson herself. This vibrant 30-year-old woman holds a long list of accomplishments, many achieved in the face of adversity. At age I 6, Hudson was a junior at South High School in Denver. She was also a National Honor Society student, a leading SHS basketball team player with WNBA aspirations, SHS volleyball team member, enrolled in advanced placement classes... and a third-generation pregnant teen-



ager from a broken home. "I grew up on welfare, money was tight," recalled Hudson. "I went from living with my mother to living with my father, and years later with my grandmother. My grandmother died and I was very close to her. And, like so many teenagers out there in similar situations, I was looking for reassurance from somebody else – you know, a boyfriend." Hudson said she was one of those students who loved school and was the last person anybody thought would end up as a teenage parent. But, she said terminating the pregnancy was never an option she would consider. Instead, Hudson turned a difficult situation into an inspirational one. "I struggled all my life," said Hudson. "I wanted a better life for my baby and for myself." Not wanting to go to an alternative school, Hudson acted with maturity beyond her years and graduated from high school a semester early in order to take care of her daughter. She maintained a high GPA and never missed an assignment. To this day, Hudson is remembered by SHS staff as an exceptional individual. "I've never been more proud of a kid than I have been of her," said Jamie Lafaro, SHS assistant principal and athletic director. "Things were hard for her, but she always put the team first. She always put others first. She's a self-made woman." Realizing a high school diploma alone wasn't enough to reach her goals and provide the quality of life she wanted for her baby daughter, Hudson came to the EOC for guidance. The EOC, administered through the Community College of Denver (CCD), has served the five county Denver metropolitan area since 1974. Following the advice of an EOC advisor and utilizing EOC services, Hudson graduated from CCD in 1998 with an Associates of General Sciences degree in Early Childhood Education, a Director's Certificate and a Group Leader Certificate. This, while raising her daughter alone with no emotional or financial support from the child's father or his family. She lived in low-income housing and held down a work-study job. "EOC was the stepping stone that helped me achieve my dreams and goals," said Hudson. "Having gone through EOC is one of the best things that ever happened to me." Others say Hudson, and people like her, are one of the best things that happens to them and institutions promoting higher education and career advancement. "It's because of clients like Antoinette Hudson who make everyone's job here at the EOC so rewarding," said EOC Director Pat Middleton. "We strive to bridge that gap between higher education and those looking to enrich their lives. It can be daunting for anyone unfamiliar with the application and admissions process, so we're here to help connect EOC clients to their future." Hudson continued to climb the ladder of success and enrolled at Metropolitan State College of Denver. She earned a B.A. in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education, and a Teacher's License in Early Childhood Education in 2001. In addition, Hudson worked as a student teacher at Wyman Elementary School and substitute teacher at the Temple Buell/Clayton Foundation. She also married and had another child during this time. Next, Hudson moved on to the University of Phoenix and completed her Masters of Arts in Education in Administration and Supervision, along with a Type-D Principal's License this year. Moreover, she found out she was pregnant again - only this time with twins. However, while Hudson's academic achievements, professional life and family grew her marriage crumbled. Nevertheless, she completed her first masters program and is only a few classes away from earning her second masters degree. Her twins were born in September, 2005. "Her perseverance is amazing," said Jill Simms, a fellow masters student with Hudson. "Here she was pregnant with twins, has two other children to take care of, working full-time, contemplating a divorce, earning two masters degrees and she didn't give up. I admire her for her strength, honesty and hard work." Obviously, that hard work is paying off. Hudson is starting a new job as a first-grade teacher with the Cherry Creek School District in the upcoming school year. She's being groomed as a future school principal. In hindsight, Hudson says her career path in education scores far higher than earlier aspirations of becoming a WNBA basketball star. "I affect more lives this way," she said. "I want to give back what others gave me. I'm helping someone else the way others helped me. I'm not a millionaire, but the gift is priceless."

Editor's note: Antoinette Hudson lives in Denver, CO with her four children – Charmane, age 12; Ellis, age 4; Aaron and Evan, both born September, 2005.

