



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, INC.

TRiO

May-August 2010

WINDS OF CHANGE: ENERGIZING FOR THE FUTURE

**ASPIRE 2010
OCTOBER 9-13**

**Little America Hotel and Resort
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

**Detailed Conference
Information On
Page 1!**

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AMERICA**
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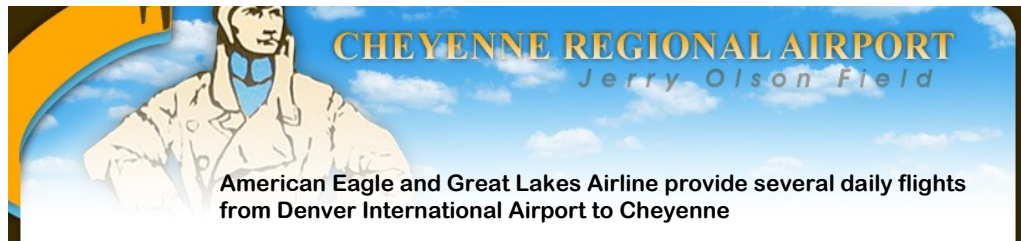
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2010 ASPIRE Conference

It's almost October which means the countdown has started for the thirty-fourth annual ASPIRE Conference! This year's gathering will be held at Little America Hotel and Resort (October 9 – 13) in the heart of wonderful Cheyenne, Wyoming. The theme for the conference, "Winds of Change: Energizing for the Future", serves as a foundation for both the pre-conference workshops and concurrent sessions.

In addition to offering another tremendous Leadership Development Institute (October 9-10), the ASPIRE Conference will host two pre-conference workshops:

StrengthsQuest (presented on Saturday, October 9th) gives students and educators the opportunity to develop strengths by building on their greatest talents-the way in which they most naturally think, feel and behave as unique individuals. Grounded in Positive Psychology and the Clifton StrengthsFinder, StrengthsQuest has helped more than 700,000 people at 600 schools and universities achieve academic, career and personal success. Dr. Therese Lask, Program Director of Student Services at Aims College, will lead the workshop.

Education Cents, the second pre-conference workshop (offered Sunday, October 10th), was developed by CollegenInvest, a division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. The Education Cents program offers information and tools addressing broad personal finance topics including managing a budget, credit and debt, income and spending, saving and investments, and college financing. The program includes a login-enabled, interactive website with a self-paced curriculum and a learning-management style reporting and communication interface. This training will offer a thorough overview of the tools and resources available through the Education Cents program to meet the TRIO financial literacy requirements for federal funding.

Concurrent sessions will focus on the tracks of mental health, wellness and safety, technology and disability, educational and social services and best practices with broad appeal to all ASPIRE Conference attendees. Keynote speaker, Dr. Patricia Covalt, is a well-known spokeswoman and author on the topic of emotional intelligence.

In addition to great sessions, the conference will also host a fun run (Antelope Amble!), golf tournament (weather permitting, of course), the Rural Blue Grass band, a rockin' DJ and karaoke, a Trolley ghost tour, Wii game room, fantastic food and a unique community service opportunity. This year, the conference will participate in "Operation: Bring a Book". Each attendee is asked to bring a Barnes and Noble gift card to donate to two needy recipients: the Rainbow Resource Center - a resource serving gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, and queer (GLBTQQ) individuals and their families and friends in Wyoming, and the new South High School which opened this fall in Cheyenne, Wyoming and serves primarily low-income and/or first generation students. The gift cards will be divided between the two entities so they may purchase books.

See you at the conference!



Message from the President



Salutations ASPIRE!

I hope everyone is off to a great start and I want to personally welcome all of our newest members of the ASPIRE/TRIO family! We have many new colleagues and programs after the latest Student Support Services competition so welcome all. On that same note, we lost many valued colleagues across the country in the same SSS competition; please encourage those programs and our colleagues to contact COE in order to find out information regarding the appeals process if something didn't look quite right with your results or reader comments.

Wyoming is right around the corner and our committee and committee chairs have been working diligently to ensure it is a conference you will not forget! I encourage you all to come enjoy each other, the professional development, and my favorite...the TRIO Achievers!

