



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, Inc.

TRiO

May—August 2012

ASPIRE 2012 ♦ October 7-10 ♦ Holiday Inn ♦ Billings, MT

Unlocking Potential



The ASPIRE Region
invites you to the
2012 ASPIRE Conference
at the Holiday Inn
on October 7 - 10 in Billings, MT.
www.aspireonline.org/conference



Message from the President



Dear ASPIRE Family,

Wow! What a summer and where to begin. WAIT, before I do, I want to make sure everyone is taking a moment before they read another word to be sure that they have registered for ASPIRE Regional Conference! It is so very important for us to come together in October to engage in professional development, hear from COE and the Department, and to get re-energized as we move forward with a shared agenda.

As the summer came to an end, we heard back on the initial slates of McNair, VUB, and UBMS. As much as I would like to report that, after this year's competitions were over (including UB), we gained more programs than we lost but it is with a heavy heart that I report these competitions have taken a toll on our region. The Board worked diligently to hear from the states about the outcomes of these competitions and we continue to await the final outcome of the funding band decisions. Our regional loss of programs isn't because our programs aren't great and the need to serve students is no longer there, but because TRIO is simply not funded at the appropriate levels. I implore all of the ASPIRE membership to become engaged within your state association so we can collectively work to address the issue of lost programs, changing competitive grant priorities, FY 2013 funding and communication regarding this regional impact. It will take all of us talking to our congressman, communicating with our partnerships, institutions and stakeholder to address the critical need for the growth of TRIO, rather than its erosion.

I do have some good news to report, ASPIRE continues to be a leader in Fair Share giving at the national level. We achieved 117% Fair Share, third only to the regions of NEOA and NAEOP. ASPIRE continues to be a leader among the regions in individual contributions thanks to five of our six states meeting and exceeding the 10 for 10 challenge. Our dedication to strengthening our association is noticed on a national level and I want to thank all of you for making that happen.

Many members of the board and I had the opportunity to attend COE Annual in New York. For all others who attended, I hope we can share strategies and ideas learned from that conference with our colleagues. I am proud to say that our region continues to be on top of state initiatives and leadership, government relations, and regional development. Montana was given a shout out by Dr. Mitchem, President of COE, for its work and taking the lead to ensure that TRIO, nationally, was given an increase in FY 2012 funding. Thank you to everyone in Montana for getting out there and building those relationships, particularly with Rep. Denny Rehberg, member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the **Labor, Health and Human Service, and Education Committee**. Every single contact makes a difference. Speaking of Montana, I want to congratulate Amy Verlanic, who has been elected by the COE Board as the incoming COE Chair, first-ever from the ASPIRE region. She most recently served as COE Treasurer, also an elected position. In addition to the three regional presidents, Michael Wade of Wyoming has served on the COE board for several years and is now stepping down. Thank you to Mike for his service and dedication. I would

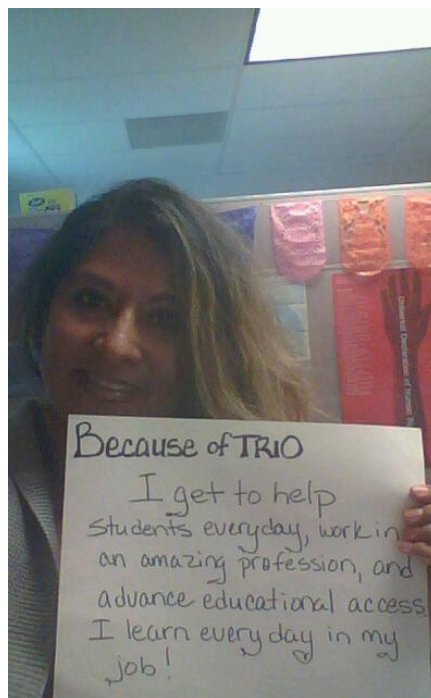


also like to announce that Dawn Eckhardt, North Dakota, will be staying on with the COE board. This only increases ASPIRE's dedication and regional input to the bigger TRIO movement.

It has been an extreme pleasure to serve with such an amazing board. I look forward to continuing to work with the new incoming slate of state presidents, a new president-elect and secretary, all the committee chairs and members and all of you, our awesome membership. This region is in great hands.

ASPIRE Bigger, ASPIRE Better, ASPIRE Brighter, ASPIRE Higher!

Rachel Marty



News from Wyoming

Laramie County Community College Sage TRIO

Each year at our May Graduation/Transfer Ceremony, we bestow our program Friend of TRIO award upon deserving faculty and staff who we believe are individuals who go above and beyond for our students and our project. This year we honored three individuals who exemplify SAGE TRIO's mission and who our staff feel have done an extraordinary job of helping us to believe in the success and potential of our students and in our jobs to help students achieve their academic endeavors and persist at LCCC.

This year our Friend of TRIO award was given to **Anne Wolff**, Instructor in Microbiology/Zoology; **Greg Flores**, Creative Coordinator in Public Relations; and **Roz Schliske**, Instructor in Mass Media/Multimedia. Greg Flores helped us create a poster and materials campaign with our SAGE TRIO logo. Now we have a consistent presence around campus which has boosted our recruitment and made us more known throughout the college. Anne understands the needs of the nontraditional student and the many hats they wear. She stays in contact with us when students are struggling and helps give them the extra push and time to help them be successful. Students often say they enjoy her science classes the best. Roz is our longest running employee on campus. Students look up to her as a mentor and someone who can help them achieve their goals not only at LCCC but in their careers. She is always looking out for students who don't have enough resources and finding them services. SAGE TRIO is pleased to honor these three individuals who help us help students.



