



# ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of ASPIRE, Inc.

## TRiO

July — August 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](http://www.aspire-online.org)





# News from Colorado



## Summer TRIO Celebration a Great Success! By Henry Ornelas – TAP

President and Project Specialist, Student Support Services, Colorado State University-Pueblo



The TRIO Alliance of Pueblo (TAP) is a professional organization of TRIO grant administrators and staff from Pueblo’s six federally funded TRIO programs. TAP engages in the administration, recruitment, counseling, and instruction, mentoring, tutoring and other support services to encourage college education.

On June 28, 2007, TAP sponsored the Summer TRIO Celebration held at the Pueblo Zoo Pavilion. This special event celebrated TRIO student success. Over 130 people attended. The keynote speaker, David Ortiz gave an inspirational address to the students and staff. He encouraged the Upward Bound students to work hard to achieve success. David is a former participant of the Upward Bound Program at Colorado State University-Pueblo. David currently works as a Reporter/Photographer for KOAA News First, Channel 5/30.

The Mandarin Restaurant catered the excellent Chinese Buffet. During the event, drawings for Wal-Mart gift certificates and 4-Rockies tickets were given. Students and staff competed in friendly volleyball matches. Pueblo’s Miss Juneteenth 2007 also attended. Local Pueblo TRIO Achiever certificates were awarded to the following students:

**Crystal Santistevan** - CSU-Pueblo Student Support Services Program

**Heather Ortiz** - CSU-Pueblo Upward Bound Program

**Kenneth Derry** - CSU-Pueblo Veteran’s Upward Bound Program

**Tiffany Vialpando** - PCC Student Support Services Program

**Richard Shannon** - PCC Upward Bound Program



(News from Colorado con't)

## Trinidad State Junior College Upward Bound Students Donate Dollhouses to Advocates Against Domestic Assault

Upward Bound students who attended LiAnn Richardson's math class this summer, were part of a special project. LiAnn (known as Mrs. Richie to the students) wanted to use a "hands on" approach for teaching math skills to the students. The decision was made to make doll houses and donate them to Advocates Against Domestic Assault for use by the children of clients who stay there. The students worked on the project for six weeks and several of them worked extra hours, on their own time, to help get it finished.

Entertainment centers and other supplies were donated by businesses and people in the community for use on the project. Students used their math skills to make everything according to scale to fit Barbie dolls. The doll houses were complete with furniture, rugs, window dressings and a deck with a picnic table.

The staff and students of the Trinidad State Junior College Upward Bound Program would like to thank the following people for donating materials for this project: Amato Lumber, Trinidad Builders, Danielson Designs, Nationwide Flooring, Richard and Teresa Bell, Chuck and Virginia Cambruzzi, Lena Sciacca, Teresa Larson and Vicki Rienks.





(News from Colorado con't)

## From “At Risk” to “At Promise Status” By Mike L. Medina

*This article is based on Upward Bound Students that have been assessed utilizing the Myers- Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the Multiple Intelligence Developmental Assessment Scale (MIDAS) and the Learning Style Inventory. The results show promise.*

*This is a non-cognitive approach to predict student success.*

After reading the book *Extraordinary Minds* by Howard Gardner (1997), I became highly motivated to write this article. In this book, Gardner studied the lives of four exceptional individuals on their journey towards extraordinariness. The individuals that permeate throughout this book are; 1) Wolfgang Amedeus Mozart, a prolific musical genius and composer, 2) Sigmund Freud, a Jewish neurologist-turned-psychologist, 3) Virginia Woolf, an exceptional English author, feminist, literary essayist and expository writer, and critic and 4) Mahatma Gandhi, a political and spiritual leader from India, who moved entire nations with nonviolent resistance. The common threads are their prodigiousness and creative achievements. The love-hate relationships that exists between the ordinary and the extraordinary are that their contributions is that one cherishes and benefits from their contributions on one hand. On the other hand, as humans beings we love to denigrate our heroes and heroines. As most cognitive scientists have proven that it is difficult it is to “school” the “unschooled mind.” Gardner defines the “unschooled mind” during the first years of life up to age 5 young children can master an array of competencies with little formal training. These unschooled minds recognize when someone is trying to play a trick on them. They maintain a clear sense of truth and falsity, right and wrong, and more honestly, a sense beautiful and ugly. Their decisions are not tainted, persuaded or muddled by their environment. What is more interesting is the predicting of success of Upward Bound Students as a result of the three non-cognitive assessments; 1) The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), 2) The Multiple Intelligence Developmental Assessment Scale (MIDAS) and the 3) The Learning Style Inventory (LSI).

### Myers-Brigg Type Indicator

The use of Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) measures four bi-polar scales of preferences of the personality. The four dichotomous traits defined by McCauley (1990) are as follows:

- Extroversion attitude (E) or Introversion attitude (I),*
- Sensing attitude (S) or INtuitive (N),*
- Thinking judgment (T) of Feeling judgment (F),*
- Judgment (J) or Perceptions (P).*

The bi-polar dimensions generate 16 possible types.

In the book, *People Types and Tiger Stripes* by Gordon Lawrence (1993) a bold attempt is made to identify how the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) can be related to learning styles.