Wyoming is bitter sweet for me. At this conference you will be hearing from me for the last time in this capacity. It seems like Spearfish was just yesterday, but another great year has passed and I have learned so much from this opportunity. Thank you all. I had so much fun serving you and representing you on the national scene as well. Your incoming president is Dawn Eckhardt and she is going to continue a great line of leadership and take ASPIRE to the next level. I look forward to her tenure as our leader.

Leadership is such a valuable gift bestowed on individuals by our colleagues and truly one of the greatest gifts I have received. I encourage the directors across our region to encourage themselves and their staffs to receive this great opportunity. You have seen nomination emails from Elaine Metcalf...so let's get to nominating and keep our region strong!

Congrats are in order to our fearless Fair Share leader Carol Grits....excuse me, I stepped away to stand up and applaud...under Carol's leadership we were the national leader in Fair Share for the second year in a row and had more TRIO champions and co-champions than we have ever had. Thank you Carol for your hard work and commitment to ASPIRE.

At our conference in Wyoming we will be doing a service project. We will be donating, books, cash, or Barnes and Noble cards to a local high school trying to build a library. I challenge you all to give so we can effect the literacy rates and educational opportunities of a school, and show Wyoming K-12 educators what TRIO is all about. Reading is a fundamental requirement of access so let's ensure these students have all the access they need! You will be hearing additional information in the coming weeks and at the conference as well.

On the national front TRIO is still fighting, but some great momentum is in the works. For those of you that attended COE in San Diego, you heard from the White House (the first time in the history of TRIO), you



heard from our awesome TRIO Achievers, and the board heard from Dr. Linda Byrd Johnson. Good things are in the air, but the fight continues...ETS and EOC are up next and we have to fight to ensure all 900+ Upward Bound programs are not competing for 778 spots! I sent out the following update to the list-serve but want to ensure you all see the information. So after meeting with Dr. Linda Byrd Johnson in San Diego the Board learned the following:

There is a new process for notifying grant recipients, through a "Congressional Liaison," and this process is above her "pay-scale." This process is out of her control.

SSS:

- 1511 applicants
- 36 were not eligible to be read (for a variety of reasons)
- Cut off score was 95.67
- 4 of the 36 were continuation grants, and 15 existing programs did not re-apply.
- A total of 1031 projects were funded, of which 192 were new grants; several institutions had 2 or 3 new grants.
- 12 grants received partial grants (\$110,000); should be getting letter (hopefully) by September 30th with 2nd half of funding.
- Breakdown: 36 Disabled, 7 ESL, 21 STEM, 6 Health/Science, 7 Teacher, and the remaining grants Traditional.
- Will be doing a cross-the-board no-cost extension for de-funded programs to allow them to close-out.

Other:

- All Continuation Awards have been mailed: and Department has already had conversations with programs that were having trouble reaching numbers.
- CCRAA Still working on how to fund all programs. Department hopes to mail out letters to programs by October (???)
- Decision Information Technologies (Minority owned business) has been selected to do a study on Upward Bound... A study that DOES NOT have random participants in the study. It is not a study of effectiveness of Upward Bound, rather effectiveness of particular practices in Upward Bound.
- Financial Aid is looking to partner with UB/ETS to get students info on good credit (financial literacy), working with FDIC (banks) and NCUA (credit unions).



- TRIO Training: 33 Apps, will fund 8 to 10 grants. Slate to go to Secretary of Education week of September 6 for approval (last week).
- ETS is looking at a December closing date. OMB is reviewing the Regs... received over 450 comments of proposed regs for all programs, 400 were primarily ETS related.
- Technical Workshop for ETS/EOC scheduled for October 6th.
- EOC closing in January.
- Appeals Process (Second Review of Unsuccessful Applicants): Process mentioned in HEOA, but not procedure. Referred to EDGAR and "Technical Errors" in scoring, but no formal re-read and/or re-score of grant application... Meaning, if you have technical error, and technical error only, the department will review and make the determination. Forward technical errors to Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson **ONLY AFTER WORKING WITH COE TO ENSURE REVIEW OF APPLICATION, PROPER DOCUMENTATION, AND THAT THERE IS A "TECHNICAL ERROR"...** You should have already been assigned a COE staff member to assist.
- There are 8 new staff members at the TRIO Office.

LASTLY, staying with grants.gov!

