

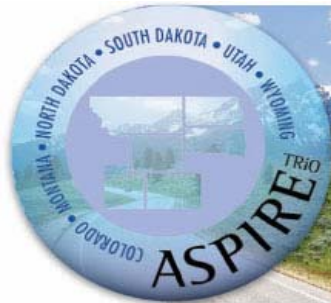


# ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, INC.

**TRIO**

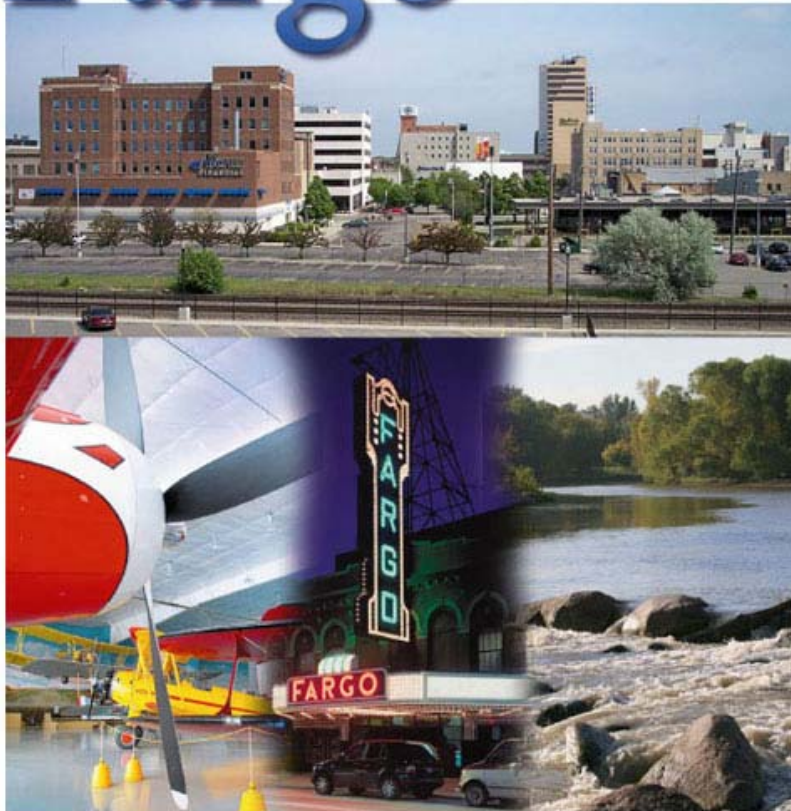
May—August 2008



## ASPIRE 2008

From the Mountains to the Plains  
The ASPIRE Adventure Continues

# Fargo



**October 4th - 8th**

The North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE is proud to be your host for the 2008 ASPIRE Regional Conference. Mark your calendar now for October 4 - 8, and get ready for a great conference.



## *Message from the President*

Greetings fellow ASPIRE members! It is hard to believe that almost another year has passed since we met in Denver. In that time, the ASPIRE conference committee has been working very hard to plan what should be a worthwhile and enjoyable regional meeting for you this year in Fargo. I personally invite you to attend to reconnect with your colleagues; gain valuable information, skills, and knowledge to help you improve your programs and to reflect on all that we have accomplished as a TRIO community over the past year.



The theme of this year's conference is "From the Mountains to the Plains: the ASPIRE Adventure Continues." What an adventure this year has been! Since last October, we have defended our programs against various efforts to compromise their functioning such as the implementation of the Upward Bound & (UB) Absolute Priority (AP) and Evaluation. Thanks to your collective ability to express how the UB Evaluation would harm your students and your dogged persistence in communicating this with your federal policymakers, Congress passed and the President signed the "College Cost & Reduction Act" in December 2007 which included language to suspend the Evaluation. More recently, Congress completed reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, which the President signed into law on August 14, 2008. Again, because of your relentless efforts to educate your policymakers about the worth of TRIO and the need for revisions of parts of the HEA affecting our programs, the reauthorized version included a host of measures allowing us to better serve our students and expand the scope of TRIO. Specifically, this legislation