## **News from North Dakota**

by Dawn Eckhardt, Assistant Director, TRIO Talent Search, University of North Dakota



#### **New Officers Take the Helm**

Thank you to Karen Grabanski and Steve Schanandore for their years of service to the ND Chapter of ASPIRE in their roles as president and treasurer, respectively. You both left some pretty big shoes to fill. In the wake of Karen and Steve's departure from their roles, a new line-up of officers are ready to take their positions. Congratulations to North Dakota's new officers: Dawn Eckhardt, president, Lori Larson, treasurer, and Theresa Leiphon, secretary. They all look forward to serving the state in their new roles.

#### New Staff Member, Lake Region State College, Devils Lake, ND

Transfer Program Coordinator Lane Azure left the SSS Project in June after five years. He was a "founding father" of SSS, a member of the original staff hired when we were first funded in 2001. Lane was dedicated to teaching and tutoring students in math. Andy Wakeford was hired in August to take Lane's position. Andy has four years of experience in higher education since he recently served Lake Region State College as Director of Enrollment Services. He is dedicated to student success and is an effective advisor.

#### **New Technology Tracks Student Contact Hours**

Students arriving at the TRIO Center at LRSC this fall were delighted to discover that the old, cumbersome sign-in book had been replaced by a biometric time clock. Program Assistant Patty Wallace researched high-tech means of tracking student participation and introduced staff and participants to a scanning device that images finger prints and recognizes them for signing-in and out of the TRIO Center. It is a Latham Biometric Touch Station. Scanned fingers are identified by the Station and entered on a secure spread-sheet that can be uploaded into the TRIO database to record contact hours. Student enthusiasm for the device has increased participation in the recording process.

#### SSS at LRSC Building up Enrollment

After graduating a record number of participants in the spring of 2006, the SSS Project at LRSC has been hard at work recruiting new members. Nearly 80 new participants have joined SSS since June.

#### Staff Attend A.S.P.I.R.E. Regional Conference in Missoula, MT in October

SSS Director Theresa K. Leiphon and Vocational Program Coordinator Melinda Martin attended the A.S.P.I.R.E. Regional Conference in Missoula, MT in October. They enjoyed networking with other TRIO professionals and exploring the Missoula area. Theresa attended the Leadership Development Institute, and Melinda led an intrepid group of TRIO staffers from UND and LRSC on a trek to the "M" on Mt. Sentinel, overlooking the University of Montana campus.

#### **Cultural Enrichment Course (ICE) Offers Cool Experiences**

This fall, there are 30, SSS participants enrolled in HUMS 212, Integrated Cultural Enrichment (ICE), a 1-credit course. Students have attended drama productions (Run for Your Wife, Dinner with Friends, The Children's Hour, The Tempest, A Doll's House, The Odd Couple), a musical (Dames at Sea), a ballet (Royal Winnipeg Ballet's production of The Cinderella Story), visited museums (Scandinavian Heritage Center, Hjemkomst Center, Ramsey County Heritage Center), and art galleries (Taube Art Gallery, North Dakota Museum of Art, Winnipeg Art Gallery, Plains Art Museum), and attended concerts, lectures and a film series on campus.

#### SSS Staff from LRSC Present Concurrent Session at COE/ASPIRA Technology Tools Conference in Puerto Rico

SSS Director Theresa Leiphon and Program Assistant Patty Wallace attended the Technology Tools Conference sponsored by C.O.E. and ASPIRA in San Juan, Puerto Rico the last week in November. They presented a concurrent session, "Assistive Technology: The Key to Success for SSS Students with Disabilities," and attended training on the APR for SSS. Interesting aspects of the conference included Plenary Sessions in Spanish with simultaneous English translation over headsets, evaluation forms entirely in Spanish, salsa dancing, and the natural beauty of Puerto Rico and its people.

#### University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND

Elaine Metcalfe has assumed the position of TRIO Director following Neil Reuter's retirement in July. Dawn Eckhardt was then hired to fill the position of Talent Search Assistant Director following Elaine's promotion.

