



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, INC.

TRiO

January—April 2009

October 3-7, 2009

Conference Website
www.aspireonline.org



A very great vision is needed and the man who has it must follow it as the eagle seeks the deepest blue of the sky."
- Crazy Horse

Mt. Rushmore



Deadwood



Spearfish Canyon



ASPIRE 2009

Registration begins in JUNE



Message from the President

Good Day ASPIRE!

I hope you all had a good spring semester and are as excited about the warmer weather as I am! I'm sorry that I was unable to attend your state meetings this spring. I really would have enjoyed participating and learning first hand about your state and the various projects that you are working on. I want to thank Yolie Kernes, South Dakota State President, and Derek Sporbert, North Dakota State President, for allowing me to participate via video conference. Thank you to Ryan Ross and Michael Wade for speaking on my behalf at your respective state meetings. I would have enjoyed the opportunity to participate, mingle with colleagues and observe what is happening in your states but as you are clearly aware the ASPIRE board is still striving to restore our financial position and your confidence. Although the future of the association looks promising, I still feel we need to be financially cautious for obvious reasons.



As a region I think we have done a commendable job. Here are a few highlights!

- Currently, our regional budget is at \$37,505 and the amount in the state accounts is roughly \$59,500.
- ASPIRE is currently at 108% of our national fair share and four states have already achieved 100% or better (Utah, Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota).
- This year, 1/3 of the State Initiative grants were won by ASPIRE States. Colorado, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota each received grants totaling \$2,950.00
- 66% of TRIO projects in the region provided APR data for the first regional data sheet. This is a first attempt and next year a sub-committee will be in place to continue this yearly project.
- LDI is undergoing some changes under the leadership of Oscar Felix, Andrea Reeve and Kathy Felker, and will prove to be a positive and memorable experience. I encourage you to allow your newest staff members and those who need to be re-energized to participate in this inexpensive yet valuable experience.
- The regional conference in Spearfish, South Dakota is shaping up to be an incredible professional development opportunity, giving you the chance to learn from your colleagues, become immersed in the local culture, and to renew your own spirit and personal commitment to yourself and others. Cody McMichael and his team are working real hard to give each and everyone one of you an experience you'll remember for years to come.



ASPIRATIONS

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Message from the president continued

- The push at Policy Seminar was to ask for a \$120 million dollar increase to TRIO to rebuild the base and expand to serve students. Collins-Lincoln amendment #883 expressed a priority for TRIO in the appropriations process and 7/12 Senators in the ASPIRE region signed the amendment.
- Dawn Eckhardt coordinated the ETS Task Force to address concerns that changes in HEOA will have on Talent Search programs.

The board just wrapped up the Spring meeting and state and committee reports are posted on the web site. Please take the time to read about all the good things that have happened in the states and our region. I appreciate the time, energy and effort given by so many of you in our region to help ASPIRE, Inc be one of the finest regions in the country. Have a great summer and we'll see you in Spearfish!

Warmest Regards,

Dan





Committee Reports

ASPIRE Development Committee *By Carol Gritts*

COE FAIR SHARE

As of May 2009, **ASPIRE achieved 108% of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Fair Share** for their Fiscal Year (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). ASPIRE was the first Region to achieve 100%. **THANKS** to all who participated in the COE Fair Share by paying an Institutional Membership, purchasing a Publication Package Subscription, and making a Personal Donation.

ASPIRE FAIR SHARE

The **FOCUS** now needs to be on **ASPIRE Fair Share**. This means paying the **ASPIRE PROJECT MEMBERSHIP** if you have not done so. The Project Membership is only \$100 and can be paid with project funds. The information below indicates the participation level for all the states in the ASPIRE Region. The current Development Year is September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009. It would be so wonderful to be able to report 100% participation in ASPIRE Fair Share on August 31.

PARTICIPATION TO DATE

Colorado – Of 42 Projects, 9 have paid a Project Membership (21%)

Montana – Of 29 Projects, 20 have paid a Project Membership (71%)

North Dakota – Of 17 Projects, 5 have paid a Project Membership (29%)

South Dakota – Of 14 Projects, 7 have paid a Project Membership (50%)

Utah – Of 27 Projects, 8 have paid a Project Membership (29%)

Wyoming – Of 11 Projects, 10 have paid a Project Membership (90%)

In addition, hopefully **ALL** personnel in the ASPIRE Region will consider making a Personal Donation. Although some individuals will give more, if all TRIO personnel in the Region gave \$10, \$15, \$20, or \$25, it would raise over \$5,000 for ASPIRE.