Roz Schliske



Greg Flores



Anne wolff

Department of Education Visits LCCC

The Department of Education made a visit to three stops in Wyoming, including Laramie County Community College, as part of its Education Drives America Bus Tour that started in CA and ended in DC. The bus rolled into Cheyenne on Sept 14th and on it was the Undersecretary Dr. Martha Kanter, Assistant Secretary Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, and Chief of Staff Joanne Weiss. They took questions from the crowd once they finished speaking on the importance of community colleges being the "gateway into careers" and the importance of aligning post-secondary training/education with the local needs of the workforce community.

Students and staff from EOC, SSS, and UB attended the open forum with the Department. We were able to ask two questions of them including one asked by Sher Warren on how 85,000 students have been lost under this administration and how TRIO is expected to align with the Department's college completion goals if funding continues to be cut. The Department was quick to point out that many programs are facing cuts,

some more steep than TRIO but the Department is aware of the good job that TRIO does. But, unfortunately, we are in hard economic times. The second question asked by Rachel Martinez was about financial aid and the new verification system that links students IRS data to the FAFSA. Many students at LCCC were pulled for verification due to being unable to link to the IRS (due to an amended tax return or glitch in the address retrieval) and, therefore, this resulted in them not receiving financial aid in a timely manner affecting their semester aid and some students had to drop out of school. The Department stated that they are aware of some glitches and to please tune in to the webinars that will be held on this very issue. TRIO staff and students wore TRIO Works buttons and felt that the visit, although focused on Career & Tech Ed, was a valuable visit and opportunity to be at the table. For more on the visit, you can view:

http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2012/09/15/news/01top_09-15-12.txt

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/departementofed/sets/72157631542844349/with/7989118281/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0qW5VGIG_g&feature=youtu.be

You can also see the visit in its entirety on our LCCC Wingspan website.

<http://wingspan.lccc.wy.edu/issues/oct12/news/usede.html>



University of Wyoming McNair Scholars Program

Greybull Student Excels Through UW Engineering, McNair Program for Research

September 17, 2012 — Even as a Greybull High School (GHS) student, Talysa Stockert knew that she wanted to go onto higher education and achieve something with brother Kajen -- be the first among their family to earn college degrees.

With high expectations for a high-achieving student nearing the end of her University of Wyoming college career, Stockert wants to obtain a doctoral degree so she can secure a college teaching position; she now has a passion for research.

That's largely due to her research conducted through her major in energy systems engineering, a program



UW energy systems engineering student Talysa Stockert from Greybull pours low-density polyethylene (a substitute for ammonia borane) as part of her project that maximizes the amount of usable hydrogen power a car can carry without compromising the fuel mileage from the weight of that fuel. (UW Photo)

offered through the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the UW College of Engineering and Applied Science. Stockert also participated in the university's McNair Scholars Program, which pairs UW students with faculty mentors to conduct meaningful research in a laboratory.

The 2009 GHS graduate has had a passion for various types of research. During her high school career, she won first place in her division at the Wyoming History Day competition, and twice had winning projects in the Wyoming State Science Fair, enabling her to compete at the international science fair.

The History Day and state science fair are all held on the UW campus, which made it a natural fit for Stockert to enroll at the university four years ago.

It was by chance that she learned about the McNair Scholars program when it was recommended by her UW Student Success Services adviser.

"I didn't think it was for me until two years ago when I started to think seriously about going to graduate school," Stockert says.

The McNair Program is for first-generation, limited-income or minority undergraduate students who seek doctoral degrees. The program is a project of Student Educational Opportunity, a unit of the Division of Student Affairs at UW.

"It means a lot to me to be given this opportunity to get a college degree and having my family's support," Stockert says. "Wanting to continue my education is really why I am here."

She credits the UW McNair program's Zackie Salmon and Susan Stoddard for guiding her.

"The McNair program has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had on campus," Stockert adds. "Susan and Zackie help you know what is needed to get into and be in graduate school."

As an engineering student, Stockert was able to partner on her McNair project with Yuan Zheng, a mechanical engineering assistant professor, and Dan Mosiman, a graduate student in the department.

This past summer she presented her research, "An Experimental and Theoretical Study of Flows in a Twin-Screw Extruder for Vehicular Hydrogen Storage," at the McNair Scholars year-end program. She will continue to work on the project throughout the semester.

"The work we are doing is testing the concept of using a twin-screw extruder to transport ammonia borane throughout a hydrogen vehicle," she says. "Ammonia borane is a hydrogen carrier many institutions are



UW energy systems engineering student Talysa Stockert from Greybull works on her research under the watchful eye of her project mentor Yuan Zheng, a mechanical engineering assistant professor. (UW Photo)



researching as a fuel for a hydrogen car.”

Using this material, Stockert hopes to maximize the amount of usable hydrogen power the car can carry without compromising the fuel mileage from the weight of that fuel. The problem, she says, is that ammonia borane is a solid material, and the current fuel lines in that vehicle are designed for a liquid, such as gasoline.

“This is where the twin-screw extruder can be used to move the ‘sticky,’ solid material around a hydrogen vehicle,” she explains.

The full name of the device is a self-wiping, co-rotating twin-screw extruder designed by a UW senior design team guided by Zheng and Scott Morton, senior design instructor.

The first phase of Stockert’s research was during the summer, when she studied the device to understand how it works and if it would be effective in transporting the material.

“This was really digging into the science behind the twin-screw extruder by researching current designs and running various experiments,” she says.

The second phase, that she is just beginning, is redesigning the machine to address any of the problems that were found in the initial research. Since she and Zheng are now just beginning this stage, the next steps are to apply for funding to start the research.

“UW has been a great experience for me. The engineering department has a great support staff and, if you ask, they can lead you to great opportunities,” Stockert says. “Dr. Zheng fit nicely with my research style. He let me progress at my own pace while helping me to achieve more at the same time. Through his guidance, I was able to understand what it takes to be a graduate student and that it was something that I truly enjoyed.”