Neil Reuter continues to be a vital member of the TRIO programs at UND in his retirement years. Not only will he continue to serve on our advisory board, but he has now taken on a significant role working with our alumni relations. We are ever so grateful for Neil's continued involvement and enthusiastic support of TRIO programs and our alumni.



## Hello from South Dakota! By Susan Hupp, South Dakota President

What a whirlwind of activity since the meeting in Missoula! Upward Bound projects submitted their grant proposals in early November for the next funding cycle and jumped right into completion of Annual Performance Reports, along with the MSIP and ETS programs. SSS programs are still waiting for the final versions of their APR, with an anticipated deadline the end of January. The South Dakota ASPIRE Board this year includes Charlie Luecke (Past-President), Susan Hupp (President), Aaron Poor Bear (President Elect), and Carol Gritts (Secretary-Treasurer). Susan took good notes from Charlie regarding proper conference involvement! The most pressing business for the South Dakota Chapter is completing the process of obtaining a 501(c)(3) and being an active advocate for TRIO funding and legislation.







Charlie Luecke—conducting the South Dakota State meeting and resting up before returning to the office

Charlie Luecke--networking with fellow ASPIRE Board member, Karen Grabanski, North Dakota State President

# Students Recognized in Missoula for Outstanding

Websites by Susan Hupp, Director SSS Unit 9510, Black Hills State University

Four students from The Math & Science Initiative Program (MSIP) at The University of South Dakota were recognized at the AS-PIRE conference in Missoula, MT for their winning websites in the TRIO ThinkQuest competitions. The students who attended the conference, Jade Janis, Brandi Ritter, Joey Dog Eagle, and Samantha Silvernagel, represented the three web development teams from MSIP that placed in this national competition. The team members were awarded their medals by members of the ThinkQuest committee who were present at the conference. The teams, which included

## ThinkQuest Winners, Silver Awards:

#### "Game Theory" web site

Jade Janis - Senior, Red Cloud High Cody Thaler - Junior, Andes Central High Marie Short Bull - Senior, Todd County High Cody Yellow Horse - Sophomore, Pine Ridge High

#### "A Feelgood Time" web site

Brandi Ritter - Senior, Mobridge High Samantha Silvernagel - Senior, Mobridge High

#### **Honorable Mention:**

#### "Ethanol" web site

Joey Dog Eagle- Senior, Cheyenne Eagle Butte High Sierra Two Bulls – Junior, Red Cloud High Ashley Clements - Senior, Little Wound High

nine students.



MSIP student Joey Dog Eagle (Senior, Cheyenne Eagle Butte High School) showing his website during the ASPIRE pre-conference.

Photo taken by Brad James, The University of South Dakota. This award winning work is an example of what happens when students get excited by an educational challenge. More about these extraordinary projects can be found at http://www.triothinkquest.org

TRIO Quest is directed by the TRIO Training Program at the University of Washington and is guided by a National Advisory Committee initially created by the U.S. Department.. of Education.



## **News from Colorado**

#### PCC's TRiO SLA Club Attends Just M.A.D. Leadership Conference, Donates Thanksgiving Baskets

by Katherine Stafford Out-Reach Advocate, TRiO SSS Pueblo Community College

Members of Pueblo Community College's TRiO SLA Club attended a leadership conference in Boulder, on October 27, 2006. The members included Adrian Flores, Jessica Klarer, William Carr, Suzanne Nicole Carruth, and Tiffany Vialpando. The students learned important leadership skills including how to deal with Diversity issues.

PCC's TRiO SLA Club also donated 10 Thanksgiving Baskets filled with cans of yams, green beans, cranberries, marshmallows, sparkling cider, chocolate mints, mixes for stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, and brownies, and a \$10.00 gift certificate to Wal-mart to complete the meal with a turkey. The baskets were given to ten PCC TRiO participants whose names were drawn.