- eliminates the UB AP and Evaluation;
- extends **all** TRIO grants to five years;
- increases the minimum TRIO grant amount to \$200,000;
- allows branch campuses to apply for TRIO grants;
- creates an appeals process for unsuccessful TRIO grant applicants;
- ensures that any future evaluation of TRIO programs protects the integrity of students and institutions;
- allows TRIO grantees to target populations with particular needs including students with limited English proficiency, disabled students, homeless and foster youth, and "disconnected youth;"
- expands eligibility for Veterans UB to include older veterans who served before January 31, 1955, federal reservists who served for more than 30 days, and federal reservists called to action on or after September 11, 2001.

I commend you on raising the collective voice of ASPIRE to defend our students and programs. Well done.

The ASPIRE Executive Board has been hard at work this year as well. As I explained in my January 2008 letter, we were faced with some daunting fiscal challenges at the close of 2007 due to unexpected costs associated with our last conference. In response, we implemented cost-saving measures to reduce our reliance on the regional budget while still allowing the Board to conduct business. At the same time, we increased our efforts to generate regional funds through development activities. I am very pleased to report that both



*(Message from the President continued)*

strategies, in combination with the willingness of Board members to participate in more frequent teleconference meetings, were successful. As of August, we had eliminated the debt incurred from 2007 conference cost overruns while building a surplus budget. I commend the current Executive Board for their response to those challenges and look forward to working with incoming ASPIRE President Dan Benge and next year's Executive Board to further strengthen our region.

Lastly, I want to thank conference committee co-chairs, Dawn Eckhardt and Cheryl Kingsbury, as well as all members of the planning committee, for volunteering their time to plan what promises to be a meaningful conference in Fargo this October 5-8. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to explore the conference website (<http://www.aspireonline.org/conference/2008/index.html>) for details on the event. Additionally, please consider registering new and/or experienced staff ready to step into state or regional leadership roles for the Leadership Development Institute (LDI) that will precede the conference on Saturday, October 4, and Sunday, October 5. LDI will provide the tools newcomers and emerging leaders need to grow as TRIO professionals.

I look forward to seeing you in Fargo in a few weeks to celebrate our continuing "ASPIRE Adventure."  
Thanks for all you do for ASPIRE and TRIO.

Sincerely,

Michael Wade  
ASPIRE, INC. President





## News from North Dakota

### ASPIRE Regional Conference Highlights

Perhaps you've heard... the North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE is hosting a rather large event in a couple of weeks known as the 2008 ASPIRE Regional Conference! People from across the state of North Dakota have joined forces to pull off what we hope will be a fantastic event for all in attendance.

Among the highlights of this conference will be:

- *Keynote address by Dr. Russ McDonald, a national TRIO Achiever*
- *Performance of a traditional hoop dance by Wayne Fox*
- *TRIO Achievers Luncheon*
- *A plenary session featuring Heather Valentine, Vice President of Governmental Relations, Council for Opportunity in Education*
- *An update by Dave Megquire, COE Board Chair*
- *A reception for newcomers to ASPIRE*
- *A wide variety of workshops featuring topics to suit all programs and positions*
- *An afternoon fun run/walk*
- *Several optional excursions to choose from that will introduce you to the Fargo/Moorhead area*
- *Election of new officers for the positions of President Elect and Secretary*
- *Awards for Rising Star, Friend of ASPIRE, Champion of ASPIRE, Art Quinn, years of service, development, and the Dakota Dash Fun Run.*
- *Plus much, much more!*

Full details of the 2008 ASPIRE Regional Conference, as well as a link to registration can be found on the ASPIRE web page at: [www.aspireonline.org](http://www.aspireonline.org). On-line registration will remain open until Thursday, October 2. We look forward to being your host!

### Leadership Development Institute (LDI) at ASPIRE Conference

**Leadership Development Institute (LDI)** is opening its doors again on Saturday and Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in Fargo ND. If you have not taken the opportunity to enroll, please consider it this year!