News From North Dakota

University of North Dakota

Student Support Services

The UND Student Support Services Program has been promoting more recognition of and involvement with their alumni. Following are success stories from SSS alumni which illustrate the impact of the program services upon their success.

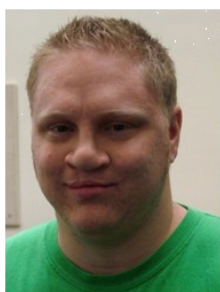
In 2008 **Paul Johnson** graduated from Fertile-Beltrami High School, a small high school in northwest Minnesota where he participated in the UND TRIO/Talent Search program. As a first-generation student, he benefitted greatly from Talent Search services that helped him to prepare academically and socially for college life. After starting at UND in fall 2008, Paul joined the UND Student Support Services program, taking advantage of services such





as tutoring, academic advising, and financial aid advising. In 2010, he received the UND Student Support Services Outstanding Student of the Year Award for his utilization of program services to help him reach his educational goals.

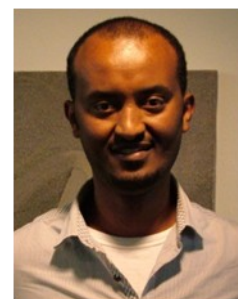
Paul will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in December 2012. He has distinguished himself by achieving a 3.9 GPA in the rigorous UND electrical engineering curriculum. In 2011 he was inducted into Tau Beta Pi, a national engineering honor society. He has been a member of the UND chapter of the International Electronics and Electrical Engineers (IEEE) and has done volunteer work on behalf of that organization as a judge for regional science fairs. In summer and fall 2011, Paul did a cooperative education experience at Dakota Coal Gasification in Beulah, ND, where he worked on the automation of industrial processes. For his Senior Project in EE, he was part of a team that designed and built a prototype power distribution system to fly aboard a small scale CubeSat satellite. Paul's future career goals include working for a Department of Defense contractor in the field of aerospace.



Matt Anderson began his academic career at Riverland Community College, Austin, MN, where he earned an Associate's Degree in Machine Technology. In 2007 after working for several years in the manufacturing industry, Matt transferred to UND to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. He joined the UND Student Support Services program in fall 2008 and benefitted from a number of program services, including advising on academic and financial aid issues, graduate school and career counseling, and tutoring. He also took advantage of numerous academic, cultural, and social enrichment opportunities offered by Student Support Services.

While pursuing his degree at UND, Matt was involved in several collaborative research projects with students from the School of Engineering and Mines, including the design and manufacture of a textile antenna for the UND Space Studies program, and the Innovate North Dakota student design team. His Senior Capstone project involved precision manufacturing of the textile antenna. Matt received his Bachelor of Science degree in Technology in May 2012, and plans to pursue a Master's degree in Technology at UND in fall 2012 where he will continue his undergraduate research, and pursue coursework in operations management. His career plans include working in the field of operations management.

Gashaw Lemma will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in August 2012. He has been a participant in the UND Student Support Services program since transferring to UND from Baltimore City Community College in the fall of 2009. Throughout his time at UND, Gashaw has benefited from a number of services through Student Support Services, including advising on academic and financial aid issues, graduate school counseling, and tutoring.



Gashaw's emphases in his Electrical Engineering studies include power electronics and power systems. He plans to begin work on a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at UND in fall 2012 and eventually to earn a Ph.D in EE. His career goals include college teaching and research, and/or working for industry in the area of Power Systems Protection.



Upward Bound

The Upward Bound Program at UND was busy with student activities and services during the spring, sponsoring college tours and other educational activities. Students also participated in a variety of community service activities, and both Upward Bound staff and students participated in College Goal Sunday to complete/assist with financial aid paperwork.

UB submitted a successful grant application in January, receiving notice just in time to begin the new grant cycle in June. In coordination with UND housing, the program also successfully submitted for and received funding from the North Dakota College Access Challenge Grant. The UB summer program was highly successful with eighteen bridge students and forty-eight regular Upward Bound participants attending.

Educational Opportunity Center

UND Educational Opportunity Center completed its summer program for students in late May. This program gives incoming postsecondary students the opportunity to learn more about financial literacy, choosing majors and successful college habits. Students had an opportunity to tour campus and interact with EOC and other UND staff as well.

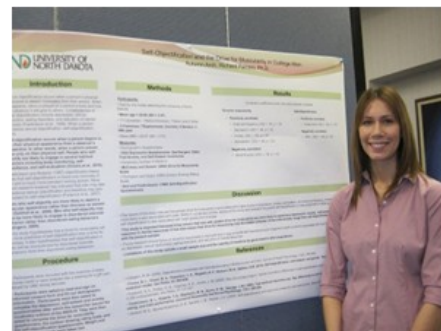
EOC staff at our four outreach offices at Lake Region State College, Turtle Mountain Community High School, Northland Community and Technical College, and Minnesota State community & Technical College continues to be involved in student orientation, and assisting students with financial aid, college admissions paperwork/enrollment, and college transfer assistance

McNair Scholars Program

The University of North Dakota Ronald E. McNair Program had a busy spring and summer. The McNair grant application was submitted to the Department of Education the first week of June, with the new funding cycle for the McNair Program starting October 2012. The McNair scholars have been busy with their research, preparing and giving presentations (18th Annual McNair Forum on April 19th), and applying to various graduate programs.

A few of the recent graduates include:

Autumn Arch graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and minor in Biology. She will begin graduate school in the Clinical Psychology Program at the University of North Dakota, Fall 2012.