President of SLA Club, Jessica Klarer, and Vice-President, Tiffany Vialpando

## **News from Utah**

## From Southern Utah University TRIO

#### Scholarships are the Winning Game at SUU

The SSS project staff at Southern Utah University have been aware of the increasing need for student financial aid. Tuition increases each year have not been matched by scholarship or federal grant aid thus students are finding themselves at the edge of the "financial abyss". Fortunately, Lynne Brown, SSS Director, was invited to submit a grant to the Daniels Fund of Denver Colorado for College Opportunity Scholarships. She recently received notice that the grant was awarded for \$32,500! The scholarships will be given to 16 non-traditional aged students starting in Fall 2007. This grant award will be a real life-saver for the recipients who will be carefully selected with preference given to those who are juniors/seniors and ineligible for the SSS Grant Aid.

#### KUDOS to our SSS Math Staff

Lohra Wolden and Mark Leavitt, both SUU SSS staff members, have completed all requirements and received the Master's in Education degree from Southern Utah University! In addition, Lohra completed 9 additional graduate level math credits and is now certified to teach any of the lower division math classes at SUU. For the first time ever, students in our SSS program can complete their general education math requirements with College Algebra taught by Lohra in our small SSS classroom. For students who are anxious or struggle with mathematics it is a huge relief to be able to start developmental pre-algebra classes with SSS and remain with the same teachers, Mark or Lohra, through to completion of their math requirements. Lohra also continues to improve upon and teach the Math Anxiety Reduction class which she developed and has indicated her willingness to share this curriculum with ASPIRE folks at the next regional conference!



(News from Utah continued)

## From Snow College UB

The UB Senate and Parent's Advisory Council (PAC) will be held its second meeting during December. This group helps shape the policies of the UB program including the rules for Summer Component. The Snow College UB program has 10 high schools that it serves. Each school elects a Senator. Any parent is welcome to be a part of the Parent's Advisory Council and all participants are encouraged to attend the monthly Senate meetings. Additionally, Snow College's UB is trying out the "Saturday School Concept." Saturday school will cover topics including: Study Skills, College Writing, Career Explorations in Math and Science Fields and Mathematics for Phobics.

## **News from Wyoming**

Josh Nicholas by Rachel Martinez, Advisor, SAGE TRIO, Laramie County Community College



Josh Nicholas, a TRIO student at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY is the quintessence of the holiday spirit. This Christmas, he raised \$22,286.00 for The Salvation Army, simply by putting an idea into action for the sake of others. While Josh credits the generous individuals in Cheyenne for helping his idea to succeed, the idea of donating was hard to pass up, especially for fans of Texas Roadhouse. The local restaurant opened up their doors for lunch for one week and everyone who came in received a free lunch of rolls, a pulled-pork sandwich, a side of baked beans and a salad, drink and cookies. After being served lunch by volunteers from businesses, nonprofit organizations, and local firefighters, individuals could then leave a donation of whatever they

wanted on the table in a confidential envelope. One person left \$2,000.00. The past few years, Josh has worked with a class at Anderson Elementary School, in which the students learn about nutrition and the restaurant business and then serve a meal to their parents based on the concepts they learn. His free lunch fundraising idea was a variation of this. Nicholas completed his associates degree from LCCC in general studies in December and has transferred to the University of Wyoming. He continues to work full-time at Texas Roadhouse as the in-house marketing director.

## **News from Montana**

by Cathy Fabel



# Meet Your New ASPIRATIONS Newsletter Chair, RUSS LAMSON

Russ began at Flathead Valley Community College as a TRiO Counselor in the fall of 2005 after previously serving two years as a high school counselor. A native of North Idaho, Russ and his wife have been in Montana since 1994 actively pursuing their interests in hiking, backpacking, telemark skiing, snow-boarding, contra dancing and most recently enjoying their new adorable son, Alden. Russ also likes to compete in triathlons so be prepared for some competition at the next conference athletic event!