LDI works closely with the Aspire Board to offer up-to-date information and strategies pertaining to leadership. Through the day and a half training, we provide professional development opportunities to you, the members of Aspire. We strive to strengthen governmental relations through topics pertinent to national, regional, state, and local levels of Trio.

We encourage you to join us by including LDI sessions in your on-line registration. If you are new to Trio, or would like ground roots Trio information, please sign up for the Newcomers option. If you are interested in increasing your leadership skills, enroll in the Emerging Leaders option. If you have taken one of the options previously, you may be interested in enrolling in the other option this year.

We look forward to meeting you!

## News from Wyoming

### The McNair Program: Profiling Three Exemplary Students

By Zackie Salmon,

SEO/McNair Project Coordinator, Senior and Susan Stoddard, SEO/McNair Student Advising Coordinator



**Wayne (Rusty) Reynolds** earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of South Dakota and his undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Wyoming. Rusty is currently working as a Clinical Psychologist at the Veteran's Hospital in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Rusty worked with Dr. Walt Scott with the University of Wyoming, Department of Psychology for his McNair project in 2000. The title of his project was "Examining Self-Regulation, Life Events, and Depression in American Indian Adolescents on the Wind River Indian Reservation."

Rusty came to UW as a former police officer who had faced tragedy in his life and as a non-traditional student wanted to change career fields and help Native American youth and adults who face depression and posttraumatic stress disorder issues. Rusty was a dedicated and accomplished scholar when he left UW and has continued to achieve and excel to reach his goals. In Rusty's own words, "I DID IT!!!! What a journey and to land back where I started."

**Jason Castillo** earned his Ph.D. in Social Work from Arizona State University, his MSW and BSW from the University of Wyoming. Jason is currently an Assistant Professor in the College of Social Work at the University of Utah. His research interests include U.S. social welfare policy and poverty, U.S. educational reform among Latino youth and families, and U.S. child welfare and behavioral health reform among children and families.

Jason worked with Dr. Patricia Conway formerly of the Department of Social Work at the University of Wyoming for his McNair project in 1998. The title of his project was "The outcomes for people who lived in long term foster care as adolescents." He continued to develop this interest throughout the remainder of his education.



Jason has several publications and manuscripts under review and in progress, has received external funding by his participation in the Preparing Future Faculty Program and has presented at many conferences, collaborated on several grants and built an impressive record of teaching and service.



**Dannele Peck** earned her Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University, her MS from the University of Wyoming in Agricultural and Applied Economics and her BS in Wildlife Biology. Dannele is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wyoming. Her areas of expertise are Natural Resource and Environmental Economics specifically issues related to wildlife or water and Agricultural Production under Uncertainty.

Dannele is currently working on three projects: 1) Drought preparedness in a stochastic and dynamic farm system; 2) Profitability of subsurface drip irrigated alfalfa; and 3) the Disease dynamics between livestock and wildlife. Dannele worked with Dr. James Lovvorn in the Department of Zoology & Physiology for her McNair project in 1999. Her project titled "Wetland Communities and Flood Irrigation of the Laramie Basin, Wyoming" was further developed and published in the "Environmental Management" journal in 2004.

The legislative intent of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase the diversity at the professoriate. Dannele has done this and much more.

(News from Wyoming continued)

## LCCC Students Shine in PTK *By Rachel Martinez*

SSS at LCCC is very proud to have several students involved in the Phi Theta Kappa honors society. Students inducted into PTK have to maintain above a 3.5. Not only do we have many student members being inducted, but those individuals have risen to be elected to officer positions. **Marc Miller** is the current PTK President and **Lyndsey Fenn** is the Vice President of Leadership. Under the leadership of last year's president and SSS student, **Donna Gosbee**, the chapter rose to a 5-star level. The PTK chapter at LCCC is doing an outstanding job and offers our SSS students amazing transfer and scholarship opportunities. In addition, SAGE TRIO has partnered with PTK to offer SSS students discounted to free membership.



Shelly Montgomery, SSS student at LCCC at the Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony.