My name is **Matthew McCleary** and I am from Bismarck, North Dakota. I have just graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in History. I have also earned my minors in Political Science and Special Education as well as a Secondary Education license. I will be a master's student at the University of North Dakota where I will be a concentrating on United States History, with an emphasis on 20th century American political history, intellectual history, and disability studies. My goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in American History and to be a professor at a university as well as continue to support organizations that help families with special needs. I believe that the McNair scholarship program has given me a wonderful opportunity to accomplish my future career goals.

Janie Schroeder graduated in May with a Bachelor of Art in Indian Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration. She was accepted into the University of North Dakota joint MPA/JD Graduate Program and started working on her MPA this summer. She will begin UND Law School in fall 2012.



Desiree Bernal

As a part of the McNair program I am required to provide an update on my current status and what my future goals and plans are. So in light of this on December 16th 2011 I graduated from UND with honors and a degree in General Studies. While my plan was to graduate with a double major in Early Childhood and Elementary Education, I had to make some adjustments. I decided to enroll in Graduate school at UND, majoring in Special Education with an emphasis in Emotional Disturbances. I will receive my Master's degree in August of 2013. My plan is to eventually teach in a high risk/need area. However, I do have an opportunity to earn

and teach with one of my best friends in Clarkston, Washington. I believe this will give me a chance to learn from someone who is an exceptional teacher. I feel that these kinds of opportunities do not come around often so they should be taken when they arise. Once I get a few years under me I will move on to the inner city schools, and then go for my PhD, and secure a position as a professor at a large university in the north-western United States.



Korey Southerland will graduate in August 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Geography and Bachelor of Art in Political Science. She was accepted into the Engineering Science Ph.D. program at Washington University in Pullman, WA and will be conducting Atmospheric Policy research. Korey received an IGERT fellowship which consists of a \$30,000/year stipend, tuition waiver for two years; funding for travel to conferences, support for research equipment and/or computing needs, and support for a national or international 3 month policy internship.

Summer McNair Monthly Meetings

Karina Wittmann from the Wellness Center presented, “7 Dimensions of Wellness” at the July meeting. The August meeting will consist of the McNair scholars informally discussing their summer research with other McNair scholars and faculty mentors.



Joan Jorde from Student Support Services presented, “Learning Modalities” at June’s monthly meeting.

Talent Search

Talent Search at the University of North Dakota is off and running with the start of a new school year. We begin this academic year with a new advisor, **Don Croeker**. He’ll be at the ASPIRE conference in October, so please introduce yourself to him. Don joins our Talent Search team after a successful career of teaching social studies in the public school system.

This summer marked a new era in our summer program offerings by switching from a middle school focus to that of a high school audience. We also added a second session this year. In total, 21 students were invited to participate in the programs and fun time learning and exploring career and educational options was had by one and all of the students that completed them. After several days of tours and classes on the UND campus, each of the two groups enjoyed exploring new places with field experiences. The first group traveled to Duluth, and the MN Iron Range. The second group explored Sioux Falls, SD. Both locations received high praise from both staff and students alike.



Dickinson State University

Greetings from DSU! We are in the process of wrapping up our academic year. We ended the year with our Annual Awards Ceremony which was held April 18th. At this banquet we honor outstanding students for their accomplishments as well as recognize faculty and staff who have assisted students in their accomplishments.



We held our Summer Bridge Program the beginning of August. 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. The Bridge Program includes service learning which students learn to give back to the community. Students were divided into teams and picked 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.





We held our annual “Welcome Back Gathering” the for the fall semester. We use this gathering to introduce new SSS initiatives. The gathering also assists new participants in acquainting themselves with current participants. We start the program with an icebreaker, go over SSS initiatives and conclude by serving pizza and pop. Participants who attend are granted priority appointments for early registration.



The Bridge Program also included a trip to Medora for students to experience the “Old West”, and a night of charades and bowling.



We will be holding our 2nd annual “Backpack to Briefcase” event for seniors in October. During this event seniors gain skills in job searching, resume and cover letter writing, interviewing, professional social networking, budgeting, navigating the complexities of employer benefits, wearing appropriate attire for work and business etiquette.

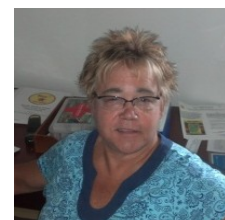
North Dakota State University

Upward Bound



NDSU Upward Bound has had a busy summer program and the largest number of participants – 35 summer program participants and 10 Bridge participants. The program has also increased male participation from 16% in 2010 to 42% in 2012.

We also noted that **Joan Halland**, English instructor and Yearbook advisor, has been with the program for the past 12 summers, thanks so much Mrs. Halland!



The NDSU UB program was notified on May 8th of funding for a new grant, it was Director Kris Mickelson's 11th anniversary date with Upward Bound.

NDSU UB has received a \$4000.00 grant from the Fargo Marathon and a gift of \$8000 from Stop N Go Inc. to support our students.

The second year of Living Learning Program extended the program by a day and night. The students once again were given the opportunity to live the residence halls and experience student involvement through activities and events. The Campus Attractions (a student driven program provides educational, cultural, social, and recreational programs and activities through a wide variety of resources for NDSU's students) provided a sample night for the students to participate in board games and crafts. The evening at the Wallman Wellness Center was a huge hit with rock wall climbing and much more. New to the evening activities were movie night and the talent show with a fabulous array of talent displayed. Also new NDSU student volunteers to assist and support the evening activities or events. Thanks Delta Kappa.