## Welcome Dan Voermans!

Dan Voermans is the new Transfer Advisor in the FVCC Career Center. Dan is passionate about helping students as they journey to pursue their dream career. Dan previously worked with the TRiO project at University of Wisconsin-Stout and was also a high school math teacher in an earlier chapter of his life. Dan works summers with Glacier Wilderness Guides and his experience will come in handy should students run into any problems or challenges along their path to success.





#### (News from Montana Continued)



## Thanks for Meeting Us in Montana!

By Lynn Farris, 2006 Aspire Regional Conference Chair

"TRIO Works" was the theme of the 2006 Regional Conference in Missoula, Montana, October 7-10, 2006. This was the first conference organized via **Cvent**, the largest online event registration company in the U.S. Cvent customized the conference for ASPIRE with the goal of decreasing event costs, automating event tasks, and streamlining event communication. Despite having to overcome some technical glitches, the conference was successful, and provided an excellent opportunity for ASPIRE members to come together for professional development and fun in the "Last Best Place."



## Thirty Year Service Award by Julianna Larson, Awards Chair

ASPIRE would like to congratulate **Chuck Swick** on receiving the 30 Year Membership Award. Chuck is the Director of TRiO programs at University of South Dakota. Thank you, Chuck, for your dedication and service to TRiO and ASPIRE.





## **University Presidential Staff Award**

**Aris Papadopoulos**, Math Instructor for the University of Utah TRIO/SSS program, was one of six U of U employees named as a winner of the University's Presidential Staff Award for 2006. Each winner received a plaque and an honorarium of \$3000 for superior service and ongoing contribution to the University. They were recognized at a special luncheon on September 21, 2006 by President Michael K. Young.

# TRIO Program Volunteers and Work-Study Student Workers are Eligible for AmeriCorps Education Awards Dollars! by Amy Verlanic

Montana college students serving via TRiO programs and paid either via Work-Study awards or as part of a financial aid package are eligible to become enrolled in the Community Partners AmeriCorps program. The Community Partners Program links students who choose the college years to do community-service work with funding for their tuition and loan expenses. Community Partners adds value to service programs which address community needs in education, human needs, the environment, public safety and homeland security.

Students who complete a 300 hour term of service helping deliver a program such as Upward Bound, TCUP or Talent Search earn a \$1000 Education Award voucher, and those who complete 450 hours receive \$1250. The programs only requirements are: all members attend an orientation, complete full paperwork, and submit timelogs in a timely fashion, speak to one community member about the resources represented by their college or university, and recruit one volunteer to participate in a one-time service event.

Each fall, campuses request a number of position that they will pair with their students' service in the coming fall. Student teaching, nursing clinicals, social work practicum, counseling fieldwork, radiology technician clinicals, surgery technician clinicals, (etc.) and community service Work Study and internships\* all generally represent service which likely may be counted as simultaneous AmeriCorps service. (\*internships may be unpaid or paid, however paid internships may only pay students a lump sum amount, and not an hourly wage).

Below are the contact emails for individual higher education campuses across Montana. If you are interested in offering these scholarship resources to your student help, please contact the campus partner from, or nearest to, your institution from the list below. Ask that they "revise their 2007/2008 slot request" and feel free to contact Josh Vanek from the Montana Campus Compact network office with any questions.

#### **Community Partners Campus Partners**

Alan Thompson, UM-Helena College of Technology (thompsona@umh.umt.edu)

Amy Verlanic and Annette Kankelborg, Montana Tech of UM (averlanic@mtech.edu, akankelborg@mtech.edu)

Cory Sangrey, Stone Child College (clsangrey@yahoo.com)

Crystal Stepper, MSU-Northern (crystal.stepper@msun.edu)

Debbie Bell, Salish Kootenai College (Debbie bell@skc.edu)

Diane Dohrman, Dawson Community College (dohrmann@dawson.edu)

Jeanna Meier and Heather D'Orazio, UM-Western (<u>i\_meier@umwestern.edu</u>, <u>h\_dorazio@umwestern.edu</u>)

