



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of ASPIRE, INC.

TRiO

April—June 2007

SAVE-THE-DATE

TRiO ASPIRE, Inc.

2007 Annual Conference
“Building a Coalition of Shared Purpose”



September 29 – October 4, 2007
Denver, Colorado
Adams Mark Hotel

Pre-Conference Event: September 29 & 30
ASPIRE Leadership Development Institute

Conference Dates: September 30 – October 3, 2007

Post-Conference Event: October 3 & 4
University of Washington TRiO Training

On-line registration coming soon to www.aspire-online.org

News from South Dakota



SSS Scholarship Recipients at Black Hills State University

Congratulations to **Bear Hand Fischer** for being selected a national Udall Scholar for 2007. As a Udall Scholar, Fischer, a BHSU junior American Indian Studies and sociology major, will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, unique travel opportunities, and valuable experiences in his fields of study. Bear Hand has been a participant in the Student Support Services program at BHSU since his freshman year.

The Kevin Whirlwind Horse Memorial Run is sponsored each year on the Saturday of the Lakota Omniciye Spring Powwow at Black Hills State University. The run is held in memory of Kevin Whirlwind Horse, a former SSS student, who was killed in a car accident in 1984. Student Support Services staff organize the memorial run. It has been held every year since 1985.

Kevin was an active and respected student leader. The memorial run/walk fundraiser serves to recognize the achievements of American Indian students who are working to improve their campus, community, and world through the active pursuit of higher education. The recipient of this year's scholarship is **Elias Fast Horse**, a sophomore physical education major from Rapid City, SD. Elias is also an active participant in the SSS The \$500 scholarship was presented by Kevin's mother, Mae Whirlwind Horse.



Black Hills State University President Kay Schallenkamp (left) and Center for Indian Studies Director John Glover (right) congratulate Bear Hand Fischer for being selected a national Udall Scholar for 2007. As a Udall Scholar, Fischer, a BHSU junior American Indian studies and sociology major, will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, unique travel opportunities, and valuable experiences in his fields of study. Bear Hand has been a participant in the Student Support Services program at BHSU since his freshman year.

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(News from South Dakota cont'd)

Kudos for Upward Bound!

Every Upward Bound program in South Dakota was refunded (Black Hills State University, Northern State University, South Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota). They are also just completing successful summer bridge programs and will be ready for a well-deserved rest in the upcoming weeks.

Legislative Concerns

We have several TRIO staff who have personal ties with our Congresswoman, Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, and our Senators, John Thune and Tim Johnson. We are concerned about the same issues that other TRIO programs are concerned about: level funding, the UB absolute priorities and evaluation, and so on. Marion Blue Arm, Assistant Director of the Talent Search program at USD, expresses an additional concern:

“It has become harder and harder for some of our advisors to obtain access to students and/ or whole classrooms, as schools, teachers, and counselors are tightening down because of NCLB. Schools are viewing external programs such as TRIO TS as secondary when it comes to their students meeting standards. We are struggling to convince administrators that the skills taught by TS are the foundation for good grades, because we give students the tools to better academic achievement by teaching study habits, life skills, goal setting, decision making (careers and education), research methods, and high school survival and college entry skills. “

We appreciate all of the support that has been provided to us by COE and the ASPIRE region to advocate for the needs of our students!

Spring Meeting in Chamberlain

South Dakota ASPIRE met in Chamberlain on April 16 & 17. Approximately 40 people were in attendance, which is a great turnout for our small state!

A number of work sessions were scheduled throughout the two days to allow networking within programs (Student Support Services, Upward Bound/Math Science Upward Bound, and Talent Search). Three individuals from the SD Department of Education & SD Gear-Up were guest speakers and participants. They included Keith Moore, Director of Indian Education for the SD Department of Education; Stacy Phelps, Director of the SD Gear-Up Program, and Gay Pickner, also with the SD Department of Education, speaking on the D-STEP test.

We set our conference attitude by viewing the “FISH” video! Sessions were also held on mentoring our TRIO peers (Aaron Poor Bear, facilitator), brainstorming ideas for development of a new SD TRIO banner, and an ASPIRE update by Allyn Kostecki, ASPIRE President. There were also a number of social opportunities, including a Sunday evening social, a Silent Auction, and a Bunko Bash!

News from North Dakota



Congratulations to North Dakota Upward Bound Programs!