### Multiple Intelligence Developmental Assessment Scale (MIDAS)

Gardner, (1983) proposes eight different Intelligences to account for broader range of human potential that the traditional I.Q. testing.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Linguistic Intelligence ("Word smart")                       | Musical Intelligence ("Music Smart")        |
| Logical-Mathematical Intelligence ("Number/reasoning smart") | Interpersonal Intelligence ("People Smart") |
| Spacial Intelligence ("Picture Smart")                       | Intrapersonal Intelligence ("Self Smart")   |
| Bodily Kinesthetic Intelligence ("Body Smart")               | Naturalist Intelligence ("Nature Smart")    |

*Continued on next page*



(From “At Risk” to “At Promise” Status con’t)

In his book, *Frames of Mind*, Howard Gardner (1993) changes the paradigm of intelligence and that human beings have several distinct intelligences. As Traub (1998) a writer for The New York Times explains in his conversation with Gardner said that Gardner belief is, “We know that kids who do well on tests are smart, but we also know that a lot of kids who don’t do well on tests are getting it. The question is not how smart people are but in what ways people are smart.” Howard Gardner also identified that the problem in schools not being the teacher or the students but the problem in education lies in the system of measurement.

The consensus in neuroscience circles was that the brain operates in “modular” fashion, with autonomous systems devoted to different mental acts. Dr. Gardner argued that IQ testing is far too limiting and proposed eight different ways to show intelligence identifying a broader range of human potential in children and adults.

### **Learning Style Inventory (LSI)**

David Kolb developed the Learning Style Inventory (LSI; 1976) for the purpose of measuring the learning style defined in his theory of experiential learning. Practitioners of the LSI have considered the theory to be straight forward having considerably face validity (Freedman & Stumpf, 1980, Pigg, Bush & Lacy, 1980).

David Kolb (1986) developed the theory of experiential learning and a four-stage learning quadrant known as the Learning Style Inventory. The four mode of learning include the 1) Concrete Experience, 2) Reflective Observation, 3) Abstract Conceptualization and 4) the Active Experimentation. The plotting of scores into different quadrants includes 1) the Diverger, 2) the Assimilator, 3) Converger, and 4) the Accommodator. Learning styles do play a part in the learning outcomes of high school participants.

Carl Jung (1927) is considered to be the father of learning-styles theory noting the differences in the way students perceive, make decisions, gather information and interacted. Gardner (1983) and Gardner and Hatch (1989), in their research to rethink the theory of measurable intelligence embraced intelligence testing, studied the cognitive and educational psychologist leading them to develop the theory of multiple intelligence.

In the book “*Experiential Learning: Experience as the Source of Learning and Development*,” Kolb (1984) noted that it has been seventeen years since he began his work with experiential learning theory. It was during this period that Kolb became interested in the academic cultures and the student as individuals.

The historical roots of experiential learning began with the initial works by Dewey (1958), Lewin (1951), Piaget (1971), and Jung (1960). It was through the work of Freire (1973) and Illich (1972) as they researched left brain/right brain literature and connected experiential learning with metaphysics and epistemology that gave depth and breadth to the experiential learning theory. David Kolb’s theory on learning styles was viewed favorably for establishing the existence of individual difference as researched by Pickworth, Glynis, and Schoeman (2000). A doctoral study by Mike Medina has identified 15 findings resulting from the three non-cognitive assessments. The 15 findings will be shared in a workshop during the ASPIRE conference in Denver.

Mike Medina is the Director of the Upward Bound Program at Colorado State University-Pueblo. Mike has been serving TRIO for over 20 years and is defending his doctoral dissertation at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.





(News from Colorado con't)

## CCA Sponsors Postsecondary and Adult Conference

The Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE (CCA) sponsored a one-day conference focused on Postsecondary and Adult TRIO programs: EOC, McNair and Student Support Services. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, over 65 Colorado and Wyoming TRIO educators gathered at the Tivoli Center on the Auraria Campus in Denver to participate in Idea Exchange sessions, presentations, and networking. Mr. David Skaggs, Director of Higher Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education was the featured speaker during the lunch hour. He presented an overview of higher education in Colorado and outlined major initiatives planned for his tenure. In March, the Colorado TRIO pre-college programs co-sponsored a Colorado Pre-College Conference with GearUp and included attendance from high school personnel, scholarship programs, and privately funded pre-college access programs.

## Fast Runners from ASPIRE Region

ASPIRE, and the Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE were well represented in the Winner's Circle at the Council for Opportunity in Education's Annual Conference Fun Run. Representing different age categories, first-place winners included **Paul Thayer** and **Oscar Felix** from Colorado State University, **Pat Middleton** from Community College of Denver EOC, and **Joan Jorde**, from SSS, University of North Dakota. We'd like to conclude that training at higher altitudes provided an oxygen advantage, but the Grand Forks location deflates that premise. Instead, we'll attribute all the ASPIRE winners to the healthy ASPIRE environment and winning attitudes!

## Two National TRIO Achievers from Colorado recognized at COETRIO Achiever's Luncheon

**Tara Ruttley**, Lead Hardware Engineer of Advance Biomedical Research and Development at NASA and **Carlos Valverde, Jr.**, Senior Policy Specialist, Education Programs, National Conference of State Legislatures were recognized as two of the seven National TRIO Achievers at the Council for Opportunity in Education Annual Conference, September 7, 2007 in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Ruttley is an alumna of the McNair Program at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. The first in her family to attend and graduate from college, she has earned an MS in Engineering and a Ph.D. in both bioengineering and Neuroscience at the age of 31. Currently, she is the NASA lead engineer for all of the medical equipment on the International Space Station. Her eventual goal is to be an interdisciplinary researcher and an astronaut.

Mr. Valverde is an alumnus of the Upward Bound Program at Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado. Overcoming many family challenges while in high school, Mr. Valverde was accepted to a top private college--Colorado College. Also, the first in his family to attend college, he is currently a Senior Education Policy Specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures. As part of his work, he travels across the country talking with legislators about the achievement gap for low-income and minority students.

Both TRIO Achievers attributed their successes to the support they received from their TRIO program staff and activities. The Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE is proud of these Achievers who represent the many successful TRIO alumni from Colorado TRIO programs.