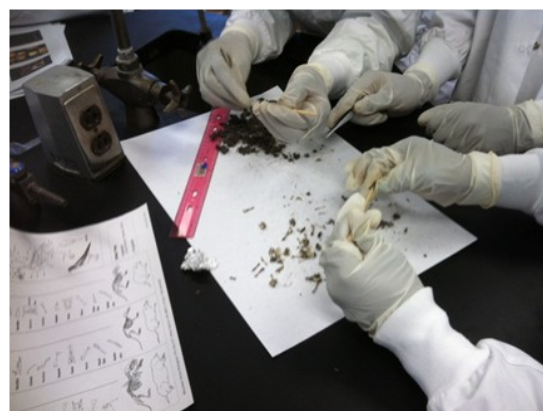


NDSU UB students elected representatives from each grade to the UB Summer Student Council (UBSSC). The young leaders met with NDSU's Equity and Diversity Center for a customized Safe Zone and anti-bullying training. They learned how to discreetly, but meaningfully correct their peers when hearing inappropriate comments. Within the first week, language and interactions were much more positive. The UBSSC also recognized students and staff with Random Acts of Kindness certificates each week. The group planned theme days, outings, activities, and a farewell for a long time staff member. UBCCS is advised by Project Coordinator Sydney Knutson.



We have added three new tutors: **Alyssa Wiegandt**, **Aidan Horvath** and **Jordan Kleinjan** – welcome aboard! They will be providing tutoring at Fargo North, South and Davies as well as West Fargo High School.

Travis Dockter, a six year veteran of UB, completed his Master's Program in Statistics, May 2012. Travis was a tutor for all six years and a student coordinator his last three years with the program. Travis is now an employee at Mayo Clinic in the research department. We wish you well, Travis;-)



As always community service goes hand in hand with classroom activities to create an inclusive environment for all.

News from Colorado

Students from Community College of Aurora, Otero Junior College, and Pueblo Community College selected for Special International Study Opportunity in Spain

Submitted by Daniel Sandoval, Director of TRIO Student Support Services, Community College of Aurora. Source: Colorado Community College System, "Connections" Newsletter Publication, June 2012.

Dear CCCS Connections:

I've been working with one of my students over the course of the last few months in preparation to spend time in Spain this summer. This student was awarded one of just twenty scholarships from a national competition to study abroad. Amazingly, I have recently found out that not just one but a total of three students from the Colorado Community College System will be attending this study abroad opportunity.

Below I am providing you, first, a brief overview of the program, and then, I will identify to you the three



students from across the Colorado Community College System who have been judged as meriting this special international study opportunity:

Below I am providing you, first, a brief overview of the program, and then, I will identify to you the three students from across the Colorado Community College System who have been judged as meriting this special international study opportunity:

KEITH SHERIN GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM

“Spanish Language and Culture in Salamanca”

An Accredited Study Tour in Spain for TRIO College Students

Administered by the Council for Opportunity in Education with Travel & Education

In June 2012, a group of 20 TRIO Student Support Services students get an exciting learning opportunity. They will have a chance to explore Salamanca, one of Spain’s most spectacular cities, as they immerse themselves in an intense, month-long study of Spanish language and culture. They’ll study with Spanish students at the prestigious University of Salamanca and have the option to live with a Spanish family or with other international students in a residence hall.

The Program Participant courses will include language classes tailored to their proficiency level in Spanish. Beginners will have special language lab and vocabulary building sessions. They’ll also choose among classes that focus on Spanish history, culture, and art, as well as Arab culture in Spain, the role of women in Spanish history, and Spanish and Latin American film. Outside of class, they’ll take part in group excursions to Segovia, a UNESCO World Heritage site because of its Roman aqueduct, medieval walls, and Romanesque cathedrals, and Madrid, the country’s vibrant and sophisticated capital. The program is administered by COE and Travel & Education, a program provider that partners with three universities in the regions of Castile and Leon, Spain.

The Selection Process

Participants must be nominated by their TRIO director to apply to this program. Eligible students are TRIO Student Support Services or McNair participants who are in good academic and social standing with their institutions, have at least sophomore status, and have demonstrated leadership ability and potential. Thanks to generous corporate support, COE will award Keith Sherin Global Leaders Scholarships to at least 20 students selected for the 2012 Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program to greatly reduce the cost of the program for students. The three extraordinary students who are taking part in this international study opportunity are:

James Fountain of the Community College of Aurora



Leonardo Gomez of Pueblo Community College



Shanna Riley of Otero Junior College



Pueblo Community College and Colorado State University-Pueblo Upward Bound Newspaper Article

*Upward Bound: Springboard to higher education
Before graduating from high school, students prepped for success in college*

By Pablo Carlos Mora

pmora@chieftain.com

THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Posted: 6/25/2012, Page 5A-6A

College fads come and go, but the Upward Bound program has real staying power, helping nontraditional students succeed in higher education. Upward Bound works with middle and high school students to improve their opportunities to succeed in college.

Pueblo has two Upward Bound programs: one at Colorado State University-Pueblo that has been in operation since 1965 and another that began in 1982 at Pueblo Community College.



Ismana Carney, Upward Bound director at CSU-Pueblo, said the program has given thousands of students a needed boost to make a successful transition from high school to college. "For more than four decades, CSU-Pueblo's TRIO Upward Bound program has served almost 3,000 Pueblo high school students," Carney said recently.

Cindy Ayala, PCC Upward Bound director, said the program makes a real difference in the lives of young people. "Upward Bound prepares high school students for college. If we are successful, they are the first in their families to graduate from college," Ayala said.

PCC Upward Bound students celebrated their accomplishments during a banquet June 18 at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

Janessa Montoya, who will be a senior at Pueblo East High School, and her brother, Manuel, a sophomore at East, both talked about the hard work required to stay in Upward Bound. "I kept my appointments to meet with tutors from 6 to 8 p.m. every Monday," Janessa said. "If you follow the schedule with tutors and counselors, you receive a stipend of about \$30 a month." Manuel Montoya called the program leadership "cool" and said he was looking down the road to attending college, even if it is years off. Their parents are Manuel



Monica Hughes, 15, a junior at Centennial High School, works on a computer during a recent Upward Bound English class at CSU-Pueblo.

CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES





and Monica Montoya of Pueblo.

During the banquet, a slide show prepared by Danielle Wantuck, a junior at South High School, showcased students activities this academic year, notably a weeklong stay at Fort Lewis College in Durango.

The students also toured the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings. “The field trip was a great opportunity to expose students to college life,” Ayala said. “We want to motivate them to see the possibilities that await them in college.”

PCC President Patty Erjavec said she was delighted to attend the banquet and express her support for the program. “This is fantastic. The program gives students an opportunity to explore what their potential is,” Erjavec said. “We know that early exposure to higher education is a key component to success in college.”



The program recruits students entering ninth grade who are the first in their families to attend college and are low-income, CSU-Pueblo’s Carney said. “We offer a rigorous college prep program with tutors, academic support, after-school programs at the students’ schools and four hours of academic instruction and tutoring,” Carney said. “We also offer additional support for the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program. “Our staff also provide academic advising and counseling.”

Students who meet program requirements also may receive stipends of \$80 a semester and additional support for participating in a six-week summer program. Students in both Upward Bound programs are encouraged to take college classes while they still are in secondary school, which is called dual enrollment.

The investment in students is paying off, according to Michael Manos, who oversees both Upward Bound programs and is executive director of college opportunity programs at CSU-Pueblo. “Our students do well in entering college and staying enrolled,” Manos said. “Statistics show 92 percent of (high school) seniors who were enrolled in the 2010-11 program year enrolled in college in fall 2011. “And of those Upward Bound seniors who enrolled in college in fall 2010, 91 percent were still enrolled in college in fall 2011.”

The U.S. Department of Education recently approved five-year continuation grants for both programs. PCC Upward Bound received \$318,000 for the 2012-13 school year and is eligible for four additional annual grants based on performance, Ayala said. CSU-Pueblo was awarded \$391,000 for the next school year, with the same eligibility to apply for more grants, Carney said. “In the history of the program at CSU-Pueblo, the continuation grants have always been awarded,” Carney said.

The program has helped launch a number of successful careers. Jennifer Barela, a constituent advocate for U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, took part in the CSU-Pueblo Upward Bound program from 1998 to 2001. “It taught me the importance of college and how far you could go,” Barela said. “More than anything, Upward Bound taught me the value of education.



“People come from so many walks of life and you are there with the common goal of being a successful person.”

Submitted by: Ismana Carney, CSU-Pueblo UB Director and Cynthia Ayala, PCC UB Director

Trinidad State Junior College, Upward Bound and Math Science Upward Bound

This summer the U.S. Space Foundation worked with 75 students from both the TSJC Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science programs. Iain Probert, Space Foundation Vice President in Education wrote an article named, “Inspiring a Generation” in the Space Foundation *Space Watch* publication. He wrote, “These exemplary 14- to 18-year olds from varied backgrounds and from different parts of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas proved that their generation is both hungry for and deserving of the time and effort to inspire. The six-week residential programs run by the capable faculty and staff of TSJC are so good that they are worthy of further expansion.” The Space Foundation was honored to play a small part in the development of these most accomplished, respectful and talented young people. They will go far and, with their engaging personalities, will inspire their peers, too.

Submitted by: Alicia Massarotti, TSJC UBMS Assistant Director

Adams State University Celebrates Upward Bound 40 Year Reunion



This past summer marked the 40th year of serving students throughout the San Luis Valley for Adams State University (ASU) Upward Bound. Along with this milestone slates came out in May, the program was also notified that they would be funded for an additional 6 years through the Department of Education. To commemorate this milestone and the years of dedication and service, ASU invited Upward Bound Alumni and staff for a two day reunion held on the ASU campus. Upward Bound Alumni, staff, and their families were invited to attend a celebration of the achievements and successes of the program, as well as those of alumni. The two days were filled with the nostalgia of summer programs past, laughter, tears of joy, social gathering,

and games, all of which were significant of great memories of living in the dorms.

To commemorate the reunion and note his support of the TRIO programs, U.S. Senator for Colorado, Mark Udall issued the following statement, “for 40 years, the Upward Bound program at Adams State has provided students from disadvantaged backgrounds with critical support in their pursuit of a college degree and a successful career by equipping them with the tools to succeed in their academic development, I will continue to advocate for important TRIO programs such as Upward Bound, as they have a proven track record of success in helping thousands of disadvantaged Americans achieve the American Dream.”



Submitted by: Amanda Atencio, ASU Upward Bound Counseling Coordinator

News From Montana

Fort Peck Community College

Florence Garcia, former SSS Director at Montana State University and National TRIO Achiever is now president of Fort Peck Community college.



Dr. Florence McGeshick Garcia, Washte Hinapawe “Good Woman Comes Out”, is an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes. Originally from Wolf Point, Florence earned her doctorate in Adult and Higher Education from Montana State University-Bozeman and served as the Academic Vice-President at FPCC before beginning her tenure as President. She was a Director and adjunct faculty member at MSU-Bozeman and MSU-Billings, a high school teacher, and was a Dean of Student Services at Metropolitan State University in St Paul MN prior to her current position. Florence is a National TRIO Achiever, served as a board member on the Council for Opportunity in Education, and was a board member on the MSU-Bozeman Alumni Association. She has a daughter, Elisabeth, and 3 grandchildren.

Fort Peck Community College: New president inaugurated.

Great Falls Tribune—Great Falls, MT Author: RICHARD PETERSON

Date: May 26, 2012

In her inaugural speech, newly installed Fort Peck Community College President Florence McGeshick Garcia said Friday she will carry into office the values taught to her by her late great-grandfather.