We were all very pleased to learn that the Upward Bound programs at North Dakota State University, University of Mary, and University of North Dakota were all refunded through this last grant competition. The news of refunding came just in time for summer programs for Upward Bound and Bridge students. Congratulations to all three programs.

North Dakota Joins College Goal Sunday

On February 10, 2008, North Dakota will join other states across the nation in providing financial aid information and assistance to pre-college individuals across our state as part of College Goal Sunday. TRIO staff from across North Dakota is playing an important role in getting this program off to a successful start. We have joined forces with financial aid administrators as well as student loan providers to assist in the development, promotion, and coordination of this event. North Dakota TRIO staff taking an early role in developing the program include Theresa Leiphon and Andy Wakeford from Lake Region State College, Annette Charette from Turtle Mountain Community College, Steve Schanandore from University of Mary, as well as Dawn Eckhardt, Mary Jo Dailey, and Derek Sporbort from University of North Dakota. No doubt the knowledge of the target audience that TRIO professionals bring to the planning table will play a major role in making our first College Goal a huge success.

Lake Region State College hosts first TRIO Day celebration.

Celebrating student success was the focus of the first TRIO Day held May 8, 2007 at Lake Region State College. Three students and six employees were honored at the event. Devils Lake native Allyn Kostecki was the keynote speaker at the event. Kostecki, a Devils Lake native, is the Director of TRIO Programs at NDSU. This year's celebration recognized three LRSC graduates: David Bakke, Mary Langley, and Lauree Wangler.

The original TRIO staff members were also recognized for their efforts. Theresa Leiphon - Project Director, Lane Azure – Transfer Coordinator, Melinda Martin – Vocational Coordinator, and Patty Wallace – Administrative Assistant, were all given the "Pioneer of TRIO" Awards for their work in establishing and sustaining the TRIO-Student Support Service Project at Lake Region State College.

Since its inception in 2001, the TRIO Program at LRSC has served more than 500 students. Two-hundred of these have graduated from LRSC and 88 have transferred to another college or university to further their education. In 2006-2007, the TRIO-SSS Program served over 160 students.

Closing of University of Mary's Talent Search program

The Talent Search program based at University of Mary will close their doors for the final time on August 31. This strong program was one of the many programs de-funded in the last Talent Search grant competition. Having previously earned a 5-year grant award, they were able to continue serving students through this past year. We wish all of the Talent Search staff well in their new endeavors, and hope we will again see them in the TRIO community.

(News for North Dakota cont'd)

Alumni Reunion Planned for University of North Dakota TRIO programs

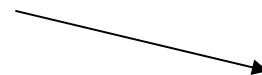
Through the efforts of Neil Reuter, Elaine Metcalfe, and the members of the alumni committee at University of North Dakota, a reunion of Upward Bound and Student Support Services alumni is being organized for the Turtle Mountain area. Neil has long been a strong advocate of staying in touch with program alums, and during his first full year of retirement he has been hard at work making connections and plans for a great event. The reunion is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29 at the Turtle Mountain Community College Anishinabe Learning Cultural & Wellness Center. Along with having a meal with old friends and time to share stories (and probably some tall tales), the program will include music by Eddie King Johnson. Current Upward Bound participants will be attending the event as well in order to have the chance to talk with former graduates to learn how Upward Bound and/or Student Support Services changed their lives.

Health News on Neil Reuter

Neil Reuter, retired TRIO Director at University of North Dakota, recently shared the news with us that he has been diagnosed with colon cancer. The good news is that the cancer was caught at a very early stage, and doctors believe they were able to remove all traces of it through laparoscopic surgery. Neil is home now, making a very speedy recovery thanks to the caring and watchful eye of his wife, Colleen Reuter (NDSU Veterans Upward Bound), and his own competitive drive to recover in less time than doctors predict.

Get well soon, Neil!

News from Wyoming



TRiO

News from Wyoming



Northwest College's Project Succeed Hosts 5th Annual TRIO Celebration



Dr. Angelica Lawson

On April 26, Northwest College's Project Succeed (Student Support Services) hosted their 5th annual TRIO Celebration. Current Project Succeed students and families, faculty, staff, and community leaders were invited to attend.

Dr. Angelica Lawson, assistant professor of Native American Studies at the University of Montana, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Lawson was a participant of the University of Wyoming's Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and McNair Scholar's programs. In 2006, she received the ASPIRE TRIO Achiever's Award. Dr. Lawson spoke of her background and how her involvement in the TRIO programs has been instrumental in her success today. She greatly encouraged the students and was well received by the whole audience. Following the ceremony, she answered questions and talked individually with students.