## News from Wyoming



### Learning How to Be Successful! University of Wyoming Student Success Services

The University of Wyoming SSS program has implemented a First-Year Experience seminar for entering students. The one credit course is designed to help students learn how to be successful in college while developing important life skills. Among these skills are goal setting, critical thinking, decision making, relationship building, and emotional intelligence. The seminar also addresses the transition to college life. It is offered in the fall semester and meets twice a week for an hour. Each of the four SSS advisors at UW teaches one section of the course. The students whom they teach are also their advisees. The advisors meet with them in class as well as outside of class and this allows for maximum contact with the students.

SSS advisors have taught a similar class in the fall for the previous three years; however, this year the text entitled, *On Course: Strategies for Creating Success in College and in Life*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. by Skip Downing, is being implemented and there is consistency among the class topics in the four sections. The syllabus includes reading and activities from the book, as well as instructor designed activities.

The implementation of this course was a good fit because the course material and the SSS objectives for the First Year Experience take a holistic approach in supporting students.

The four objectives of the course are:

1. Unit I: Students will be able to understand their interests and values and develop the ability to establish and work toward short-term and long-term career goals.
2. Unit II: Students will be able to apply personalized study skills strategies and interpret university, departmental and college rules and regulations.
3. Unit III: Students will be able to utilize campus resources and understand opportunities for student involvement.
4. Unit IV: Students will be able to appreciate the diversity of perspectives embedded in the university community and develop relationships with faculty mentors.

Students are graded on attendance, participation, a reflection paper, an in-class presentation on their development over the semester, and out-of-class assignments. Examples of out-of-class assignments include:

1. Obtain a major *Course of Study* from their respective departments.
2. Write a journal entry on "Barriers to Academic Success."
3. Write an "Education Action Plan" (goals list).
4. Create a "32 Day Commitment" to change a habit to achieve academic success.
5. Create a "My Life Plan" in which they imagine themselves at different stages in life.

The seminar compliments current advising efforts and provides additional support and guidance to students. In the Spring semester, we hope to have built a sense of community among the students in order to continue a monthly educational activity that reunites the students and continues the relationship building among the students and with their advisor.

The goal is to move away from the image of SSS as a remedial program for students. Instead, we strive to enrich students' college-going experience and ultimately help them grow into successful individuals.

**For questions or more information please contact Rita Burlison, SSS Advisor and Course Coordinator (rita@uwyo.edu).**



(News from Wyoming con't)

## Project Succeed Students Published in *Rangelands* Magazine Powell, Wyoming

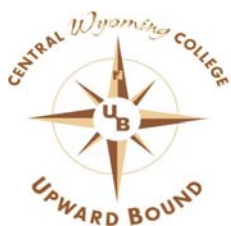


Two Project Succeed (SSS) students were featured in the August 2007 edition of *Rangelands*, a publication of the Society for Range Management. **Scott Steiner** and **Spencer Otto** were part of a four-person team from Northwest College that competed in the Rangeland Cup team competition. This competition was designed to cultivate skills in critical thinking, interpersonal communication, and group problem-solving. Each team designed and presented a poster addressing a topic related to managing rangelands. The Northwest College team's poster was titled, *The Future of the Society of Range Management: Where do we go from here and how do we get there?* Eight posters were submitted for publication and were published in the magazine.

The teams competed at the state competition in Sheridan, Wyoming in November 2006. In February 2007, they competed in the national competition at the Society for Range Management's annual meeting in Reno, Nevada. Nine teams participated, representing six different institutions. The Northwest College team was the only team from a two-year college.

Scott Steiner is currently studying range management at Northwest College and is an active member of Project Succeed. Spencer Otto graduated from Northwest College in May 2007 after being an active member of Project Succeed; he is currently attending the University of Wyoming.

## Central Wyoming College UB Sponsors Confidence Conference



**YOU are invited to attend!**

Central Wyoming College Upward Bound Program is sponsoring a Confidence Conference and Workshop  
Presented by Freedom Forums, Inc.

**Central Wyoming College  
Upward Bound Program  
2660 Peck Avenue  
Riverton, WY 82501**



**When:** Sunday November 11, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** The Central Wyoming College Campus, Riverton  
**Cost:** \$20.00 per participant to cover meals and supplies.  
**Registration Deadline:** Friday, October 26, 2007.

**The Freedom Forums, Inc.** has years of experience presenting to Upward Bound and other TRIO programs all over the country, as well as facilitating annual National TRIO conferences. The event kicks off National Education Week. High school participants of Upward Bound, Education Talent Search and Gear Up are invited to attend.

During the one day workshop participants will hear Mr. Pete McCoy speak about "Discovering the Power" and Ms. Janice Johnson speak about "Making Good Choices". In the afternoon participants will work in groups during the "Operation Midas", competing against the other groups, to create a gadget/product, market it and sell it to the other participants. The day will be filled with interaction, hands-on activities and skill-building.

**For more information or to register, please contact Lisa Appelhans, Central Wyoming College Upward Bound, 307-855-2224, [lappelhans@cwv.edu](mailto:lappelhans@cwv.edu).**

**For more information about Freedom Forums, Inc. presenters and programs visit the website: [www.freedomforumsinc.org](http://www.freedomforumsinc.org).**





(News from Wyoming con't)

## LCCC Receives Five-Year VUB

**Congratulations to Laramie County Community College!** LCCC is the proud host to a newly funded Veterans Upward Bound grant. The project will provide the guidance and support to 120 veterans to enter and be successful in postsecondary education. The proposal received three perfect scores, was in the top ten percent, and is a five-year grant.