Janaya Okerlund, Flathead Valley Community College (jokerlun@fvcc.edu)

Jonella Hill, Little Big Horn College, (hilli@lbhc.mt.us)

Lindsay Blackburn and Kathy McIsaac, MSU-Billings (Iblackburn@msubillings.edu, kmcisaac@msubillings.edu)

Kathy Tanner, MSU-Bozeman (<u>KTanner@montana.edu</u>)

Leah Habel and Kelly Engelhardt, MSU-Great Falls COT (lhabel@msugf.edu, kengelhardt@msugf.edu)

Marti Pearce, Carroll College (mpearce@carroll.edu)

Mike Little Owl, Fort Belknap College (mlittleowl@fbcc.edu);

Nick Roberts and Andrea Vernon, UM-Missoula (nick.roberts@mso.umt.edu andrea.vernon@mso.umt.edu)

Shelly Weight, Miles Community College ( $\underline{weights@milescc.edu}\ )$ 

Traci Piltz; Rocky Mountain College (tnecke98@rocky.edu)

This opportunity is available via the Montana Campus Compact, Montana's largest higher education network. MTCC is committed to renewing the public purposes of higher education and its campuses sponsor Campus Corps AmeriCorps teams and Community Partners members to engage in community needs, AmeriCorps\*VISTAs to facilitate anti-poverty work, Raise Your Voice student leaders to promote public discourse and student engagement, and engaged faculty and civic engagement professionals to support the work and incorporate service and learning.

MTCC Campuses include: Blackfeet Community College, Carroll College, Dawson Community College, Flathead Valley Community College, Fort Peck Community College, Little Big Horn College, Miles Community College, Montana State University-Bollings, Montana State University-Bozeman, Montana State University-Northern, Montana State University Great Falls COT, Montana Tech of UM, Rocky Mountain College, Salish Kootenai College, The University of Montana-Missoula, The University of Montana-Western, The University of Montana-Helena COT and the University of Great Falls.

TRIO staff from outside Montana may contact Josh Vanek (vanek@mtcompact.org) to get into touch with their state's Campus Compact state office.



## COE Policy Seminar Get Involved, Make a Difference!

Last year nearly 700 TRiO professionals attended Policy Seminar and took their message of protest to the Hill. As a result of your commitment and persistence, we won the battle to restore funding. With your continued participation, we'll be able to tackle any new threats and take advantage of new opportunities. **Your efforts can make a difference.** 

The Council for Opportunity in Education invites you to be a part of three special events:

#### National College Opportunity Programs Leadership Summit

March 10-11, 2007

Learn how to build a network from the ground up

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- Make alumni advocates for your program
- Learn how you can be leaders of the college access community

#### Council for Opportunity in Education 27th Annual Policy Seminar

March 11-13, 2007

- What does the new Democratic-led congress mean for TRiO?
- Discuss the Upward Bound absolute priority with your members of Congress
- Work with your colleagues to seek needed appropriation increases
- Discuss the importance of prior experience with your member of Congress
- Establish relationships with key congressional staff
- Advocate for first-generation, low-income students

#### 23rd Annual Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education

March 14, 2007

- Meet Larry Oxendine, Director of Federal TRiO Programs, U.S. Dept. of Ed.
- Learn about Dept. of Ed. policies and administration priorities
- Have a chance to speak with your program officers in a less formal setting

REGISTER ON-LINE AT secure.hqcoe.org/source/security/member-logon.cfm?section=home

## Summer Internship Opportunities by Amy Verlanic

National Science Foundation would like to announce a number of undergraduate research opportunities available to McNair and SSS students. The Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation. REU projects involve students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects designed especially for the purpose.

The average position for the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates provides \$800 per week in salary/stipend plus housing, often meals and travel are part of the package.

Learn more about the Undergraduate REU and Other Summer Research Opportunities at: http://www.igert.org/summer.asp

## **ASPIRE - A MILE HIGH**

2007 Aspire Regional Conference September 29—October 4, 2007 Denver, Colorado

Don't Miss It!