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

Director Cindy Newberry Childs thanked the faculty and staff who work with Project Succeed students for their contributions to the students' successes. She also expressed appreciation to the local, state, and U.S. leaders who support programs such as Project Succeed. While U.S. Senators Craig Thomas and Mike Enzi and U.S. Representative Barbara Cubin were unable to attend, each sent a congratulatory letter to the students of Project Succeed, encouraging them in their academic efforts.

Wyoming Says Goodbye to Curtis Sandberg By Zackie Salmon

Curtis Sandberg began his career with University of Wyoming Student Educational Opportunities (SEO) and TRIO in 1990 as a team leader for Upward Bound. After a hiatus in Japan, he returned to UW in 1998, serving in several positions throughout the years; Retention Specialist for SSS, Coordinator of Academic Services, Director of SSS, and Associate Director of SEO. Curtis has been active in Wyoming, and Regional ASPIRE, having held the office of President for both organizations. He is currently going into his second term as Treasurer for the Council for Opportunity in Education.

In May 2007, Curtis accepted the position of Director of Academic Services at Berea College in Berea, KY, where he administers the college's academic policies and is involved in campus-wide student success issues. Berea College is listed by U.S. News & World Report as the best comprehensive college for a bachelor's degree in the South. It charges no tuition and only serves students with financial need. All students live on campus all four years, as well as, participate in the nationally recognized labor program working 10-15 hours per week while carrying a full academic load.

Curtis Sandberg will remain active in the Council for Opportunity in Education and we can look forward to seeing him at future TRIO conferences.

(News from Wyoming cont'd)

SAGE TRIO Initiates “Friend of SAGE TRIO” Award

The staff of Laramie County Community College’s SAGE TRIO program (SSS) began what they hope will be an annual award called Friend of SAGE TRIO. Rachel Martinez, SAGE Advisor said, “The award recognizes faculty and staff who exemplify our program’s work and who have done an extraordinary job of helping us to believe in the success and potential of our students and in our jobs to help students achieve their academic endeavors and persist at LCCC.”

The mission of SAGE TRIO is simple: To improve the persistence, graduation and transfer rates of first generation, low income students and students with disabilities as well as to foster an institutional climate supportive of their success. The Friend of TRIO award embodies this mission and recognizes that the SAGE staff alone cannot accomplish this mission.

A financial aid administrator and two instructors were honored at our Spring 2007 Graduation/ Transfer celebration because they understand the needs of our SAGE students and have been an invaluable resource to us and our students: Liz Jackson-English Instructor; Jeff Schmidl-Economics/ Finance Instructor; Molly Williams-Assistant Director, Financial Aid. These individuals are unique in that they are good at what they do whether it is instruction, giving students options and advice and, the most important, follow through. They give SAGE students time; they know SAGE students by name and situation; they go that extra mile to make sure SAGE students fit into the bigger picture of overall education. Each received a certificate that states, *In recognition of your dedication and commitment to work in partnership with SAGE TRIO, to believe in, encourage, and inspire SAGE TRIO students to achieve their academic potential.*

By honoring several staff and faculty each year with this award, we hope to encourage more and better collaboration with both academic and student services divisions to ensure that LCCC is a supportive academic environment for “at-promise” first generation college graduates.



Molly William



Liz Jackson

(News for Wyoming cont'd)

Scholarship Receptions and Graduation and Transfer, Oh My! By Rachel Martinez

SSS, Laramie County Community College



Graduate/Transfer students standing tall at the SSS, LCCC Graduation/Transfer Ceremony

The SAGE TRIO Student Support Service project at Laramie County Community College celebrated its 2nd annual Graduation/Transfer Ceremony on May 11th with many students, family, staff, faculty and special guests in attendance.

Fuji Adachi, formerly the Director of UW Student Educational Opportunity programs and now a Math Instructor at LCCC, was the guest speaker. He gave the audience a history of the baccalaureate degrees and their importance and also highlighted the importance of transferring and being a lifelong learner.

This year's graduation ceremony saw a decrease in special guest attendance due to LCCC main commencement ceremony being moved to the same day. However, this didn't deter from the highlight of the ceremony which is the chance for the student to be individually recognized for their academic successes while at LCCC. Each advisor gets to recognize their student for all they have accomplished. Family members and friends also have the chance to say how proud they are of their student's accomplishments.