LCCC submitted a VUB proposal in 2002, but it was not funded due to “reader misinterpretation.” Sher Warren, SAGE TRIO director, and Donna Regan, University of Wyoming GEAR-UP director, wrote that proposal. Regan said, “We were not funded in 2002 because the readers read and scored our proposal as a classical Upward Bound. We were dinged because we did not have a summer residential component or a parental component.” Regan and Warren worked unsuccessfully with the staff of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) to appeal the reading of that proposal.

“We were not deterred. There is a great need in the Cheyenne area for educational brokerage services for veterans,” stated Warren. “We believe that the appeals process with COE helped the Department to fix a reading process that was broken. This go-round the Department had a separate reading panel specifically for VUB. I’m sure that helped with our second try for this grant.”

LCCC is on-target to begin serving veterans by Christmas and in time for spring semester.

## SAGE TRIO Student Advocates for HR 2669

Donna Gosbee, a participant in the SAGE TRIO (SSS) project at Laramie County Community College (LCCC), is an advocate for many causes. But on Friday, August 31, 2007, she was passionate about advocating for TRIO. Donna learned of the pending conference between the Senate HELP Committee and the HOUSE Labor/Pensions/Welfare Committee regarding language for TRIO programs in the College Cost Reduction Act. She set up a table in the LCCC Student Lounge with petitions urging Senator Mike Enzi to “recede to the House” on HR 2669 when the Scott (TRIO) language was considered in Conference on Tuesday, September 4. The House version of the bill contained the Scott Amendment authored by Mr. Scott (VA) which was important for the first generation and low income students served by TRIO.

Donna successfully gathered 117 signatures in three hours. She hand delivered the petitions to the local Field Representative for Senator Enzi, who was impressed and who immediately faxed the petitions to the Senator’s D.C. office. The results of Donna’s effort positively impacted the passing of the bill, which unfortunately did not contain all of the Scott language, which did restore funding for six Upward Bound programs in the ASPIRE region.

“Donna is a natural when it comes to advocating,” stated SAGE TRIO Director, Sher Warren. “She does the research to understand the issues, the legislative process, and the legislative language. And she communicates the issues in a very matter-of-fact, down-to-earth manner. Donna was very convincing as she spoke to potential petition singers because she spoke with passion about the importance of this particular piece of legislation.”

Donna also advocates for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, seeking funding for research and development of cost saving medications for this debilitating illness. She is also the President of the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and a senator in LCCC’s student government.



# News from Utah



## From Utah Valley State College, Orem



The Educational Talent Search program at Utah Valley State College took 30 high school seniors on their annual Summer College Tour on June 5, 6 and 7, 2007. It was a fun trip that included tours of UVSC Fire Science and Aviation programs as well as University of Utah, Westminster College, Salt Lake Community College and Brigham Young University.

The trip includes fun activities like a dance with Upward Bound, shopping at local malls and the all time favorite amusement park, Lagoon. We include academic counseling as well as culture experiences during our trip.

This trip gives the students opportunities to see many different education and career choices. As they approach their senior year, it is a boost to already know the possibilities available to them.



## Greetings from Snow College!, Ephraim



Forty-eight students came to Summer Component. Eight Seniors, 12 Juniors, 23 Sophomores and 4 Freshman. The average number of college credits taken by these students: Seniors 4.8, Juniors 5, Sophomores 4.9, Freshman 4. They took classes in Fit For Life, Public Speaking, Trig, Geology Field Studies, Econ 1010, Intro to Forensic Science, Personal and Family Health, and Intro to Film. We are pleased to announce that our students averaged a 3.4 GPA for the summer. Kudos to the faculty who work with our students!

The final trip for our juniors and seniors was to Washington DC, Gettysburg, PA, Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and Fort McHenry (Oh, say can you see ...) MD. Under the new grant, Upward Bound will only service the three high schools in Sanpete County (North Sanpete HS, Manti HS and Gunnison HS.)







(News from Utah con't)

## From Salt Lake City Community College, Salt Lake City

We are so proud of the ETS College Bound middle school students this summer. They took time to attend a leadership conference and do service. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, students from four middle schools in the Salt Lake valley got up early to go the Salt Lake Community College. The ETS College Bound leadership students from West and Granger High Schools facilitated the entire conference.

The students had to 'build a city. Half-way through the activity, the cities all suffered a huge 'catastrophe' and were destroyed. The students then had to figure out how to rebuild their city. After lunch we all traveled to the Utah Food Bank to help sort huge boxes of food so that they could be given to families. It was amazing to see everyone working together so well!



The Juniors and Seniors in the ETS College Bound program, who chose to complete 3 college prep workshops during the summer, were invited to attend the annual Southern College tour to visit Brigham Young University, Southern Utah University and Dixie State College. In addition to the great tours, the students hiked in the Zion National Park Narrows and Snow Canyon State Park.





(News from Utah con't)

## From Dixie State College, St. George



It has been a busy summer and even busier fall at Dixie State College.

The SSS program received over 500 applications (all of which qualified in at least one area) through New Student Orientation. Five SSS intake sessions were held during which students were introduced to the program. As a result of these sessions, over 100 students were accepted into the program. This year, we are again serving more than 200 students. We have already met our selection/enrollment objectives for the 2007-08 year. We graduated 55 students with associates degrees of whom 35 transferred to four-year institutions. Eighteen additional students transferred before completing their degree. The first workshop of the year was taught by Larry Esplin, SSS Learning/Retention advisor, who presented College Study Skills. Over 75 students attended this workshop. Average workshop attendance last year was 70 students.

Loya Garrett maybe leaving us at Christmas; but not if we can help it...