Alyssa and Deni Hayes, sisters in SSS at LCCC at the Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony.



SSS Advisors and Phi Theta Kappa Students stand proud at the Induction of Officers ceremony at LCCC. Pictured in the Induction of Officers pictures is (left to right) Leslie Townsend (SSS), Donna Gosbee, Rachel Martinez (SSS), Marc Miller and Lyndsey Fenn.



(News from Wyoming continued)

## SSS Student Excels in Scholarship and Advocacy *By Rachel Martinez*

In 2003, **Donna Gosbee** was Vice President of a large mortgage company in Texas. Today she is a student at Texas A&M University, Commerce. The five-year journey in between tells a story of determination, overcoming obstacles and success. In 2003, Donna was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. “For the first year, my main concern was just learning to walk again,” she stated. But most days you would never know it; especially when this SAGE TRIO (SSS) participant at LCCC has been too busy making headlines across the USA throughout her college career. She was one of only 30 students nationwide to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship and one of only 20 community college students selected for the USA Today’s 2008 All-USA Community College Academic Team.



Gosbee made the ALL USA team out of 1500 students nominated throughout the United States. As a First Team member, she won \$2500 in cash and her name and photo appeared in the USA Today newspaper. She received this award at the American Association of Community Colleges convention in Philadelphia. When she thought she was undeserving of that award, imagine what she thought when she learned she had received the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship. This Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program honors excellence by supporting outstanding community college students with financial need as they transfer to and complete their bachelor’s degrees at the nation’s top four-year colleges and universities. The Foundation selects up to 50 community college transfer students each year and awards each scholar up to \$30,000 annually. At that moment, Donna knew she could achieve her dream to pursue her transfer educational goals. While at LCCC she joined numerous organizations and, during her term as president of LCCC’s National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa, she led the society from a three-star organization to a five-star, the highest level for PTK. Something that is not mentioned in many of the news articles is the fact that, at one point, Donna was sure she would not be able to attend college because of a lack of financial aid. She credits SAGE TRIO and Director Sher Warren with giving her the first scholarship that kept her in school. In addition, when TRIO needed help, Donna took matters into her own hands and, within a couple hours, had the signatures of 150 students in support of the College Cost Reduction Act.

For two years running, Donna was chosen by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to represent Wyoming at public policy conferences in Washington, DC, where she met with senators and congressional staff. She has also served on the Mayor’s Council for People with Disabilities and helped with the local YMCA MS Swim Therapy program. She is a support group leader for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and chaired an American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Donna has since transferred to Texas A&M-Commerce City where she will pursue studies in political science, public policy and law. Donna is one to watch and a TRIO Achiever in the making.



## News from South Dakota

### SDSU SSS Program Begins Tutor Certification *By: Kayte Haggerty, Retention Advisor, TRiO SSS, South Dakota State University*

TRiO SSS at South Dakota State University is proud to announce that their tutoring program is now certified! We are certified through College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), which is an international tutoring certification program. After some extensive research and feedback from other nationwide tutoring programs, we found CRLA to be the most popular and creditable certification program.

After a lengthy application process, TRiO SSS Tutors began earning level I (Regular) certification in the fall of 2006. We conducted level I training and certification for one academic year. At that time we decided to apply for level 2 (Advanced) certification as well, which we began in the fall of 2007. We are now in the process of level 3 (Master) certification.

Training our tutors has been a combined effort with TRiO SSS and the College of General Studies, who facilitate our campus-wide tutoring program. We don't just meet with our tutors occasionally throughout the semester to complete the minimum 10 hours of training, we have created an academic course titled "Applied Peer Assistant Training." The course is held once per week for 50 minutes and is a requirement of all of our tutors. They have the option to take it for zero to three credits. In addition to training, the tutors are required to complete a minimum of 25 actual tutoring hours. Most of our tutors are able to complete one level of certification per semester without a problem.