The SAGE TRIO project also held its annual Spring Scholarship reception on March 20th. Our project was pleased to present 59 scholarships; 44 with federal monies and 15 with local monies. Sher Warren, Director of SAGE TRIO spoke to the audience about the status and need for support of TRIO and how the audience could help by writing letters and contacting our congressman (she made sure to show the audience her leave time form so she wouldn't be using her work time to advocate for the TRIO cause). Special guests included many TRIO staff from the University of Wyoming and staff from our financial aid office. We were very pleased to have staff attend from all three of our local congressional offices representing two senators (Thomas and Enzi) and one representative (Cubin). They each presented signed letters of congratulations to our students. In addition, our long time supporter of SSS/TRIO students Wyoming House Representative Floyd Esquibel was in attendance. Students also received a Certificate of Scholarship for their aspiration, determination and dedication to their higher education goals.



This is Crystal Thompson, SSS student at LCCC proudly displaying her Certificate of Scholarship

(News from Wyoming cont'd)**Annual Spring Meeting Brings Together TRIO and GEAR-UP**

By Rachel Martinez, SSS, Laramie County Community College

The Wyoming ASPIRE Spring meeting took place in Laramie, WY on April 23-24 with a very strong showing of members from around the state. The first day of the meeting took place in conjunction with the statewide GEAR-UP staff. Presentations were given on Wyoming's statewide Hathaway scholarship program by UW doctoral student Elizabeth Erichson, the Wyoming GEAR-UP and TRIO connection by GEAR-UP director Donna Reagan, and working with community college transfer students by Fuji Adachi, math instructor at LCCC in Cheyenne. Later that evening, Sher Warren, director of SSS at LCCC in Cheyenne gave a dinner presentation to TRIO and GEAR-UP staff on "High School to College Transition: Issues Faced by Professionals Assisting At-Risk Students.

Presentations and the business meeting resumed the next day for the TRIO membership. We heard from Debbie Beck, UW Instructor in Education, on non-profits and how incorporation can help Wyoming TRIO in networking, leadership and raising money. We also had a governmental relations update on COE and ASPIRE from Allyn Kostecki (ASPIRE Regional President), Michael Wade (ASPIRE Regional President-elect) and Curtis Sandberg (COE Treasurer). The meeting concluded with the business meeting in which the membership had much to discuss regarding election of new officers, budget review and committee reports. Congratulations to Bonnie Straw (EOC-Evanston) for being elected as incoming Wyoming President of ASPIRE. We look forward to another strong showing of members at the next meeting during the ASPIRE regional conference in Denver.

Wyoming ASPIRE Scholarship Committee Announces Recipients

The Wyoming ASPIRE Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients for 2007. Each of the following will receive a \$400 Wyoming ASPIRE Scholarship:

Eliza Pacheco, Cheyenne, will attend Laramie County Community College (LCCC) pursuing a degree in dental hygiene. She participates in the SAGE TRIO (SSS) project.

Cowley, Wyoming resident, **Cara Zeller**, is working toward a degree in elementary education and participates in the SSS program at Northwest College. She plans to continue her studies at Montana State University-Billings.

Steven Corr graduated in May from Rocky Mountain High School in Byron, Wyoming. He will enter Northwest College this fall to begin working toward a degree in engineering. Steven is an EOC participant.

Riverside High School graduate, **Shannon Schell**, will enroll at Northwest College this fall. An EOC participant, Shannon will begin a degree program in sports medicine.

The Wyoming ASPIRE Scholarship Committee will also award **Stephinie Gustafson** with a \$100 ASPIRE *Inspire* Award. Stephinie is an LCCC student, SAGE TRIO (SSS) participant and engineering technology major.

(News from Wyoming cont'd)

Wyoming's New Hathaway Scholarship: *Does it Increase Access to Higher Education?*

Wyoming's state meeting in April 2007 opened with a presentation on the state's new Hathaway Scholarship Program by University of Wyoming doctoral candidate, Elizabeth Erichsen. Designed as a higher education incentive for Wyoming high school students, the TRIO and GEAR-UP community are concerned that the Hathaway Scholarship may not benefit the intended population of students: these who may not be considering college, i.e. disadvantaged and minority students. Erichsen's presentation provided TRIO and GEAR-UP staff with valuable information to watch the Hathaway program and higher education access for our students.

According to Erichsen, the general motivation for creation of Hathaway and similar scholarship programs is three-fold:

- To promote college access and attainment.
- To slow the "brain-drain" of the state's best and brightest students and encourage in-state college attendance.
- To encourage and reward academically hard-working and performing high school students.