COE has recommended that the Department address the rigorous curriculum part of ETS with the following: Allow all programs to remain at their current numbers, with a 3% COLA, and add \$60,000 per program to support the provision of supplemental services for 50 students so they can succeed in rigorous curricula.

COE has received one of the 19 (out of 1,700 applicants) 13 grants. This grant recognizes the great work that COE, along with the TRIO Community, has been able to do. Congratulations COE!

Well that's all I know for now, so I will see you all in Wyoming. Keep telling our story, let's keep using the TRIO brand as much as possible, stay active in the state initiative, and I hope to see many of you in this year's LDI cohort.

I want to take a moment and thank my staff for their hard work, commitment, and allowing me to serve. Thank you... Jessica, Terri, Mary, Lisa, Larry, Nate, Delmar, Jan, Deb, Hector, Mayra, Anitra, Melissa, and Marta. Thank you all so much!

THANK YOU ASPIRE FOR ALL DO, HAVE DONE, AND WILL DO!

Signing Out In TRIO Spirit,

Ryan Ross, M.Ed.
ASPIRE President



Committee Reports

Membership Committee *by Dawn Eckhardt*

It's time to renew your membership with ASPIRE for the 2010-2011 membership year! The ASPIRE membership year for 2009-2010 is quickly drawing to a close. As of September 30, your 2009-10 membership to ASPIRE will expire. If you have not already done so, be sure to renew your membership. Your membership and active participation with this outstanding organization is what helps to keep us strong. No doubt there are a wide variety of reasons why someone first becomes a member of ASPIRE. As you get ready to renew your membership, consider just a few of the benefits it provides you:

- Opportunities for professional development with other TRIO professionals at the state and regional level.
- Discounted registration rate for the annual regional conference.
- Discounted registration rate for state conferences.
- Strengthens the regional organization.
- Strengthens your state organization.
- Provides support for the Council for Opportunity in Education.
- Inclusion in the ASPIRE listserv, whereby critical information from the regional and national level is disseminated.
- Opportunities to assume leadership positions within the organization.
- Opportunities to exchange ideas with like-minded professionals within the TRIO community.
- Be part of a powerful voice at state and national levels on issues of importance to our programs and our participants.

Also, a friendly reminder that if you have registered for the regional conference in Cheyenne, WY as an ASPIRE member, your 2010-2011 membership will need to be paid prior to checking in for the conference. Please send in your membership application and fee by Friday, September 24 to allow time for processing prior to conference registration. If you would rather take care of your membership renewal at the time of registration, a membership table will be staffed during conference registration on Sunday afternoon.

New Leadership Taking the Membership Reigns

It has been a great pleasure to serve the ASPIRE region as membership chair for the past five years. As I get ready to move into the role of ASPIRE President, I have asked Lori Larson from University of North Dakota's Upward Bound program to take over as membership chair, and she has graciously accepted the position. I know Lori will do an outstanding job with regional memberships. She has already taken on the task of processing applications and payments for the 2010-11 membership year. Should you wish to reach Lori, her contact information is:

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News from South Dakota

Dakota Wesleyan University

DWU Peer Mentor Program Trains 7 New Mentors

Our peer-to-peer mentoring program provides freshman the opportunity to be matched with a successful junior/senior student. Peer mentors help new college students acclimate to the DWU campus by providing social opportunities and educational workshops throughout the year. Peer mentors foster healthy peer relationships and create a positive learning community.

The mentors received intense two-day CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) training in May and will continue to receive on-going CRLA training throughout this academic year during meetings. Mentor meetings are held twice a month and are intended to foster teambuilding, event planning, and continued professional training for their role.



DWU Peer Mentor Kick Ball Social!

The elementary game of kickball was resurrected at DWU...and it was a hit! On August 31st the Peer Mentors hosted a very competitive game of kickball with their new mentees and returning students. The evening was perfect – cool and clear – a great night to kick off another year with new and old friends.



News from South Dakota continued

South Dakota State University

“Peace, Love & TRIO” Welcome Back Social at SDSU *By Kayte Haggerty TRIO SSS Retention Advisor*

Each fall the South Dakota State University (SDSU) TRIO Student Support Services program hosts a Welcome Back Social event for our program participants. This semester’s theme was “Peace, Love & TRIO” which follows our SDSU Homecoming/ Hobo Day theme of “Peace, Love & Hobos.” At this event our SSS Participants meet with their Retention Advisor and Peer Mentor while enjoying SDSU ice cream. In addition, this year the participants created tie-dye projects to get into the spirit of “Peace, Love & TRIO!”