The ETS program has seen significant changes in personnel. Nelda Kissinger, ETS Director of five years, resigned to take a position as the Adult Education Director for the Washington County School District. We still keep in touch with her since her new office is just down the hall. The DSC TRIO programs are indebted to her for her great efforts and contributions to TRIO over the last ten years. Previous to her ETS job, she directed the UB program at DSC.

Kitty Hughes, former UB Coordinator, has been selected as the new ETS Director. She brings a great deal of experience and expertise to this new position. Wade Vest, the ETS advisor for Dixie Middle/High schools, left to pursue a career in financial management. The ETS program is currently in the process of filling his position.

The UB program had a very successful summer. Kitty and Steve ran a busy and productive summer program. Steve Christensen, UB Director, left us to work with Nelda in the Washington County Adult Education program as the ESL Coordinator. We are now looking for a new UB director and coordinator. Those positions will be posted soon.

## From Weber State University, Ogden

Weber State University Upward Bound was honored to have had the wonderful and talented students who comprised the Bridge Class of 2007. Having graduated from their respective high schools and having earned enough scholarship monies to pursue their college dreams, they are now enrolled full-time in the college of their choice (which happens to be WSU) and entering a new realm of their education.



Three of our Bridge Class, Steeven Alvarez, Jose Efrain Castillo, and Peter Lanzarotta were among the six Utah students honored by the Utah Standard Examiner Newspaper as "Utah's Top Scholars" and awarded \$2,000 scholarships. This scholarship is renewable for a second year as they maintain a 2.0 GPA, bringing their total award to \$4,000 each.

Peter, along with three other Bridge students, Eddie Gallegos, Marta Huerta, and Erica Diaz, also earned four of the eight, \$3,000 scholarships offered by the Ogden Rotary Club for service to their community. Selection was based on their volunteerism and leadership, and its effect on the community. This scholarship was open to all high school seniors in the Ogden and Weber School districts, a total of eight high schools.



Steeven Alvarez



Jose Efrain Castillo



Peter Lanzarotta



Eddie Gallegos



Marta Huerta



Erica Diaz





(News for Utah con't)

## From Westminster College, Salt Lake City

**WESTMINSTER**  
COLLEGE

2007 Westminster College graduate **Asia Ferrin** was awarded the University of Washington's McNair Fellowship. She will begin her studies at UW this fall, where she will pursue a PhD in philosophy. Asia was also awarded the best undergraduate paper when she presented at the Pacific University Undergraduate Philosophy Conference this past spring.

**Joshua Plant** (University of Utah 2006) has completed his year-long research internship at the National Institutes of Health, and is moving on to Harvard where he will be a PhD student in Biology and Biomedical Sciences this fall. Joshua received full funding: a stipend, tuition waiver, and insurance.

**Aliesha Shaw**, after a stellar undergraduate career at the University of Utah, is attending Boston University to pursue a DMD/PhD. Her program began in July, and she is enjoying it very much! Aliesha will receive a fellowship for the PhD portion of her studies.

**Natasha "Red" Ball** graduated this spring from the University of Utah and was accepted into her number one choice of graduate programs: Texas A & M. She will start this fall in her pursuit of a PhD in Sociology. Red's funding includes a stipend for her teaching assistantship and a tuition waiver.

**Joshua Graehl** (Westminster 2006) was accepted into Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands, where he will begin a Research Master in Philosophy and Economics this fall.

**Krystle Cook** (Westminster 2005) will begin Utah State's Master of Educational Technology program this fall.

**Asia Ferrin and Nissa Roper** helped Westminster College's Ethics Bowl Team place #2 in the national competition this past spring.

**Sadaf Baghbani and Kathleen Tedford** (both University of Utah) were afforded wonderful opportunities to study abroad during spring semester. They traveled to South Africa and India, respectively. Sadaf participated in the COE/ Michigan State University program in Durban, South Africa.

In May of this year, **Sara Hogan** was awarded a Master of Health Science in Health Policy with a certificate in Health Disparities and Health Inequalities from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She also served as a student assembly representative, alumni liaison, and the treasurer for the Black Graduate Student Association. Sara also had the honor of being crowned Miss Black Utah-USA and competed in the 2007 Miss Black USA pageant in Gambia, West Africa on June 1st.

When not representing the state of Utah as Miss Black Utah, Sara finds time to work as a health policy analyst for the American College of Physicians, and conducts research with the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions. She is also in the process of applying to medical schools, and hopes of start in the fall of 2008.



(News from Utah con't)

The poster features a background image of a desert landscape with a prominent, tall, reddish-brown rock spire (a hoodoo) against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The foreground shows a sandy, sloping hillside.

Plan now to attend the Utah ASPIRE conference  
*"Making the **TRiO** Community Your Community"*  
April 1 - 3, 2008  
Hosted by the College of Eastern Utah

We are excited to have our **TRiO** family come to  
CEU-Price Campus!

**Come for the conference . . .**  
**STAY FOR THE EXCURSIONS!**

There are many "wilderness" areas in Castle Country perfect for an outdoor adventure: Nine Mile Canyon, San Raphael Swell, and the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. You can also go on a guided mountain bike ride, go rock climbing, drop by CEU Prehistoric Museum, ride the waves at the Desert Wave Pool and much more!



## News from North Dakota



### Congratulations to Turtle Mountain, UND, and NDSU for Successful Grant Competitions!

#### Turtle Mountain Community College Receives Upward Bound Program

Thanks to the passing of H.R. 2669, and the lowering of the minimum score for funding of programs, they are the recipients of a new Upward Bound program. We are excited to have them join the family of TRIO programs in North Dakota, and look forward to the work they will do to assist high school students reach their educational potential.