ASPIRE Development Committee continued

It is important that TRIO personnel support ASPIRE so that the organization can continue to provide:

- High quality professional development opportunities at the Annual ASPIRE Conference,
- Partial support of State Presidents to attend the COE Policy Seminar,
- Support for the ASPIRE Executive Board to meet twice a year to carry out ASPIRE Business. Because of the precarious financial situation which ASPIRE faced last year and this year, meetings were held via conference call. Although the Board carried on business, it was less than an ideal situation.
- Support of ASPIRE Presidents in their role of representing TRIO Programs at the Regional and National levels. Because they represent all of us in the Region, they should no longer have to reach in to their wallets to carry out their responsibilities as Presidents of the association.

COE INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The amount of the COE Institutional Membership will increase next year. The increase may seem like a large amount. However, COE has not increased the amount for several years, and has been forced to cut staff in recent years to be able to operate and provide continued and increased services to TRIO Programs. We all know that without the efforts of COE:

- That there would be some TRIO Programs without funding,
- That Upward Bound would be held accountable for the requirements of the Absolute Priority and that 187 Upward Bound Programs would no longer have funding,
- That Prior Experience Points would not have been and would not be awarded fairly to some programs,
- That we would not have had representation with Congress and the Department of Education pertaining to legislative revisions,
- That we would not have had appropriation increases,
- That programs would only be funded for four years rather than all programs receiving five year grants, ETC., ETC., ETC.



Time to Donate to the ASPIRE Fair Share Campaign

Support of both ASPIRE and COE by TRIO programs and personnel is essential if the organizations are going to provide services to ensure that legislation and funding continue to be in the best interest of TRIO programs, and more importantly in the best interest of the students served by TRIO Programs.

Every member of ASPIRE has an opportunity to contribute. Your support ensures that ASPIRE will continue to advance access and educational opportunity for TRIO students in our region.

As a member of ASPIRE, I want to **Advance Access in ASPIRE** by pledging a personal donation of \$_____ during the Development Year 2008-2009.

Please check payment option:

I have attached a check.

I would prefer to pay by credit card with a one time payment.

I would prefer automatic monthly withdrawals on my credit card.

For credit card payments, please complete the following information:

Name, as it appears on credit card: _____

Billing address for credit card (including Zip Code): _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

I would like my donations to begin the 1st of _____ and end on the 1st of _____.

The total number of months will be _____.

The amount should be \$_____ per month. Total donation should be \$_____.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Program: _____

Institution: _____

Submit this form and your contribution to:

Carol Gritts

Upward Bound Unit 9516

1200 University Street

Black Hills State University

Spearfish, SD 57799-9516

Telephone: 605-642-6120

Email: CarolGritts@bhsu.edu

PLEASE NOTE: _____ Check here if you do not wish to receive a token of appreciation for your donation.



Elections Committee *By Elaine Metcalfe*

Hello Aspire! This year the Aspire Elections Committee has begun a few new processes to expand communications about leadership in the region and get folks thinking about the possibility of their serving in that capacity. First, a survey was sent to TRIO administrators, to gather input about what is already in existence in this area as well as ideas for enhancement. THANK YOU to the twenty administrators who responded! There were some great ideas not only for our committee to use, but also for other Aspire committees who work in leadership development and communication areas. The survey responses were synthesized and submitted to the Aspire Board for their review.

Our committee works mainly in the area of encouraging members to serve as Aspire officers, and our first communication this year was a simple message to members about the two officer positions up for election this year (President-Elect and Treasurer), along with names and contact information of current officers, so that members could contact them for more information about the positions. Our next move is updating the officer position descriptions with more general information regarding how those positions are actually implemented (time and travel estimates, reports required of position, now Aspire finances travel, etc.).