SDSU Upward Bound Partners with REU Program

South Dakota State University Upward Bound students had the opportunity to step into the laboratory and participate in bio-energy research. The 2010 Upward Bound Summer Program on the SDSU campus partnered with the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. This partnership gave high school students a chance to participate in university-level research. Upward Bound students were paired with undergraduate research students and given the opportunity to assist with actual bio-energy research occurring on the SDSU campus. Some students worked in the greenhouses collecting and testing plants, some looked at plant DNA through microscopes, while others worked on the technology side, assisting with data management software. This opportunity gave the high school students an understanding of careers in the sciences. Students also gained a brief overview of the importance of bio-energy research and how they can contribute to ongoing research even at the undergraduate level.



News from South Dakota continued

University of South Dakota

USD Talent Search Welcomes Lisa Colombe



I am new to the TRIO Talent Search Advisor position on the Rosebud. I am very excited about working with students in Todd County and White River Middle and High Schools. This semester, partnerships have been created to implement a Peer Tutor Program within school community that benefits all students. This peer tutor program also provides incentive for Talent Search students to complete goals and objectives they have set for themselves. Creative partnerships between tribal, local, private non-profits, schools, and TRIO have been warmly welcomed. I am grateful for any suggestions or resources other projects may be willing to share. PO Box 1255 Mission, SD 57555 Lisa.Colombe@usd.edu

Lisa Colombe; Talent Search Advisor serving the Rosebud Sioux Tribe; was born and continues to live on the Rosebud Reservation; former Youth Ranch Founder/Director at Sinte Gleska University and later Tribal Environmental Science Instructor/Student Advisor at United Tribes Technical College; earned a B.S. Agricultural Science from South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD in 1997; background in working with low-income and first-generation college students.

USD Talent Search Student Receives Gates Scholarship

I am **Raven Soulliere** and I work with students from the Crow Creek and Lower Brule Reservations. I am from Lower Brule and I have the greatest job in the world! Last year in 2010, I had the honor and the privilege to work with a student on the Gates Scholarship. The young man's name is Elliott Driving Hawk. This young man is an achiever and had set goals for himself early on. Not only is he a scholar but he is very much involved with his community. He also played sports and was on the student council at Lower Brule High School. Elliott would meet with me late in the evening to work on his essays. This was not always easy to do because he had practice and responsibilities at home. However, he never gave up even when I know he was exhausted. He is now enrolled at SDSU in SD as a first year freshman. He is struggling because of such a big change in his life and I know from speaking to him that he is dealing with home-sickness. So many times we send students off to college and we lose sight of them. I am happy to say that I have been able to maintain many friendships with my students once they have left for school. Elliott has options and he has told me that he working hard to succeed in school. His education is paid for by the Gates, his support comes from family and when he needs it...me. This young man has dreams and is trying to fulfill them. He has overcome true hardships in his life to get to where he is today and I know that he can reach his goals. I also know that I will be there when and if he needs me and him knowing that makes being a new freshman a little bit easier to deal with. Go get em Elliott! Dream on and be happy.

News from Utah

Snow College Upward Bound

UB students took only college credit classes during the Summer Component. Forty three students began the program; forty one finished. UB students averaged 2.44 classes; earned an average of 4 college credits and the GPA average was 3.8. Of the total 100 classes taken (spread across the 41 students,) 67 “A/A-s” were received. No student earned less than a “B.”

The students took courses in geology, Italian, education, political science, tv production, general studies and home and family studies. The students were in classrooms on average about 7.5 hours per day.



Their “earned” final trip was a road trip to Los Angeles. Our UB students had a change to tour: UCLA, President Richard Nixon’s Library, Aquarium of the Pacific, the Queen Mary, and The J. Paul Getty Museum.





News from Wyoming

By Becky Orr Wyoming Tribune Eagle, August 4, 2010 borr@wyomingnews.com

McNair Program Benefiting UW Students

CHEYENNE – A program at the University of Wyoming changed Kevin McWain's life for the better. McWain, a junior at UW, didn't plan to get more education after his undergraduate degree in philosophy.