Through her review of literature of other state-based merit scholarship programs, Ms. Erichsen was able to identify key issues that the Wyoming Hathaway Scholarship program may face as well as a conclusion that TRIO and GEAR-UP staffs have feared: the intentions of the scholarship programs are not always fulfilled as lawmakers envisioned. For Wyoming the specific issues are:

1. Will the need component of the Hathaway Scholarship (unique to state-based merit programs) result in different effects for low income students? Other states noted that the merit-only scholarships tended to have no effect on the college-going rates of low income students.
2. Grades and standardized test scores used to determine scholarship qualifications are biased and the need component of the Hathaway scholarship may not reduce the influence of this bias toward students of higher socioeconomic status.
3. Will there be increased rates of movement from two-year to four-year institutions as other states have seen, given that Wyoming only has one four year university? Or will the movement rates remain steady?
4. Will postsecondary institutions raise tuition and room/board, making higher education more costly for students who do not receive scholarships, particularly low income, non-traditional, and out of state students?

The growing costs of a state-based scholarship program have been problematic for other states. Wyoming seems to have insulated this funding from the difficulty other states have encountered, but the complexity of such funding and program is still an area to watch and be concerned about.

Overall, Ms. Erichsen's research concludes that "state, non-need, merit-based scholarship programs *are not* an effective way of promoting more equitable access to higher education for disadvantaged and minority students;" one of the very reasons for creating the programs. She states that disparities in the distribution of scholarships are a reflection of the disparities in the K-12 education system. Therefore, Wyoming must ensure that educational policies support higher education access and that opportunities are available for those who would benefit most from higher education. Ms. Erichsen strongly encourages us to continually examine the Hathaway program as it grows to determine the claim that the program will improve accessibility. "It is important to take the lessons learned from the other state programs and move to improve them or replace them with policies and programs that actually increase opportunity and equality in our society, instead of ones that support and promote the disparities and status quo."

Further information on Ms. Erichsen's research can be found at: <http://uwstudentfpweb.uwyo.edu/E/ERICHSEN/>

News from Utah



Josie Ishaya: Weber State TRIO Student Support Services Success Story

(This article was printed in the Ogden City Utah Newspaper)

An educator once told Josie Ishaya, then a pregnant teen, the day she graduated from high school would be the day the educator lost 20 pounds. It isn't known if the educator ever lost weight -- but Ishaya used the discouraging words as a challenge.

The 16-year-old had her baby, graduated from high school and is now a senior in the nursing program at Weber State University. She has received two scholarships. Ishaya, now 22 and married, is one example of the university's efforts to attract, retain and graduate minority and disadvantaged students.

"It is great to know that Weber State is out there to support students like me," she said.

Weber State administrators recently gave a presentation to the Utah State Board of Regents, about their outreach programs. "This is something the entire campus has to be engaged in to make a difference," said Weber State President Ann Millner.



State higher education officials are asking the Legislature for \$10 million to help increase minority enrollment in Utah's colleges and universities. Spending the funds would include college preparation programs, retention, mentoring and financial aid.

Each higher education institution in Utah is presenting information at Regents meetings this year, detailing what is being done in their campus programs for minority and disadvantaged students. At the end of the year, the reports will be compiled and distributed to the Regents and all the state's higher education institutions "so they can learn and get ideas on what their colleagues are doing," said Dave Doty, assistant commissioner and director of policy studies for the Utah System of Higher Education.

"The information and data is planned to be compiled into a "Best Practices Resource Book," Doty said. This is one of several goals presented to the Regents last December by the state's Task Force on Minority and Disadvantaged Students.

Ishaya received a \$500 scholarship through **Weber State's Student Support Services**. Only four scholarships are given state-wide. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's TRIO, a term that refers to a cooperation of several programs, including Upward Bound, Talent Search and Student Support Services.

She also received an academic scholarship.

While pregnant, Ishaya attended Washington High School, Ogden School District's alternative school. She was in the Young Parent's program. She also was going through the certified nursing assistant (CNA) program at Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College.

She had her baby, a son who is legally blind. She graduated from high school a year early and worked in an elderly care home for \$7 an hour.



(News from Utah cont'd)

Utah says Goodbye to Eddie Hoyle

We say farewell to Eddie Hoyle of Weber State College. He has worked in the Utah TRIO programs for a long time. We wish him well in his new endeavors. Thank you Eddie for all you have contributed!