The certification application process is a long one, but the rewards are great! We feel that being a certified Tutoring program on SDSU's campus gives TRiO SSS more credibility. This is something that we are very proud of. Certification has developed the tutoring portion of our program incredibly. We find we are hiring more qualified and dedicated tutors now. In addition, our participants seem to be more satisfied with the quality of their tutoring sessions, which keeps them returning for more!

This process is something that I would recommend to any tutoring program that is looking to create more structure, earn campus credibility, and improve their overall TRiO program.

If you are interested in learning more about what the certification process entails, we would recommend researching the CRLA website. In addition, we would be happy to answer any questions you may have via email or telephone. Happy Tutoring!





*(News from South Dakota continued)*

## TRIO QUEST: Opportunity for TRIO Students *By Brad James*

### **Introduction and Overview**

The TRIO Quest is operated by the University of Washington's TRIO Training Program.

Three major student-based activities are included in TRIO Quest: TRIO ThinkQuest, the PhotoEssay and Media Quest.

### **TRIO ThinkQuest Overview**

The TRIO ThinkQuest provides a highly motivating opportunity for students to work collaboratively in teams to learn as they create materials and teach others. TRIO ThinkQuest challenges learners to create high quality, innovative and content-rich educational web sites that meet high standards of intellectual honesty.

The purpose of the activity is to:

- promote learning 21st century research skills and techniques
- encourage original writing, multimedia content creation, and presentation of educational material,
- create the occasion for students to learn collaboration skills, and
- promote the Internet Style of Learning - an interactive, participatory approach that encourages students to take advantage of the Internet as a source of information and a powerful collaborative tool.

Students work in teams of three to six to build web sites that could be used as learning tools by other students.

The backbone of the experience is teamwork, as members bring to their team their talents and desire to learn to their team. A major objective is to introduce students to the challenges of conducting and expressing solid academic research through the exciting tools offered through the web. In this endeavor, students will learn the value of intellectual honesty and the care that needs to be taken to properly cite their sources and apply the Fair Use Rules to education-based projects. Students and TRIO programs learn to apply the Fair Use standards of using images, audio, text, and other media in an educational project. There should be no advertising on any material that students create.

TRIO ThinkQuest is an activity open to pre-college students ages 12-19 who are active participants in an Upward Bound, Talent Search Program, or EOC Program. There are no fees to participate in the TRIO ThinkQuest activity. Significant resources are available from TRIO Quest to help get students, staff and programs started, provide guidance throughout the process, host students' sites, and acknowledge the top sites of the year.



*(TRIO Quest continued)*

## **PhotoEssay Overview**

The PhotoEssay activity provides a short, simple, creative activity for all TRIO students. It is an effective way to:

1. introduce students to the compelling interaction possible between text and image,
2. introduce students to image manipulation,
3. provide students a chance to be published on the Web,
4. promote a better understanding of intellectual honesty and citation, and
5. encourage research, reflection, and creative work by TRIO students.

The Photo Essay is open to all TRIO students in all TRIO programs. It is an activity in which students create their own individual PhotoEssay, with appropriate support and direction by staff and other advisors.

## **Media Quest Overview**

The Media Quest activity provides multimedia activities for all TRIO students. It is an activity in which students create and post their own individual audio or video projects.

Media Quest, with appropriate support and direction by staff and other advisors, is an effective way for students to:

- develop the skills and knowledge to effectively use media for educational purposes
- learn how to find and use cost-effective multimedia tools
- learn to understand issues of intellectual honesty and how to properly cite and ask for permission to use the work of others
- learn how to use multimedia for artistic purposes, to make persuasive arguments, or to support the presentation of research
- learn to understand their audience and responsibly produce material that allows effective communication with diverse groups

For more information go to <http://depts.washington.edu/trio/quest/overview.html>

## News from Montana

### FVCC TRIO SSS Welcomes New Disabilities Specialist



Flathead Valley Community College TRIO SSS extends a warm welcome to **Anna San Diego**, new Disabilities Specialist in the Learning Resource Center. Anna is a Wisconsin native, talented flamingo dancer, retired vintage house renovator, and experienced world traveler who has visited the Philippines, Japan, Spain, Mexico and the Middle East. A former UW– Madison student, Anna has a Masters in Rehabilitation Psychology. Anna started her career in higher education at Marquette University as their tutoring program coordinator. She then worked at University of Wisconsin Waukesha in the position of pre-college coordinator and multi-cultural advisor and recruiter. And then at University of Wisconsin Milwaukee as an academic advisor