But that changed when he heard about the McNair Scholars Program. "Through this program, it made me realized I could get a Ph.D.," he said. The program helps prepare him and other students for graduate school. McWain wants to get a doctorate and teach at a university.

"The whole (McNair) program is great," he said Tuesday. "I would recommend it to absolutely anybody. It changed my whole career path, and I'm pretty sure it will change my life." The program helps eligible undergraduate students prepare for graduate work.

On Tuesday, 12 UW students talked about their research projects at the McNair Scholars Research Symposium in Laramie. Three of the 12 are from Cheyenne.

The program helps students overcome financial, cultural, social or academic barriers, according to a UW news release. It is part of the federal TRIO offerings. Scholars are students from groups that often are under-represented in graduate education, the news release said.

Students are paid for research internships. They get tutoring or academic support. They take classes to prepare for the Graduate Record Examination.

McWain is a first-generation college student studying psychology. "They are preparing us for graduate schools," he said. "They bring in people who have gone through this program before and are grad students or faculty members at different universities. Most of the people say they owe their successes in grad school to the program."

On Tuesday, students presented research projects that ranged from criminal justice to natural-gas future prices. McWain's research is called "Theories of Intelligence and Depressive Symptoms in American Indian Youth." He worked with faculty mentor Walt Scott, an associate professor from the Department of Psychology.

McNair Scholars from Cheyenne- in addition to McWain – who presented their research on Tuesday are listed below with faculty members.

- Vincent Hochstatter with Michelle Jarman, an assistant professor with the Wyo Institute for Disabilities. Hochstatter's research is "The current position of Wyoming community agencies that serve people who are homeless."
- Trisha Martinez, whose research is "Mexican Ballet Folklorico: An artistic phenomenon of identity and performance." Faculty mentor is Cecilia Aragon, an assistant professor at UW's Department of Theater and Dance.



News from North Dakota

It has been a busy and productive summer for ND ASPIRE. Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Talent Search, and Educational Opportunity Centers across the state hosted summer programs for our participants. Upward Bound programs participated in the Upward Bound Olympics held in South Dakota this year as well. ND ASPIRE continues to be busy with State Initiative activities, headed by the committee chair, Mary Fredricks. ND ASPIRE was selected to sit on the Executive Committee of the ND CACG, which has led to a great opportunity to guide the state in servicing low income residents. After two years of Presidency, my term will be complete this October. Lori Larson will be the new President for ND ASPIRE and Cara Davis will be the new Treasurer. Both were elected to these two-year offices last spring at the co-state meeting. These are two dynamic leaders from our state, and will join Theresa Liephon on our state's executive board.

Dickinson State University

The Student Support Services at Dickinson State University held its Summer Bridge Program the week before school started, with 45 students in attendance. The Summer Bridge Program helps students prepare for the demands of college. They meet other students, faculty and staff which helps ease their adjustment and increase their chance of success. This year's Bridge Program included a service learning project. This year's service learning project included picking up litter on campus. Taking part in this project not only beautified DSU, but showed student's sense of pride in being a new member of the "Bluehawk" family at DSU. The Bridge Program also included a trip to Medora for students to experience the "Old West."



We are just beginning our workshops for students and have held two so far this fall. The first entitled, "Test Taking," helps student learn how to improve test preparation and strengthen performance. The next entitled, "Current Balance: \$0.0," helps students develop a realistic financial plan, develop strategies toward making better financial decisions, and take steps toward implementing financial decisions. Several other workshops for the fall semester include, "Take Note: Do's and Don'ts of Note Taking", "The How, When & Where to Study", "I Don't Have Time for This Workshop", and "Learn the Write Way to Right for College".



The SSS Advisory Board, consisting of students in the program, meets next week to discuss improvements for the program, social cultural events and ideas for the spring banquet.



News from North Dakota continued

University of North Dakota

UND's Student Support Services Program received funding for the new five year grant cycle, which was welcome news! The annual Council for Opportunity in Education conference in September was attended by administrators from all five UND TRIO Programs and provided great updates concerning national issues such as Department of Education movements in educational funding and new regulations concerning upcoming Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Center applications.