This summer those descriptions will be sent out to all Aspire members, along with the call for nominations. The committee will follow up that message with telephone calls to state presidents and TRIO administrators across the region to encourage nominations and communicate with Aspire members about the personal satisfaction and professional development gained through service.

If anyone out there has suggestions or ideas for our committee please feel free to contact me at elainemetcalfe@mail.und.nodak.edu or (701) 777-3819.



News from South Dakota

Developing our Strengths and Nourishing our Inner Super Hero — South Dakota State ASPIRE Meeting April 5-7, 2009

TRIO staff from across the great state of South Dakota gathered in Mitchell to develop their strengths and nourish their inner super hero. The preconference networking opportunity, 80's Power Hour, set the tone for the enthusiastic group. Strong bonds were formed during a competitive hula hoop contest, 80's power ballads, 80's trivia and a serious game of Taboo.

The Keynote **Super Hero: From Survival to Success...to Super!** presented by Diana Goldammer from DWU focused on becoming a super hero with balance, endurance, strength and flexibility. Some ways to find **balance** in life is by strengthening support networks and celebrating successes. Increase **endurance** by simplifying life and setting goals. **Strength** comes from asking for what you need and learning to say no. Deciding to be positive and seeing failures as learning adventures leads to **flexibility**.

The strength theme continued as DWU Campus Counselor Sally Wickware-Thompson presented Implementing Your Strengths and Talents. The session helped the group discover how natural abilities and talents develop into strengths and how making decisions from an attitude of strength can increase success at almost any task. DWU Director of the Center for Talent Development Jacki Larson also presented information about how to utilize Gallop's "Strengths" program within an educational program.



South Dakota ASPIRE members looking Totally Rad with big hair, Zumba pants, side ponytails, stirrup pants, and tight rolled jeans



Show your Super Hero pose ladies



South Dakota State Meeting Continued

Other professional development sessions included: An overview of the various components of Heiberg's Student Access system presented by DWU SSS Data Specialist Angie Van Pelt; Referrals for Mental Health Issues presented by DWU Campus Counselor Sally Wickware-Thompson; Implementing a Successful Tutoring and Mentoring Program presented by DWU SSS Tutor and Mentor Coordinator Tina Hartley and SDSU SSS Tutor Coordinator Kayte Haggerty; Successful Event Programming presented by DWU TRIO Peer Mentors; Motivating Students best practices, program specific, round table session; You Can't Run Your Program Through a Listserv, utilizing federal dollars according to Regs & Legs presented by Prince Teal; Career Cruising My Portfolio Training for UB and TS staff presented by Pam Tiefenthaler.



Yoga Break: time to recharge



Overview of Heiberg's Student Access

Regional ASPIRE President Dan Benge addressed the group via video conference as did Heather Valentine & Kimberly Jones of COE. Program Officer(s) Wendy Lawrence & Rachael Couch answered many questions regarding SSS, UB and TS programs via tele-conference.



Asking questions of Program Officers Wendy Lawrence and Rachael Couch

News from South Dakota Continued

Black Hills State University

National TRIO Day, 2009, was celebrated at Black Hills State University on Monday, February 23. The Upward Bound and Student Support Services staff invited faculty, staff, and students on campus to “Play the TRIO Game.” All they had to do was spin the TRIO wheel (built by Cody McMichael), “talk TRIO” with the BHSU TRIO staff, and pick out their prize. A lot of information was shared and a number of students submitted applications for the Student Support Services program.



TRIO Staff at BHSU (Above, L to R): Susan Hupp, Director of SSS; Carol Gritts, Director of UB; Cody McMichael, Assistant Director of SSS & Math Specialist; Peggy Madrid, SSS Retention Advisor; Juli Larson, Science Specialist.



Students learning about TRIO with Peggy Madrid, SSS, and Susan Hupp, SSS.



Hilary Hammond, SSS intern; interested BHSU students; Carol Gritts, UB; Peggy Madrid, SSS.



SSS student Travis Langer; Juli Larson, SSS; SSS student Jody Antonsen; Carol Gritts, UB.

News from South Dakota Continued

Dakota Wesleyan University

A busy semester for the Dakota Wesleyan University TRIO SSS

January:

Whaddya Mean that's Plagiarism? Writing Center Specialist Gretchen Rich presented on how to use sources, how to document them, and how to present ideas that connect theory to practice.