On his deathbed, he never mentioned his many accomplishments as a soldier in a war-torn battlefield or other big events in his life. "The thing he was most proud of was that he never hurt a woman or a child. I want us to remember those values," Garcia said in her speech before several hundred people at the FPCC's Greet the Dawn Auditorium.

Garcia, a former school teacher and faculty member at Montana State University-Bozeman and MSU-Billings, was selected in December to replace retired FPCC President Jim Shanley. A native of Wolf Point, she was previously the academic vice president at FPCC before her selection.

FPCC is owned by the Fort Peck Assiniboiné & Sioux Tribes and has a student body of about 300 students. Its main campus is in Poplar with satellite campuses in Wolf Point and Glasgow.

Garcia, a Fort Peck tribal member who carries the Assiniboiné name Waste Hinapawe (Good Woman Comes Out), said she knows the job will be challenging. As the leader of the college, she said she'll keep in the forefront of her mind some valuable advice from a former colleague.

"The mission of tribal colleges is to preserve our culture," she said. "That's what makes us unique. Otherwise



we're like every other college."

Guest speaker Henrietta Mann, a longtime educator and administrator at MSU-Bozeman and the University of Montana, commended Garcia for coming to her home reservation to be the college's fifth president.

"We missed her when she left Montana State University. It was a big loss for us at MSU, but I had to realize that she came home," said Mann. "Fort Peck is a flagship tribal college and wonderful institution. And there's no better person to come home and take on those responsibilities."

A member of the Cheyenne Tribe in Oklahoma, Mann returned to her home state in 2009 to be the first president of the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribal College. She is still involved with the Native American Studies program at MSU-Bozeman.

Wayne Stein, an MSU-Bozeman professor who grew up with Garcia in Wolf Point, said the new president has a tough road ahead of her and will endure long hours, travel and criticism.

He encouraged those in the audience to pray for her as she continues her new job.

"The women of our Native American communities are truly the caretakers of our culture," he said. "Not the men. Without the women there wouldn't be recognizable Native Americans out there."

Financial Literacy

Student Support Services at Fort Peck Community College is striving to meet the Department of Education's requirement for Financial Literacy. In June a collaborative workshop on College Preparation/Financial Literacy for Student Success was held at the college. Students were given the opportunity to apply for FAFSA, the Tribal Higher Education scholarship and College fund scholarship.

At the beginning of this academic year, a financial literacy survey was given to 150 students asking them what they knew about; applying for college, what programs were offered at FPCC to help with income, if they knew how to prevent identify theft, if they saved money and budgeted. From this survey, we have a better idea on what the financial literacy needs of our students are.

The TRIO staff offer to substitute in some classes for faculty members so we can do financial literacy training or study skills. It is difficult to schedule workshops that meet students time schedule, so when we substitute, we have a captured audience.



Vicki Bisbee, Counselor at Wolf Point High School, presenting a lesson on budgeting



Montana College Access Network (MCAN) Conference

The Montana College Access Network (MCAN) would like to invite you to learn new and innovative ways to direct Montana students along the path to higher education! Join us Oct. 2-3, 2012 at the UC Center on The University of Montana campus in Missoula for the “Navigating the Future” Conference to network, get educational updates, and discuss best practices relative to college access and success throughout the Treasure State.

MCAN is a coordinated network, promoting access to educational openings after high school for Montana students by aligning efforts of MCAN members.

This year, look forward to hearing from keynote speaker Reg Weaver. Mr. Weaver is the immediate past-president of the National Education Association (NEA) — the largest professional association for educators, and one of the most influential educator groups in the United States. In addition, Mr. Weaver is the vice president of Education International, the world’s largest Global Union Federation, representing education workers in every corner of the world.

Check out “First Generation,” a 95-minute documentary exploring the problems of college access faced by first-generation and low-income students and how their success has major implications for the future of our nation. The film tracks four students from their junior year of high school through their first year of college.

Listen in and ask questions at three panel discussions. First, key Montana educational leaders including Dr. Royce Engstrom, UM president; Dr. Waded Cruzado, MSU president; Angela McLean, Chair, Board of Regents; Major Robinson, Board of Regents member; Patty Meyers, Chair of the Board of Public Education; Alex Apostle, Superintendent of Missoula County Public Schools; and Amy Verlanic, Executive Director for the Institute for Educational Opportunities, will share their thoughts on Montana first-generation students. That will be followed by a student panel made up of first-generation Montana students from two-year, four-year, minority, GearUp/Pathway and non-traditional background. The third and final panel will discuss affordability issues, barriers and programs in place to help students pursue postsecondary education.

Don’t miss this chance to share your expertise, network with colleagues, gain new insights and tools, build new partnerships and join a growing movement to help students navigate the gap between aspiration and educational and financial achievement for Montana students. To register for the conference, please go to <http://knowhow2gomontana.ning.com/> and click on “Events.” The cost of registration is \$99 and continuing education credits will be available.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Pat Schlauch

MCAN Network Manager



2012 REGIONAL ASPIRE PRE-CONFERENCE OFFERING

The Montana Career Information System (MCIS) is a comprehensive Internet-based system that delivers accurate and useful local and national information to assist users in making career plans and learning how to achieve their educational and career goals.



Join the Montana Career Information System trainers as they explain an “Educator’s View”-How to help students get started using MCIS and the benefits of MCIS. This pre-conference workshop will go over the various assessments offered by MCIS to include: O’NET Interest Profiler, IDEA assessment, Reality Check and several others. MCIS also offers great information on portfolios, how to search for a job, the work importance locator and how to polish yourself for the all important interview.

The first and most helpful way we can help students prepare for the careers after secondary education is by helping them to find their own path.

The way we do that is helping them get to know their selves through the various sorts, inventories and assessments the MCIS has to offer.