Both Talent Search and Upward Bound Programs here had very successful summer programs, with students and staff working hard to advance academically (and have some fun at the same time!). Additionally, for the first time, our Educational Opportunity Center Program initiated a summer program which used talents from each staff member in specific workshops geared to assist the participants in their educational journey.

Now the fall is rapidly coming upon us, and all five of our programs are kicking off the academic year with great new plans for students. We will be having the fall meeting of our TRIO Advisory Board in the next month or two, and look forward to meeting with university and community supporters there to inform them about our progress and needs. This group is integral to our functioning, as it is made up of folks from departments across campus and community who contribute monetarily and in time and effort to supporting our programs in many ways.

Last spring the UND TRIO Alumni Society held a reunion here on campus, which was very successful and also a good time! Our staff love to have former participants return to visit and reconnect with the program. We will continue this year to sponsor activities such as mentoring between alumni and current students, and will again sponsor an alumnus to attend the Council for Opportunity in Education Policy Seminar in March, so they can advocate for TRIO Programs and students.

UND SSS and McNair Alum, Don Gross, on the Front Lines of Haitian Earthquake

After living in Grand Forks for 14 years, and attending UND, where I participated in both the Student Support Services ('92) and McNair programs ('92-95) I decided to move to Fargo, ND. There I worked as a Cytotechnologist for 6 months before moving to Saba, Netherlands – Antilles. At the age of 36, I attended the first 2 years of medical school there. Following that experience, I decided to move to Atlanta, Georgia area for my 3rd and 4th years of medical school.

I did my residency anesthesiology at University of Kentucky Medical Center (UKMC) in Lexington, KY from 2000-2004. I had the opportunity to perform anesthesia research at UKMC in 2005. Following that, I worked Locums Tenens in anesthesiology at the University of West Virginia Morgantown and in Beckley, WV until 2006. Following that, I began work at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, WV as an anesthesiologist, where I currently work and live with my wife Sharon (UND, '95). We have two children Jacob 11 years, and Bojena 9 years. I also have a daughter, Faith, who lives in Crystal, ND.

I am Board Certified with the American Board of Anesthesiologists. I am currently a member of the American Medical Association, American Society of Anesthesiologists, West Virginia Society of Anesthesiologists, and the International Anesthesia Research Society.

My interests in anesthesia include regional anesthesia providing pain relief with nerve blocks, and



Don Goss continued

neuroanesthesia for spinal surgeries. On August 7, 2010 I went to Haiti for a week on a medical mission trip with a local group, Daystar Medical Mission. That same group was in Haiti the 2nd week in January when the earthquake hit. I was a member of the team of 17 medical professionals including nurses, doctors, and physical therapists who originally responded to the emergency. When I was there, we did 20 hysterectomies for women suffering from fibroid tumors. The infrastructure in Haiti is still weak. The government charges \$1,000 to the Haitians to receive any large containers that are shipped overseas making it difficult to get medical supplies and relief where it is needed. Unfortunately, at the end of my stay, my mother passed away, requiring my wife and I to return to my hometown of Rugby, ND.



I hope all is well with the TRIO offices at the University of North Dakota!

News from Colorado

Community College of Denver

Community College of Denver Talent Search Leaves the Big City...

The student's excitement had been building since the end of May. Educational Talent Search participants signed up with their ETS advisors at North and West High School for the annual summer college tour. This year we decided to let the students experience Nebraska Wesleyan University. Once they arrived to our meeting location on the morning of July 28, 2010, the students were greeted by a huge charter bus. The driver loaded up their belongings, and they climbed on the bus. Majority of the students who attended the trip had never traveled outside of the state of Colorado. This journey was a new experience for them, and you could see the excitement in their eyes. We ventured on a 6 hour bus ride from downtown Denver's Auraria Campus to Lincoln, Nebraska. Luckily the charter bus had plenty of leg room, a restroom, along with a DVD and televisions scattered throughout.

On day one of our trip students were split into two groups and were allowed to experience college classes which are offered on a college campus. Students were either going to the Theater Department or Art Department. One of the group's rotations went to the Art Department of NWU. The students had no idea what was in store for them. We arrived to the Art Department thinking we might be taking a tour and listening to a professor talk to them about Art History. The students soon found out they would be making a personalized coffee mug to take home as a souvenir of their trip.

Upon being given the directions, the students began to design their mug on paper which meant they had to utilize various elements of graphic and visual composition.