Facebook Presentation. Invaluable information presented by TRIO Peer Mentors Laura Guericke and Renée Butler. Students learned the Facebook do's and don'ts, and how to keep a profile friendly, safe, and private.

February:

College Student Mocha. Presented by TRIO Peer Mentors Kelsie Nebelsick and Rosebud Haukaas. Students learned effective ways for college students to make the most of their money.



Using Your STRENGTHS to Get Ahead! Presented by Campus Counselor Sally Wickware-Thompson and TRIO Peer Mentors. Students identified their personal talents and learned ways to incorporate them into everyday lifestyles.





News from Dakota Wesleyan University Continued

Around the World Cultural Festival. All DWU students and the campus community were invited to experience many cultures through food, art, music, and more.

March

Successful Interviewing Strategies Workshop. Kate Miller and Tina Hartley presented résumé and cover letter tips as well as strategies to ensure a successful interview process. Workshop participants also participated in individualized ½ hr panel interviews with TRIO staff and professionals from the community.



Classroom Do's and Don'ts Presentation. TRIO Peer Mentors John Olson and Alan Swartz presented a reminder of classroom do's and don'ts. Students learned about good classroom etiquette and forming positive relationships with professors.

April

Smart Summertime Strategies. TRIO Peer Mentors Heather Love and Derric Ludens presented smart summer strategies such as finding a good job, keeping your mind sharp and keeping your body healthy.



"Mind, Spirit & Dodgeball". The TRIO Peer Mentors hosted an entertaining night of dodge ball, along with giving tips to help students manage their physical and mental stress at the end of a busy semester.





News from South Dakota Continued

Northern State University

Northern State University Upward Bound Incentive Trip

Throughout the academic year, our UB students strive to do their best. In order to recognize those students who have worked hard and achieved academically during the school year, we reward their efforts on our NSU UB Incentive Trip. On February 21 – 22, twenty-six NSU UB students participated in the 2008-2009 Incentive Trip to Fargo, ND. The trip started off with a unique, multicultural-themed visit to the North Dakota State University campus. The visit included: an admissions presentation, a look at the multicultural clubs and organizations on campus, a Q & A session with current NDSU students, a campus tour and a complimentary lunch! It was great for our students to see the campus “in action” and get a feel for college life as the NDSU Bison know it! Following the NDSU visit, we spent some time at the West Acres mall, enjoyed a fun-filled supper at Space Aliens and headed off to cheer on the Fargo Force hockey team. We are proud of our students and enjoyed celebrating their academic accomplishments with them.



University of South Dakota

Dupree Students Attended 2009 House and Senate Sessions in Pierre, the SD State Capitol, and also the 2009 Business Day.

Cheyenne River Talent Search was grateful to be able to take advantage of an offer by the Cheyenne River Chamber of Commerce. Roxie Holloway wrote a grant to send students to the 2009 Business Day at the SD Legislature that allowed our program to let students participate in this rare opportunity free of charge. TS high school participants received an insight into the advantages and methods of starting their own business on the Cheyenne River Reservation or elsewhere in the state. Students attended a general business meeting at the Wakpa Cica (Bad Creek) Historical Society, listened to legislative updates, participated in the Fifth Annual Business Caucus luncheon and program, watched a session of the House and one of the Senate, and attended an evening banquet at the Ramkota Inn. They sat with the representatives of their district and were able to

News from University of South Dakota Continued

discuss issues with them. Alex Alpach, a junior, commented “It was interesting because we got to see the new Cheyenne River website and we learned more about the passing of bills by seeing things in actions.” All in all, this was a rewarding experience for the students and made them better prepared to be socially and politically involved in their communities as educated and active adults.



News from University of South Dakota Continued

The University of South Dakota TRIO Programs held their annual TRIO Day Open House on Thursday, February 26. An invitation was extended to campus faculty and staff to join the TRIO students during the afternoon event. Six door prizes were awarded to TRIO students who attended.



Calvin Krogman, MSIP Assistant Director, makes a point about math properties to TRIO student Ryan Thaler, former MSIP student and current ROTC cadet.