#### North Dakota Continues with Ronald E. McNair

With just days to spare before the start of the grant cycle, it is a pleasure to announce that congratulations are in order to Kay Modin at North Dakota State University and Patrice Giese at University of North Dakota. Both programs were successful in the latest grant competition. It has been a good year for grant writing in North Dakota, and we look forward to seeing this success continue into the upcoming SSS grant competition.

#### NDSU Secures Additional Four Years of Funding for Veterans UB

Thanks to the efforts of Bruce Steele and his staff at North Dakota State University, veterans in the Fargo and Grand Forks areas will continue to receive services through Veterans Upward Bound. NDSU was successful in securing an additional four years of funding in the latest grant competition. Congratulations, Bruce. We know your participants are well served through your program.

#### A “Sneak Peak” from University of Mary

Student Support Services at the University of Mary is experiencing a great deal of success with their new “Sneak Peak” program for incoming freshmen. Students accepted to the university are invited to apply for services through Student Support Services before their first term classes begin. Those accepted to the program are then invited to participate in their new “Sneak Peak” program in which students are offered the opportunity to try out the first few chapters of a college algebra, biology or chemistry course. This preview includes the book, quizzes and tests, as well as instruction from professional tutors. This summer eleven students took advantage of the preview course, completing a total of 14 courses. Student Support Services is benefiting from this program in that qualified students are identified and approved prior to their first semester of classes, and are now that much more connected to the university than they were prior to starting with SSS. Students are benefiting the most. They are able to see firsthand what college course work is going to be like for them, and the professional tutors they work with through the preview program are the same people they will have as lab instructors when they enter their courses.

Another highly successful tool being used by the Student Support Services team at University of Mary is that of Plato web learning. This on-line instructional site provides prescriptive, personalized instruction for pre-professional skills testing in the field of teaching and learning. Education students are finding great success with preparing for their professional exams. If interested in learning more, the web site is: [www.plato.com](http://www.plato.com).



(News from North Dakota con't)

## Great Governmental Relations News! By Cheryl Kingsbury ASPIRE Governmental Relations Chair

I want to extend a sincere “thank you ...and congratulations” to the ASPIRE Executive Board and all ASPIRE members, university personnel, students and friends who worked throughout the summer and through Labor Day weekend to impact legislation to fund the 187 new and existing Upward Bound programs that scored above a 70 in the most recent grant competition. On September 7 we were notified that the Senate and House met to conference the budget reconciliation bill (H.R. 2669). The final version of the bill included the language proposed by Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) to fund down the Upward Bound slate. President Bush is expected to sign this legislation into law on or before September 30. This will provide Upward Bound services to an additional 12,000 students. The programs in the ASPIRE region are: two in Colorado (SCU-Pueblo and UNC), two in Montana (Flathead Valley CC and Ft. Belknap Indian CC), one in North Dakota (Turtle Mountain CC), and one in Utah (Ute Indian Tribe). A special “thank you” goes out to Donna Gosbee, a student from LCCC, WY, who worked to get 117 signatures from students to present to Senator Enzi’s office. A thank you note and a certificate has been sent to her from the ASPIRE region. Congratulations! It was a great victory to secure these services for our students!

At this time we are continuing to work with COE for a victory on the elimination of the Absolute Priority.

## UND TRIO Alumni Association Holds Reunion

The University of North Dakota TRIO Alumni Association, under the leadership of Neil Reuter, sponsored a TRIO alumni reunion at Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt, North Dakota. Over the years, many people from that area have participated in both the Upward Bound and Student Support Services Programs at UND, and also in the Student Support Services Program at Turtle Mountain Community College. The reunion was held at the college Wellness Center, which has a beautiful outdoor picnic area, and area musicians came to liven up the event with music. Alumni from different generations of program participants were present, and current Upward Bound students came to participate in a mentoring activity with Willie Davis, a UND Upward Bound/SSS alumni and regional TRIO Achiever Award winner.



Willie spoke to the students about achieving life goals and also gave them lessons in archery. A bow was given as a prize to Josh Zaste, a current UB student. A picnic lunch was donated by a local business, and local coordination of the event was done by Willie Davis.







(News from North Dakota con't)

## Elaine Metcalfe Receives Walter O. Mason Award

The Council established the Walter O. Mason, Jr. Award in 1988 to honor outstanding educational opportunity professional who exemplify his sense of leadership and his ideals. Mr. Mason first worked with TRIO Programs as Senior Program Office with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Dallas, TX. At the time of his death, he was Special Assistant to the President at the University of Oklahoma.

It was largely thought his vision and drive that administrators, counselor, and teachers in TRIO Programs came together to form regional associations. His life was marked by wisdom, compassion and love for all thing good and just—all qualities as rare as they are precious.

### 2007 Walter O. Mason, Jr. Award Recipients

**Jonathan McKenzie** was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, Il. Since 1898, he has developed, directed, monitored and evaluated educational programs for non-profit organization, colleges, and universities. Consequently, thousands have gained access to and graduated from post-secondary institutions. A longtime TRIO educator, in 1995, McKenzie co-founded the Family Centered Educational Agency, Inc. and became its CEO. Through his leadership, the agency has established college preparatory programs, initiatives, alternatives to school suspension programs, a private school, and presently serves thousands of low-income community residents. McKenzie is the recipient of the United Negro College “Distinguished Leadership Award.” He has served as Board Chair for several organizations including the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP). He currently sits on the advisory board for the Community Economic Development Association (CEDA).

McKenzie is know as a man on a mission to serve those who have been marginalized. When asked why, his reply is, “I have been charged to serve others, for by the grace of God, there go I.” He does not wait of things to happen; he makes them happen.