Dixie State College UB Increases Percentage of Under-Represented Groups

By Steve Christensen

This past recruiting year for our Upward Bound project at Dixie State College, we had the goal of raising the percentage of under-represented groups, specifically males and minorities. To raise the percentage of minority students, we used our current students as recruitment tools. We had them talk to their younger friends and even had them with us when we set up recruitment stations in their respective schools. As a result, we raised the percentage of minority students in our project from an average of 15% to 25% this year. We did the same thing with males. We had young men in our project recruit their friends first and then help us recruit during the presentations at their schools. We also talked to coaches and advisors at each of our target schools, emphasizing the value of the program and the benefits to athletes and band members' grades. Counselors were our best resource as we explained the value to young men. As a result of those efforts, we raised male population in our project from an average of 31% to 40% this year. Our goal is 50%, and we have laid the groundwork for achieving that goal.



DIXIE STATE
COLLEGE OF UTAH

Snow College Upward Bound's Summer Component in Full-Swing

By Diane Martin



Our students are taking college credit courses in geology, trigonometry, economics, public speaking, fit for life, personal and family life, scientific investigation and survey of film. The students and staff are having a wonderful time learning Latin in their free time.

Activities have included swimming, volleyball, basketball and ultimate Frisbee. We will also be visiting SUU, Dixie, Zion National Park, San Rafael Swell, Washington DC, Annapolis (the Naval Academy) and Gettysburg. Woo Hoo! I love this job.



News from Montana



Montana TRIO Day Activities Report 2007

University of Montana Northern EOC, Montana Tech. UB and Talent Search Participate in State-Wide TRIO Day Celebration

On Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 11:30 AM on the steps of the Silver Bow County courthouse, a state-wide TRIO celebration took place. The TRIO day celebration included an introduction by Amy Verlanic, TRIO Programs Director at Montana Tech followed by proclamations from: Senators Baucus and Tester, The County Commission of Anaconda Deer Lodge County, Chief Executive Babb representing the city of Butte, Mayor Smith representing the city of Helena, and Mayor Magone representing Powell County read by students proclaiming Feb. 24, 2007 as TRIO Day. The celebration concluded with Tami Benjamin, a graduate of Montana Tech's TRIO Upward Bound, giving a testimonial.

In Montana, there are 27 TRIO programs serving 10,106 disadvantaged students. Three of these TRIO programs were present: University of Montana – Northern Educational Opportunity Center, Montana Tech's Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search.

Amy Verlanic stated the day's goal of wanting our TRIO students to see the connection between their personal education and the national priority to become more globally competitive country; more importantly wanting to use TRIO day as an opportunity to educate the public and local policy makers about the goals and accomplishments of these fine students was met.



Student Support Services, Flathead Valley Community College: We invited new (hired in the past year) faculty and staff to "Sundae's on a Friday" where I asked our school counselor, George Shryock, to explain to the newcomers how the Learning Center and TRIO mesh here at FVCC. After George gave the overall view then we added what we did as our job in the TRIO SSS project. The financial aid department was especially thankful as many of our TRIO students frequent that office also. This year we honored Danelle Whitten as a non TRIO person who is always willing to help students in whatever way that she can. She also generates many of the reports that are necessary for our TRIO students. At the same time we also honored Charlene Herron as our special TRIO person. Char is one of those people who always put the students first. As a matter of fact we had to go to her office and have her come to the room where we were meeting so that I could have the honor of designating her as our special person of the year as she was indeed working with a student. Refreshments were served and the sundaes were available with a variety of toppings.



Montana Western, Student Support Services and Math/Science Upward Bound

participated in TRIO Day activities. On February 26 our staff and several TRIO students went to the Dillon Headstart and helped the children make a pirate ship. They had just completed an exploration of ocean life and for their final project, the children decided to investigate pirates. The pirate ship was constructed from cardboard, duct tape, and paper towel/toilet paper cores. After assembling the ship the children painted it. Denny Rehberg's rep came from Missoula. We also made t-shirts for the children to keep. It was a great day! I am attaching a few photos from the event, but if you want to see more, I have created a slide show of it on our program myspace page. The url is www.myspace.com/umwTRIOsss (attachments 1-2-3 go with this program)

(Montana TRIO Day Activities Report cont'd)

Montana State University Billings and Montana State University Northern celebrated TRIO Day on Monday, February 26, 2007. Participating programs included the Educational Opportunity Center, Educational Talent Search, Student Opportunity Services, Upward Bound, and Veterans Upward Bound. Each of the TRIO programs selected a "TRIO Achiever" to be recognized at the celebration and a light lunch was served.