On May 7, the SSS program provided a pizza lunch and dessert for students and staff during which they visited about the school year and plans for the summer. SSS also collaborated with other departments in hosting a ceremony to honor the Native American graduates. Two TRIO SSS graduates, Damon Leader Charge and Danielle Ducheneaux participated in the ceremony that included the presentation of a stole and an honor song. Damon was also chosen as one of two seniors to share a few words about his journey through USD. Danielle was able to use the ceremony to receive her Indian name and eagle plume. The honoring ceremony drew a large audience of parents, faculty and staff.

Three senior students in USD Upward Bound or Math/Science received the GATES Scholarship for the 2009-10 school year. The two Ubers also received a Horatio Alger Scholarship and the MSIP student also received a Dell Scholarship. The success of these and other students is attributed to the emphasis that is placed on the scholarship application process by their respective programs.

Eleven of the USD TRIO staff attended the SD Aspire Conference in April. The staff benefited from a variety of excellent workshops as well as interacting with the staff from the other TRIO programs. A major topic of discussion centered on Talent Search students moving over to Upward Bound or UB Math/Science programs and how this impacts TS programs.

News from Wyoming

Wyoming Educational Access Day a Big Success *By Rachel Martinez*

Around 60 students and professional staff from Wyoming TRIO and GEAR-UP programs participated in Wyoming Educational Access Day in conjunction with National TRIO Day on Feb 26, 2009 at the State Capitol and Mayor's office as a way to celebrate the success of our statewide and local TRIO and GEAR-UP Programs. The day started off with a legislative workshop designed to orient students, parents and staff to the process of the legislature, empower them to become active participants in the lawmaking process, particularly regarding education, and history on National TRIO and Wyoming Educational Access Day. Then the students, staff and parents visited the House and Senate where they were introduced in both chambers. After watching the House and Senate in action, the local TRIO and GEAR UP programs visited Cheyenne Mayor Rick Kaysen's office to hear some words of inspiration and to witness the mayoral proclamation signing of Wyoming Educational Access Day. Finally, the day culminated with Governor Dave Freudenthal signing the statewide Wyoming Educational Access Day proclamation. In fact, there were too many participants to fit into his conference room so he had to sign it in the Capitol rotunda. As in years before, each legislator, the governor and mayor received a goodie bag filled with donated snacks and material on the TRIO and GEAR UP statewide programs. During the lunch, University of Wyoming TRIO participants had lunch with Representative Cathy Connolly, Women's Studies professor at the University of Wyoming and house democrat.

Melanie, McClintock, student at the University of Wyoming stated, "Being able to visit the capital was an amazing experience. It's one thing to learn about the legislation in class, but being able to witness it really solidified the process in my mind."



Left to right: Terra Dailey, Maria Simental, Governor Dave Freudenthal, Jeremy Guzman and Melanie McClintock



Left to right: Melanie McClintock, Jeremy Guzman, Sandy Straley, Susan Stoddard, Maria Simental, Terra Dailey



TRIO and GEAR UP students from around the State gather with Governor Dave Freudenthal in the Capitol Rotunda for the proclamation signing of Wyoming Educational Access Day.



News from Wyoming continued

LCCC SAGE TRIO Scholarship Reception

March 2009

The SSS project (SAGE TRIO) at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, WY, provides eligible students with grant-in-aid awards each March, which we call SAGE TRIO Scholarships. This year marked the 9th annual reception in which we honored our students for their dedication to their educational goals despite financial constraints. We awarded 63 students with \$400 scholarships.

SAGE TRIO works very closely with the LCCC Financial Aid Director, Dennis Schroeder, to ensure that our students can receive their scholarship as cash or as payment toward current semester loans. The reception is attended by students and their families and friends, as well as college administrators, Board of Trustee members, and Congressional Field Representatives for Representative Lummis and Senators Enzi and Barasso.

This year our theme was “It Is Not Enough”, to emphasize the importance of outside scholarships for the academic success of our students. We asked VIP’s to listen to our students’ stories and to carry these stories to their network of colleagues who make policy decisions, who serve in legislative capacities, and who are potential donors, thus encouraging donations to scholarships for first generation students. We asked families and friends to continue to provide encouragement and support to their student and to go a bit further: do the dishes once more each week or take the kids one more evening to allow the students to complete homework. And we asked our students to tell their stories to potential scholarship donors and Congressional leaders to ensure that future first generation students have the support they will need to success in college.