**Elaine Metcalfe** is the Director of TRIO Programs at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. She earned both a B.S. in Education and an M.A. in Counseling from the University of North Dakota. Metcalfe began her professional career as a teacher on the Tuttle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. She returned to UND in 1985 to pursuer her Master’s Degree and taught Upward Bound summer courses. In 1987, she was hired as a counselor with the UND Talent Search Program. Metcalfe became the Talent Search Assistant Director in 1991 and Associate Director of TRIO Programs in 2001. Since August 2006, she has been the Director of the five TRIO Programs at UND: Upward Bound, Student Support Services, the McNair Program, Educational Opportunity Center, and Talent Search. Metcalfe has served as the North Dakota State Chapter of ASPIRE President, regional ASPIRE President, and the Secretary for the Council for Opportunity in Education. She has attended the Council Policy Seminar since 1988, and has been active in governmental relations on local, state, and national levels throughout the years, as well as serving on a variety of committees at each level. Metcalfe has been the recipient of the “Rising Star” and Art Quinn Memorial awards from the ASPIRE region as well as the Meritorious Service Award form the University of North Dakota.

*From the program distributed at the 2007 “COE Educational Opportunity Dinner,” or awards banquet, held during this year’s COE national conference.*



## News from South Dakota



### Great News from Lower Brule Indian Reservation By Raven Soulliere

As a Talent Search Advisor for the University of South Dakota, I work with 120 students from Lower Brule High School and Crow Creek High School on the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Reservations. I have some great news to share with all of you!

As of last year (2006-07), I was a new advisor to the target area that is also my home. I realized early on that I had to pick my battles because it is hard to initiate changes in any established system. I decided to dedicate a lot of my time to “Changing a Mind-Set” in my students. That became my primary focus.

My students face many hardships along their path to learning. Being raised on the reservations has its own set of problems and difficulties. Many students fight the odds everyday just by coming to school.

The support groups that a lot of people off the reservation take for granted are not to be found on most reservations. My students battle low self-esteem, alcohol and drug abuse, and in some cases both verbal and physical abuse. Some lack the love and support needed to become successful. Some parents seem to believe that our kids don't need higher education.

Therein lay my dilemmas...What to do? I decided to give them what they needed. TRIO became the way for me to open their minds to bigger and better things. Through the classes I teach, we discuss looking outside the box. We talk about reaching for our goals. We talk about wanting something better for ourselves.

Last year, we as a group did some research and thinking about our culture. The students began to realize that we are not meant to be a “lazy people”, as we get often labeled. In the past, we all had a job to do. Each person's job was vital to the welfare of the tribe. I taught the students that no matter what their home life is like, no matter how it is on the reservation now; they are the ones who control their own destiny of tomorrow!

The good news that I want to share with all of you is this: I believe our hard work and dedication, the love and support that we show our students, the times that we are honest with them about whatever issue it is that confronts them, has paid off in a big way!

I feel like a proud mother when I tell you that not since 1998 have we had so many students apply and go to college. Mr. Cody Russell, who is the principal of Lower Brule Sioux High School, informed me that the number of students who have enrolled in college has not been this large since that date. Out of 16 seniors from Lower Brule, eight have enrolled in higher education. One of my students from Lower Brule won the Gates Scholarship. From Crow Creek, out of 11 seniors, three went on to college, one of them also a Gates recipient. Others went into the Military and one finished Ironworker's School and is now a journeyman starting with a \$15.00 an hour salary. In six months, he will get his first raise. By the end of his final journey, he will be making around \$32.00 an hour.

So I want you to know that our hard work does pay off. Changing a mind-set does not happen overnight. Our kids need to know that we are right beside them all the way. Bad habits are learned. Excuses can always be made. We as advisors, and TRIO, make a difference in the lives of our students.

Our kids need us and they need the truth...And the truth is higher education can change a life for a lifetime!



(News from South Dakota con't)

## USD UBMSIP Receives “Out of the Blue” Donation from Northrop Grumman Company

By Chuck Swick, TRIO Director

In June, I received an email ‘out of the blue’ that reads in part: “I help administer grant money for Northrop Grumman (<http://www.northropgrumman.com>) and recently came across your chapter of the TRIO program. Northrop Grumman aims to support education through innovative math and science programs. I am pleased to offer your program a \$5,000 grant to be earmarked for math and/or science education initiatives.”

After several emails and faxes back and forth, we received a check for \$5000 and are in the process of finalizing plans on how best to utilize these funds for our Math and Science Initiative students.

***On behalf of the UBMSIP students at The University of South Dakota, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Northrop Grumman Company for their generosity.***

## Summer Report from USD Vermillion Upward Bound Project

By Charlie Luecke

The Upward Bound Project at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion had a very busy and productive 2007 Summer Bridge and Pre-Bridge Components:

- 77 Participants including 15 Bridge
- Core classes in Mathematics, Lab Science, and Critical Reading & Writing
- Evening and week-end study & review sessions at I.D. Weeks Library
- ACT Testing for Rising Juniors and Seniors
- Bridge earned 6 hours of college credit (3.29 CGPA)
- Participation in the SD UB Olympics at NSU in Aberdeen, SD
- Etiquette Dinner (Instruction) for Bridge and Rising Seniors
- Bridge advising sessions to make sure PS “ducks” were in a row for the fall
- Pre-Bridge PS Prep Sessions: Learning critical learning and college prep
- Social-Recreational Activities: UB Idol, Quiz Bowls, Games Day, B-ball, Volleyball, bowling, Puzzle Contest, Softball, Scavenger Hunt, etc.
- 6-week Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) at the USD Medical School
- Bridge attended Camp Foster for a team leadership experience
- Omaha Field Trip: Creighton visit, Joslyn Art Museum, Zoo & Botanical Gardens, Aquarium & Desert and I-Max
- USD Health Care Career Camp (one week) [5 Participants]
- Bridge participated in an ASIST Workshop (suicide identification and response)
- 2 Participants attended the Student Leadership Conference in D.C.
- 1 Student participated in Project Phoenix (Journalism); interviewed on Radio
- Bridge participated in a SAVVY Workshop (Students against violence)
- Campus Visits/Essays: USD, NSU, Creighton, SDSU, and Augustana
- Final Trip in Chicago: Sears Tower, Taste of Chicago, Shed’s Aquarium, Sox Game, 6-Flags, Campus Visit (Northwestern), and Museum.