The event began with Dr. Dan Benge, Director of the MSU-B Educational Talent Search and the Upward Bound program gave a presentation on the history of TRIO and the purpose and mission of each of the TRIO programs that were represented. Monica Powers, Director of Student Opportunity Services then read a copy of a proclamation from Mayor Ron Tussing declaring February 26, 2007 as "TRIO Day." Each of the TRIO Achievers was then recognized, given a plaque, and shared a bit of his or her story with those in attendance. Luke Petriccione, Director of Veterans Upward Bound, then gave closing statements. The event was well attended. Nearly 100 people attended, including Ron Sexton, Chancellor of MSU-B, as well as aides for Senator Testor and Senator Baucus.

TRIO Achievers that were recognized:

Ghia Cowee, a participant in the Education Opportunity Center is a 29-year-old single mother of two boys. She worked hard all her life doing manual labor jobs until last May, when she broke her ankle and underwent surgery that would prevent her from walking for at least six months. Not being able to work, she decided it was time to go to college. She began her education at the Adult Center to strengthen her academic skills. She later enrolled at the MSU Billings College of Technology, majoring in the process plant technology program, and looks forward to gaining employment with one of the local refineries.



Ghia Cowee and Michell Gasek



Monica Powers and Ana Henrickson

Ana Henrickson is a Mexican native who was raised by her grandmother. With no English-speaking skills or high school diploma, Ana relied on the jobs her mother was able to get her. Born with a competitive soul, Ana says she simply expects the best out of herself and will quit at nothing to reach her goals. Ana completed her GED at the Adult Education Center, and then signed up for her first semester of classes at MSU Billings in the fall of 2001. A low-income, first generation student, Ana entered college speaking very little English and not knowing how to use a computer. Keeping in contact with her instructors and working hard to make it through her first semester, she now is an accounting major with an overall GPA of 3.5. Ana is grateful for all the support she has received at MSU Billings, particularly, she said, by Student Opportunity Services: "SOS helped me with tutors and mentors. It has been very helpful. I would not be there if not for that."

Ann Denny is a participant in both the Veterans Upward Bound and the Student Opportunity Services projects. Ann is a disabled U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Chipewya Cree Tribe. She grew up on the Rocky Boy Reservation and, after her honorable discharge from the service, moved to Billings to seek work and enroll in college. Prior to her beginning college, she enrolled in the Veterans Upward Bound project. During this time, she was confronted with the need to provide for her two sons and daughter as a single mother. In addition to raising her family, she successfully confronted many of the academic, social, economic and personal barriers confronting Native American students transitioning from reservation life. While the challenges of being a single mom and a full-time student challenge her daily, the support she receives from the Veterans Administration, the Student Opportunity Services and the Veterans Upward Bound project has allowed her to pursue her educational goal of obtaining a bachelor's degree in health and human services. She continues to pay back the support she has received by helping other veterans as a work-study student in the VUB project.



Luke Petriccione and Ann Denny

(TRIO Achievers cont'd)

Kevin Majewski is student body president of Montana State University Billings. Achieving this position was hard-earned. Kevin had to overcome significant obstacles before coming to MSU Billings. A low-income student, raised by a single mother, Kevin struggled in high school. He had the ability to do well in school, but the family environment was not conducive to academic growth and success. Kevin demonstrated through the Upward Bound program that he had the academic ability and desire to attend college; however, because of his family circumstances, this goal almost was lost. The Upward Bound program worked closely with his high school and set in motion the opportunity for Kevin to enroll at MSU Billings to begin his college career. At age 16, Kevin enrolled in classes, lived in the residence halls, and was given the chance to focus on his academics. His involvement in campus life and his pursuit of academic enrichment has led him to where he is, today. "Upward Bound has given me the experience needed to succeed and hope to overcome troubled times," said Kevin. "I am very thankful for what Upward Bound has given me, and for the service that I have been able to give back to other students as a result of my involvement with Upward Bound."