SAGE TRIO Director, Sher Warren, noted that TRIO was created by Congress in 1965 as part of President Lynden Baine Johnson’s war on poverty, because education was and is the road out of poverty. “And here we are today, 45 years later, with students still at or near poverty, still struggling to reach their educational goals. We cannot afford to give up on the war on poverty or the dream that education is the road out of poverty. We must find ways to increase educational funding by telling our stories, effecting policy, and finding more ways to help our students reach their full academic potential.”

SAGE student, Lyndi Borjeson, receives Certificate of Scholarship from LCCC President, Dr. Darrel Hammon





News from Wyoming continued

SAGE TRIO Celebrates 4th Annual Graduation & Transfer Ceremony

By Rachel Martinez, SSS Advisor

The Student Support Services program at Laramie County Community College celebrated its 4th Annual Graduation & Transfer Ceremony on May 15, 2009. SAGE (Students Achieving Goals in Education) celebrated 20 graduates and/or transfer students with an evening of remembrance, tribute and celebration.

Matt Pope, President of First Interstate Bank in Cheyenne, was the guest speaker for the evening. He spoke about being first generation and the importance of being mentored and giving back. He shared his journey from being an LCCC community college student to President of a bank. He sits on LCCC's Foundation Board and has been an advocate of improving opportunities for families and quality of life in the Cheyenne community. Shelly Montgomery, a SAGE participant and student graduating from LCCC in Nursing, was our student guest speaker for the evening. She focused her talk on overcoming obstacles and why brick walls exist. Shelly talked to the students about how she balanced a family, work and giving back to the community while completing a rigorous nursing curriculum.



SAGE Students Tami Smith and Shelly Montgomery (student guest speaker for the evening)

Another highlight of the ceremony is when SAGE honors our "Friends of TRIO." The FOT award is given yearly to outstanding faculty or staff members that go above and beyond throughout the year to support TRIO students. The FOT's are chosen by the SAGE staff and from student recommendations. This year's recipients were Mary Connor, Admissions Technician; Kevin Kilty, Instructor of Math/Engineering/Physics; Dennis Schroeder, Director of Scholarships/Financial Aid; and Crystal Stratton, Instructor of Communications. In addition, many VIP's attended including LCCC President Dr. Darrel Hammon, Vice President of Instruction Dr. Marlene Tignor, and LCCC Board of Trustee members George McIlvaine and Tony Mendoza. In addition, the local representative for Senator Barrasso's office, Jamie Gronski, also attended and presented the students a congratulatory letter from the Senator. Many staff, faculty and family turned out to support the students, too. The graduates were presented with a certificate of accomplishment and a SAGE TRIO commemorative gift.



Director Sher Warren, Advisor Leslie Townsend, SAGE Student Tammy Borjeson, and Advisor Rachel Martinez



SAGE Advisor Leslie Townsend with her student Jeanetta Hersom.

News from Montana

TRIO Programs Join to Celebrate TRIO Day *By Michelle Watson*

TRIO Programs from MSU-Billings and MSU-Northern, Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Veteran's Upward Bound, and the Educational Opportunity Center joined forces with the MSU-Billings Office of Community Involvement, Fed Ex and Family Service, Inc. of Billings to host **Helping Our Neighbors in Need**.

Throughout February barrels were placed on the MSU-Billings campus, most of the local middle and high schools, the Lincoln Center, and Fed Ex locations to collect food and clothing for families in need in the Billings community. Along with the barrels, student and staff volunteers placed flyers on houses in the residential area around the MSU-Billings campus announcing that volunteers would be going door to door at a later date to collect food and clothing donations.