The directions that were given to the students required that they first design their mug on paper, before



Community College of Denver T.S. continued

actually transferring it to their mug. They were also instructed by the teacher to be precise with the amount of paint that they were going to use. This was a great math exercise and had the students working together to get it right. When the students finished they needed to decide if they wanted their mug fired or not, which added a scientific side to our project as it changes the appearance of the mug. By the time they were finished, we had some very unique mugs.



This part of the trip allowed the students to learn in non-traditional hands-on integrative arts approach. The students learned how art students on the NWU campus showcase their art, they learned some glazing and ceramic painting techniques, met the professor, and met a student who would be graduating soon. The students were amazed by a former NWU student's art pieces which at one time displayed in art shows as part of her senior graduation project.



Our second class of the day was an acting class. They started out a little shy and unsure of themselves, but quickly came out of their shells. Our first activity consisted of doing skits and then changing one or two things to see how the outcome would change and how many of the students would notice. We then moved onto having the students get into groups, where they then had to come up with an animal and have the other students guess what they were. Our final exercise before we took a tour of the Drama Department was a keep away. Our instructors put chairs around the room and our

students were told to keep one of them from taking their chair. The students thought that this would be very easy, but quickly found out, they were mistaken. Our instructor beat them six out of eight times. The students finally won when they focused, counted on teamwork, used reasoning skills and communication to beat their opponent.

Next stop wardrobes! The students were very impressed with the wardrobe department and loved trying on some of the costumes and hats. When asked if they had caught the acting bug, a quick reply of no was given by most, but they were definitely open to the idea of trying on something new. In fact, we did see that there was one or two that have HOLLYWOOD written all over them! Get the signature now so you can honestly say "That I knew him or her when!"

After dinner students got to visit the college's planetarium. The Wesleyan professor taught students how their Zodiac constellations serve as reference points to astronomers when investigating the Universe. He moved the equator, longitude and latitude coordinates to Colorado and Nebraska to show how we see our night sky in our own state. The students asked many questions about the constellations, coordinates and the universe. The professor mentioned that even though his presentation wasn't a laser light show with music that he hoped students would get something out of his presentation. Well they sure did, when he was done everyone wanted to head straight to NASA!





Community College of Denver T.S. continued

Other significant experiences involved the student's rotating between the Physics department and student presentations. The idea of a physics lesson quickly made the students complain that hey this is summer vacation and no test were allowed...lol. Math and Science, prior to this experience was not popular with our students, but when they arrived in the Physics presentation and seen an interactive device set up in front of the computer that had two cars opposite of each other on a track they were all in. The cars moved along the track and the professor told the students to run the cars into each other to make a crash impact. The students were very eager to crash the cars together. When the cars crashed the computer was connected to the cars and lines appeared on the screen graph. This demonstrated the force caused by the car crash. They did multiple activities with different levels of force and resistance. At the end the professor discussed the outcomes the students received from the activity. The professor then took the students on a tour of the department and the equipment that students would use in their classes. At the end what the students once dreading learning about math and science they came out wanting to learn more.



The last presentation was a student panel about studying abroad and the college experience. Students from Nebraska Wesleyan who studied abroad talked about their experience overseas. Nebraska Wesleyan has an excellent student abroad program where students can study in multiple countries. The tuition that students pay at Nebraska Wesleyan is the same tuition they would pay in any country that the college offers them to study at. Our students discovered NWU students study in places such as Argentina, Mexico, Spain, and England all the way to Estonia. The opportunities were endless.

Some college students stayed with host families, others had student apartments, and some used dorms. The college students all agreed that it was a great opportunity that they did not regret. NWU students learned about another culture that was different from their own experience. After this session we were hearing talk among our ETS students about what country they want to study in.

It was so awesome to see the minds of our students expand, become more open, and most importantly understand that college is their right and not a privilege. This non traditional approach at a college tour was simply amazing. Usually just touring one school may seem like it doesn't create a diverse experience. Well Nebraska Wesleyan surely rolled out the red carpet and ensured our students were welcomed, had a plan of entry, and saw the many unique aspects of college from the book store and residence life to intramural sports and academic excellence. A grand time indeed for Community College of Denver Talent Search Students...