Kevin Majewski and Dan Bengé



Christine's parents, Gerald and Teresa Cox, accepting the award on her behalf from Rob Rust

Christine Cox is an outgoing, tenacious and ambitious student who has set high goals for herself. A 2006 graduate of Skyview High School, Christine demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence. She was actively involved in high school, was a member of National Honor Society and graduated with high honors. She was the executive vice president for Business Professionals of America and qualified for Nationals for three years. During her sophomore year, her father was diagnosed with cancer. As a close-knit family, this news was devastating. Her involvement in Educational Talent Search at MSU Billings helped her stay on her educational course through this challenging time. Prior to her senior year, Christine joined the Montana National Guard and received top female honors in basic combat training. She currently is enrolled in the Davidson Honors College at the University of Montana and is an R.O.T.C. prospective cadet. Her goal is to attend law school and to serve as a JAG attorney for the U.S. Army. "ETS provided me with advising and guidance that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else. Without the support and help I was given through ETS, I wouldn't be where I am today," she said

Salish Kootenai College, Upward Bound and GEAR UP Activity Report

Type of Activity: Honors Banquet to celebrate TRIO Day

Date: February 28, 2007 6:00PM

Instructors/Staff: Heather Licht, Effie Clairmont, Joanne Morrow, Craig Stevenson, Allison Grant, Kathy Knapp, Kim Sprow, Melissa Horseman

Activity Summary: Upward Bound and Gear Up hosted a catered banquet at KwaTuqNuk for 275 Upward Bound and Gear Up students, families, and staff. Several categories of students were recognized. Upward Bound invited honor roll students, Martin Luther King Day essay and art contest winners, and seniors. GEAR UP invited all honor roll students. The event began at 6:00 PM with a welcome and an Italian dinner buffet. Prior to and during dinner a PowerPoint ran which featured students involved in Upward Bound and GEAR UP activities. The recognition ceremony began at 7:00 PM. With a TRIO Day speech from director Heather Licht and honors song from Native drum group, Wookie Lodge. All students received certificates and the GEAR UP students received pens. Martin Luther King essay and art contest winners also received their awards. UB senior students were announced, their college plans presented and each received a Gregg's Writing Manual for college. The ceremony ended at 8:00 PM with another honors song.

* The original RSVP count totaled 350 guests. Total actual guest number totaled 275 guests.

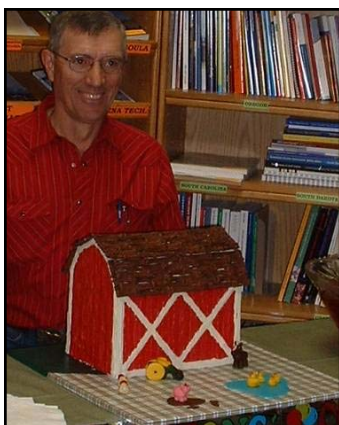
(Montana TRIO Day Activity Report cont'd)

Student Support Services, Montana State University-Bozeman hosted a lunch honoring ten outstanding TRIO participants on March 1. Florence Garcia, Director, opened the festivities with a welcome to all. Ginger Lee, a TRIO student who was selected as one of the top 42 graduating seniors at MSU, spoke about her experiences as a TRIO student and a TRIO tutor.

Each staff member then introduced the students they had selected for the award, which included a gift certificate to the MSU bookstore. Students who were honored included Dennie Carpenter, Teddy Annear, Mike Champlin, Lori McNellis, Caroline Lozeau, Ginger Lee, Meleen Bond, Nicole Hull, Martha Garcia, and Sara McLean.

Student Support Services, Salish Kootenai College: We celebrated National TRIO Day on our campus by having a lunchtime celebration of cake, displays, and student speakers from Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and our Equal Opportunity Center.

fvcc Says Goodbye to Bud Sather By Cathy Fabel



Bud and his retirement cake

Sadly, awesome TRIO Math Lab Instructor, Bud Sather, retired from Flathead Valley Community College at the end of Spring Semester 2007. Students have truly benefited from Bud's enthusiasm and teaching style over the past 19 years. All of us will miss this classy cowboy's smile, his wild and crazy personality, his delicious lefse, his love of John Deere tractors, and most notably, his commitment to the TRIO program. **HAPPY TRAILS BUD!**



Young Bud



Younger Bud

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

Sept 1 ASPIRE Development year begins – please renew personal membership, project memberships and make personal donations.

Sept 5-8 College Access Revolution, COE's Annual Conference in Chicago, IL

Sept 16-18 2007 GEAR UP Northwest regional conference in Spokane, WA.

Sept 29 & 30 ASPIRE Leadership Development Institute (LDI) in Denver, CO.

Sept 30 -Oct 3 **ASPIRE 31st Regional Conference in Denver, CO.**

Oct 1-3 Legislation and Regulations Seminars for New and Experienced TRIO Managers in Washington D.C.