This activity culminated for TRIO Day on February 21st at the Alterowitz Gym at MSU-Billings. From 1-3pm some volunteers sorted food and clothing that had been collected throughout the month, some were at stationed at all of the Albertsons' locations in Billings, and some went door to door collecting additional donations. At 3pm everyone gathered outside the gymnasium and loaded a Family Service truck and a van with what seemed like a never ending amount of food and clothing donations. Volunteers wrapped up the day with refreshments, a TRIO Day Proclamation given by Jani McCall from the Mayor's office, and a special thank you from the director of Family Service, Paul Chinberg. Jim Corson from Senator Max Baucus' office was in attendance along with nearly 75 current TRIO students, alumni, staff, college students, and community volunteers. The day was a huge success!



News from Montana continued

FVCC TRIO/SSS Celebrates National TRIO Day on February 25

On February 25 FVCC TRIO/SSS celebrated National TRIO day with food and inspirational stories. Russ Lamson started things off with an overview of National TRIO Day. Next up, Dan Voermans gave an overview of TRIO and TRIO Programs. The rest of FVCC TRIO/SSS Staff then introduced themselves and explained what services they provide. The highlight of the event was the guest speakers made up of six current and former TRIO Students. They each told their story and how TRIO services have helped them. Student speakers included former TRIO student Lori Nicholas. Lori was the first student to receive the Outstanding Student Award from the Academic Reinforcement Center (now TRIO/SSS) at FVCC. Lori went on to earn her teaching degree and taught in public schools for several years and has now come full circle as a new adjunct math instructor for FVCC. Other speakers included current FVCC students Roger Diller, Laura Boles, Barb Cook, and Neil Moore. Also to speak was former UB student, and current FVCC student, Britney Mickelson. All present were touched and inspired by the personal stories and accomplishments of the guest speakers.



L-R: Lori Nicholas, Barb Cook, Neil Moore, Laura Boles, Roger Diller, Britney Mickelson

FVCC TRIO/SSS Program Responds to Huge Lay-offs By Lynn Farris

The Flathead Valley in Montana has suffered huge lay-offs since December, with the county's unemployment rate rising to nearly 13%. Many of these workers qualify for the TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) program through the Job Service. The TAA program covers the cost of training programs including tuition, fees, and books for eligible workers. This has increased FVCC's enrollment by 20%.

In response to the remedial needs of these non-traditional aged students, most enrolling in college for the first time, FVCC and the TRIO/SSS program teamed up to offer special late-starting classes in reading, writing, and math. TRIO/SSS also offered a Transition to College course for these students.

Instructors have commented on what a pleasure it is to teach these classes. "They come to class early; they're prepared; they do their homework – and at the end of class they say 'Thank you'!" These students are highly motivated and view college as their new job.

After completing a semester of preparatory study, these students will be ready to begin their various programs. They'll be prepared for the expectations of regular college classes and will have mapped out their academic success plans for the next two years. This has been an excellent example of the college, the community, and state agencies working together.

If your state has a similar program, I'd love to share our story with you as well as hear yours. You can email me at lfarris@fvcc.edu.



News from Colorado

The Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE will be hosting its third annual Adult-Postsecondary Education Conference from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on June 8th. The conference will be held in the historic Tivoli Center on the Auraria Campus in downtown Denver, Colorado. This conference is aimed at providing an opportunity for TRIO professionals that work with adult and postsecondary students to share successful strategies, discuss current affairs, and network. While this conference is geared towards the SSS, McNair, VUB, and EOC programs, all professional staff interested in promoting higher education access to disadvantaged individuals are welcome to attend.

This year, the conference committee has lined up some great speakers, workshops, and roundtable discussions. The Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, David Skaggs, will be presenting an update on the status of higher education in Colorado. Workshops will be presented in the areas of Relations with the Department of Education, Career Identification, Staff Development, and much more. Also, round tables will be hosted for program areas to discuss current topics of interest such as upcoming grant competitions, annual performance reports, and critical issues.

Please join us for this great conference; registration is only \$50 for ASPIRE members and onsite registration is available. Contact Derek Grubb at Derek.Grubb@TrinidadState.edu or 719-846-5556 for more information or registration forms.





Important Dates and Upcoming Events Courtesy of Amy Verlanic

- June 8** Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE 3rd Annual Adult-Postsecondary Education Conference, Tivoli Center on the Auraria Campus in downtown Denver, Colorado
- 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)
- October 3-7** ASPIRE Regional Conference, Spearfish, South Dakota