News from Colorado continued

Trinidad State Junior College



Successful Collaborations at Trinidad State Junior College

In these trying economic times, our institutions and our students are under considerable strain just to maintain the status quo. It is in times like these that I actually feel safe and secure being in a Federal TRIO program. However, it is this same security that puts pressure on our grants to help pick up the slack, especially in small institutions. But how do we do this while still maintaining compliance within our grant.

At Trinidad State Junior College, we have been working for the last 12 months to build collaborative efforts to create win-win opportunities for students. The TRIO SSS Program is working with the New Title V program to streamline student services. When a student completes their entrance exam at the Title V Student Success Center, they complete an intake form. This form has been developed to include all required documentation for an SSS application. All documents are scanned and stored for shared use among student services programs. In addition, all of the data is stored on a shared database for easy data analysis. In the first month of the Fall 2010 term, 334 intake documents have been processed under this new system. In addition, counselors identified referred over 250 eligible students for SSS services... before they ever started their first class. In addition, these programs have collaborated on tutoring resources, academic and personal intervention, and faculty seminars.

Another collaborative project has been with two other grant programs on campus, the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation and the Colorado Space Grant Consortium. The TRIO SSS program worked to identify and channel underrepresented students into the Robotics Program on campus. The combined effort of these programs along with hundreds of hours donated by campus faculty resulted in TSJC having the first Community College to team to compete in Colorado NASA Space Grant Consortium's Robotics Challenge. TSJC's team showed the power of diversity by not only competing, but tying Colorado State's Engineering Program for first place.

We all have to play our role in these trying times. Finding unique collaborative opportunities in our institutions is one of the easiest and most effective ways to open doors for underrepresented students.



Some of the TSJC Robotics Challenge Team



Group of students studying in the TSJC Student Success Center



News from Colorado continued

Metropolitan State College of Denver (Metro State)

SSS Program Highlight – Helping Students to Learn Financial Literacy

Student Support Services (SSS) at Metropolitan State College of Denver (Metro State) and a part of the Student Academic Success Center (SASC) has taken on the challenge of educating students in financial literacy. The program has continually provided services to the Metro State community for 33 years, addressing the most acute needs of first generation, low-income and college students with disabilities.

It is by creating savings and establishing credit that the goal of education is secured. In 2009 SSS at Metro State began creating financial awareness in response to the need of many program participants. Financial literacy is important in helping to overcome the financial difficulties and worries surrounding higher education. This awareness of financial responsibility is important for low-income students and first generation students because it directs them in building assets for themselves and their families. The purpose of the financial literacy program is for students to have the ability to analyze personal finances and financial opportunities to enable them to make informed financial choices.

Students are first introduced to financial literacy when they apply to the program. After intake, students complete an on-line tutorial from Decision Partners about the financial issues that impact traditional and non-traditional college students. Next, students attend the *Passport to Success* orientation and speak with a financial literacy advocate who promotes self-reliance through asset building. Throughout the year, students are informed of other topic-specific workshops such as budgeting, understanding credit scores, filing taxes, and managing student loans. In addition, the program invites local financial institutions to meet with students to share financial expertise. SSS advisors assist participants in establishing realistic budgets. The staff participates in on-going financial literacy training to provide informed guidance to students.

A popular day long workshop, *Financial Awareness*, is offered in spring semester and held in a computer lab. This hands-on workshop allows students to complete their FAFSA, scholarship essays and 1040 EZ/ 1040A in one day. Student responses to this workshop have elicited feedback indicating that all of the information was much needed and appreciated. 76% of participants agreed that the overall experience of the SSS *Financial Awareness Workshop* was satisfactory.

Impact of the financial literacy services are tracked for both student learning and student perception of the quality of the services using direct interview, StudentVoice survey assessment tools, performance based evaluation and pre- and post- surveys. Individual student feedback has been very positive. Students feel that the program maintained their interest and many indicated they would have benefitted from access to the information at an earlier stage in their educational process.

Other TRiO programs that may wish to begin a similar program should research available resources on their campuses. The Financial Aid office and the Accounting Department in the School of Business are excellent first contacts. Also, very dedicated community resources are the Internal Revenue Service, America Saves. It has been through conscientious development of partnerships with College Invest of Colorado, and the Colorado Assets Building Coalition that this financial literacy program has succeeded.