### MSU-Billings Upward Bound Launches Floating Islands

This past summer, students in the MSU-Billings Upward Bound program focused their studies on the environment. One area of focus was on improving water quality through biohaven floating islands created by Floating Islands International. “BioHaven floating islands are buoyant mats, planted like a garden and launched onto a waterway. They are made from a matrix of fibers which look like a pot-scrub or loofah. The matrix is filtration material made from 100% recycled plastic, from drink bottles, which use the most inert plastic available. Layers of matrix are bonded together with foam, which also provides buoyancy.”

After several days of learning about the biohavens and launching several smaller versions at the Floating Island International compound, ten students were selected to launch an island in the Helena Fair Grounds. Senator Max Baucus arrived to christen the island.

In addition, two students spent their summer interning with the organization and became certified Island Masters. For more information about Floating Islands and the launch, visit their website at:

[http://www.floatingislandinternational.com/fi\\_pages.php?name=m60](http://www.floatingislandinternational.com/fi_pages.php?name=m60)



Senator Max Baucus third from left.



## Important Dates and Upcoming Events *Courtesy of Amy Verlanic*

- October 1** Start of ASPIRE 2009 Fairshare Year (Time to renew personal membership and make personal donations as well as renew project membership.)
- October 4 and 5** ASPIRE Board Meeting, Fargo, ND  
Leadership Development Institute, Fargo ND
- October 5-8** ASPIRE Regional Conference, Fargo ND
- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>– Nov. 2** COE's Legislation and Regulations Training for TRIO Managers, Arlington, VA
- November 28** Educational Talent Search, Students Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Centers  
APR Deadline
- December 1** Deadline for every state to submit for COE's State Initiative/Outreach Grants
- December 7-13** COE Board Meeting, San Juan, PR
- January** ASPIRE Board Meeting (exact date and location TBA)
- January 16** APR Deadline for UB, UBMS, and VUB projects to Dept. of Education.
- February** COE's Legislation and Regulations Training for TRIO Managers (exact date and location TBA)
- February 3-5** Montana State Chapter of ASPIRE State Meeting, Helena, MT
- February 20** Colorado State Chapter of ASPIRE State Meeting
- February 26** National TRIO Day
- March** COE's Legislation and Regulations Training for UB TRIO Managers (exact date and location TBA)
- March 11-13** Utah State Meeting



(Important Dates and Upcoming Events continued)

- March 21-22** COE Leadership Summit, Washington, DC
- March 22-24** COE Policy Seminar, Washington, DC
- March 25** Seminar on Relations with Dept. of Education, Washington, DC
- April** Legislation and Regulations Training for TRIO Managers (exact date and location TBA)
- April** North Dakota State Meeting (exact date and location TBA)
- April 6 and 7** South Dakota State Meeting, South Dakota ASPIRE, Mitchell, SD
- April 20-21** *Wyoming State Meeting*
- April 20-24** National Veterans Upward Bound Annual Conference, South Padre Island, TX
- April 30** Deadline for state associations to submit nominations for the COE State Excellence Awards
- May** ASPIRE Board Meeting (exact date and location TBA)
- May** COE's Legislation and Regulations Training for UB TRIO Managers (exact date and location TBA)
- May 19-22** COE Board Meeting, Washington, DC
- June 30** End of COE 2009 Fairshare Year (Last day to make personal contributions)
- July 1** Start of COE 2010 Fairshare Year (Time to renew Institutional Memberships, Subscription Packages and make personal contributions.)
- September 9th-12** COE Annual Conference Grand Hyatt, San Antonio, TX
- September 30** End of ASPIRE 2009 Fairshare and Membership Year (Last day to make personal contributions or renew personal and project memberships)