## News from Montana



### Flathead Valley Community College Launches Two Learning Communities

By Charlene Herron

Director, Lynn Farris, TRIO/SSS staff and instructors at Flathead Valley Community College are launching a new approach to meeting the needs of under-prepared and undecided students. This fall semester when students completed their Compass placement tests students were directed to enroll in two learning community class options.

Those students who needed improvement in their reading, math, and writing skills were enrolled in common reading, math, and writing classes along with a learning community First Year Experience class. The First Year Experience class will focus on building study skills, technology literacy and critical thinking skills along with basic academic skills.

Those students who had college ready scores, were completing core requirements and who hadn't yet declared a major were enrolled in common English Composition, General Psychology classes and a First Year Experience class focused on building awareness of college resources, developing career and academic planning, and transfer preparation.

The purpose of this new learning community approach is to build collaborative teaching and learning strategies, to increase peer support groups, to define explicit expectations for students, to increase retention rates, develop critical thinking, and enhance meaningful content and team principles.

### Montana Tech Welcomes New TRIO Staff Members By Amy Verlanic

Montana Tech's Technical Outreach Office, under the leadership of Amy Verlanic, is pleased to announce that 13 new TRIO positions in their department have been filled by some amazing professionals.

We welcome to our TRIO community; **Michelle Christianson** as the Helena Area Talent Search Coordinator, **Dana Cotton** as the Butte Area Talent Search Coordinator. Michelle and Dana will join the existing team of Brandon McLean, Zack Hawkins, Tammy Gordon and Holly Jo Barnett. The Montana Tech Upward Bound Program and Talent Search Program will now be under the direction of an Associate Director of TRIO programs, **Gregory Roberts**. Gregory has been in TRIO for many years. In fact, Gregory's first TRIO position was working for Kathy Felker at the University of Utah. He is delighted to be back in the ASPIRE region.

**RuthAnne Shope**, has agreed to transition to serving as the Upward Bound Director at Montana Tech, and she is now overseeing the Ruby Valley Upward Bound Program as well as the Lower Clark Fork Upward Bound. Her staff is made up of ten area coordinators. Rita Brown in Whitehall, Jody Sandrew in Twin Bridges, Sara Decker in Sheridan, Jason Slatter in Ennis, Heidi Dykman in Harrison, Pam Gohn in Thompson Falls, Gordon Hendrick in Superior, Anita Lewis in St. Regis, Betty Taylor in Plains and Terry Falcon in Alberton. This is a diverse team of excited new TRIO staff. RuthAnne and the team is really looking forward to attending the Montana State Meeting in the Spring so they can meet and learn from all the wonderful TRIO professionals there.

It was unfortunate that the staff wasn't all on board in time for them to attend Denver, but Amy is confident that it won't be long until they have networked in our TRIO family across Montana and ASPIRE.





(News from Montana con't)

## Update on the College Cost Reduction Act and the Upward Bound Absolute Priority By Lynn Farris

What a roller-coaster summer it's been! On May 11, 2007 97 existing regular Upward Bound projects found out that they were not slated for continued funding and the Department of Education had funded 108 brand new projects. Arnold Mitchem and COE sprang into action and by June Bobby Scott (D-VA) introduced the Scott Amendment to the College Cost Reduction Act (HR 2669) which would provide additional funding for projects which scored all the way down to 70. It would also halt the infamous Evaluation of Upward Bound projects and prohibit the enforcement of the Absolute Priority imposed on Upward Bound.

The College Cost Reduction Act passed the House on July 11 then moved to the Senate, where it was approved July 20, but without the Scott Amendment. The bill then moved to conference committee.

And then Congress took their August recess.... and we were left to wait and fret. When Congress returned, one of their first orders of business was to complete the conference.

On September 7 the bill was cleared for the White House and on September 19 HB 2669 was presented to the President with the approval of both houses.

In its final form, the College Cost Reduction Act (which decreases subsidies to student loan lenders and increases Pell grants) includes funding for an additional 190 Upward Bound projects, but does not include language blocking Evaluation or Absolute Priority (as those are not fiscal matters and this is a fiscal bill).

The effort to block Evaluation and Absolute Priority are still alive and still need our attention. It is contained in the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriation bill as well as the Higher Education Act Reauthorization bill.

Initially the President had threatened to veto the College Cost Reduction Act, but has since said that he will sign it given the changes made in the conference committee. The President has 10 days after the bill was enrolled (September 19) to veto or sign it. A third option is to let it lapse into law without signing it.

***COE and the TRIO community are to be congratulated on their fierce response to this issue for the success achieved so far. The battle is still not won as Evaluation and Absolute Priority need to be blocked. Make sure your congressmen know how important these issues are to all TRIO programs, not just Upward Bound.***



## *Upcoming Events and Important Dates*

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

Sept 30—Oct. 3 **ASPIRE 3 1st Regional Conference in Denver, CO**

Oct. 1—3 Legislation and Regulation Seminar for new and experienced TRIO Managers in Washington D.C.

### **Policy Seminar Dates for 2008**

March 8—9 Leadership Summit

March 9—11 Policy Seminar

March 12 Relations with the ED