MCIS—TRIO Partnership Scholarship Award Winners



The Institute for Educational Opportunities is pleased to announce that 56 students across the state of Montana have received \$70,000 in scholarships from the Montana Career Information System – TRIO Partnership Scholarship. The funds for this scholarship are made available through the Governor's Office and through Montana's Department of Labor and Industry as an effort to promote the use of the MCIS, a free electronic career and education tool that provides individuals with accurate and unbiased career information.

Amy Verlanic, Director of The Institute at Montana Tech, and Chair of the Scholarship Selection Committee, stated; "Today's students are media and technologically savvy, they are no longer dependent on only the advice of their trusted teacher or parent. Students want real data about what kind (s) of educational opportunities exists for them here in Montana and where exactly that education will take them. Furthermore they expect it at a click of a button. Lucky for students in Montana, that is exactly what Governor Schweitzer has made available to them through the Montana Career Information System."

Every student who received this scholarship reported using the MCIS tool to help them in making decisions with their education goals, community involvement, and provided a plan into a productive future. "These scholars really exemplify what it means to invest in their future by taking advantage of the resources available. Students who know how to ask for help are much more likely to be successful in their educational goals and as working, contributing citizens," said Verlanic.

School teachers, guidance counselors, youth group leaders, career counselors, parents, or anyone responsible for guiding Montana's youth are encouraged to explore the MCIS a <http://mtcis.intocareers.org>. For more information about the scholarship or to get free one on one training in how to use MCIS, contact Kehli Kankelborg, Outreach Programs Coordinator, at (406)496-4691 or kkankelborg@mtech.edu.

2012 MCIS Scholarship Winners

Adrianna Yellow Robe, Jonathan McKessick, Shelby Fenger, Vickie Young, Kimberly Scott Clark, Jan West, Elizabeth Cheff, Anna Porter, Dwight Camillucci, Sally Weinand, Thomas Michael Palaoro, Judith Everett, Jordan Perea, Kelsey Lilleberg, Jake Thompson, Alyssa Tibor, Lily Westerhoff, Calen Carpenter, Kaylee Lilleberg, Brianna Burgess, Jessica Hickel, Sapphire Long Knife, Jenny Thornburg, James Cwick, Troy Duker, Kaysha Young, Jesse Cook, Trevor Bras, Jade Hartman, Michele Hagen, Ashton Smith, Teena Thompson, TyAnn Kuehn, Kylee Stiffarm, Adrian Fyant, Sasha Pietsch-Rivers, Shawn deFrance, Kayla Lynch, Melissa Spinler, Rosalie Eastman, Sara Christensen, Morgan Benge, Gregory Coggeshall, Tegan Miller, Kassala Holdsclaw, Madison Dauenhauer, Leesa Schumacher, Bobby Smollack, Jason Cliff, Dylan Allen, Sallie Sams, Damaris Foster, Samantha Springer, Natacha Messerly, Kalli Jo Cady, and Jeremy Price.



News from South Dakota

Black Hills State University

Jim Hartwell was featured in the SD TRIO FactBook in 2007-08 as our Success Story for the Black Hills State SSS program. Jim graduated with his BSED in Industrial Technology and is beginning his third year as the CAD/CAM (Computer-Aided Drafting/Computer-Aided Machining) Instructor for the Northwest Area School District in South Dakota. Jim teaches CAD/CAM for one semester at 8 different schools on a rotating schedule. This means each school can offer CAD/CAM once every four years, so every student has this class as an option sometime during high school. Schools in this multi-district arrangement include Dupree, Faith, Harding County, McIntosh, McLaughlin, Onida, Smee, and Timber Lake. **Jim was just notified by the Vocational Rehabilitation Office that he was selected by The Governor's Office as the recipient of the "Outstanding Employee with a Disability" Award.** We have asked Jim's permission to re-print his story from the SD Factbook. His success story reminds us of why we work in TRIO-Thanks, Jim, from the BHSU SSS TRIO staff—Susan, Cody, Juli, and Peggy

Jim Hartwell—Student Success Story

In the spring of 1975, my parents took a job running a small ranch that was 25 miles from the closest town—I was 11 years old. To get to the main road five miles away, we had to cross the Grand River. If the river was high, we were not able to cross. We would then have 75 more miles of riding the bus just to get to school—one-way! By Thanksgiving of every year, we were snowed in for the winter and would not get back to school until Easter time. My father expected me to drop out of school after 8th grade to work, but I was able to find a job that I could work after school and on weekends. I also joined the National Guard and started my own farm repair business, complete with my own vehicle and tools.

The day after I graduated from high school, I went straight to boot camp. I started college in the spring semester, but one week before finals, my dad had an accident and I had to go back home to help. Even though I missed all my finals, I still had good enough grades to pass all my classes. But, I decided to forget about college and just run my business. Over the next 15 years, I met my wife, got married, and had four children, so I now needed a job with benefits. I got connected with an offshore seismograph company that hired me to work all over the world. In 2000, while working off the coast of Brazil, I suffered a back injury. I subsequently had a blood clot in my leg, which broke loose and went to my lungs. The pulmonary embolism I suffered was not diagnosed for ten days. My doctor couldn't believe I was alive and still walking! After being placed on disability, I connected with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to retrain in my original major, Industrial Technology.

My first semester back in college, I attempted four on-line general education classes. By Thanksgiving, I knew I wasn't going to make it. I was advised to see if my professors would give me an extension. They all were willing to work with me. My VR Counselor suggested I meet with the Disabilities Counselor at BHSU and he invited Susan Hupp, SSS Director, to join the meeting because he felt that Student Support Services would be able to help me with all the tutoring I was going to need because of my learning disability. With knots in my stomach and stressed to the max, I thought about going into classes that I knew I was weak in and having to struggle through them all on my own. With my family being over 200 miles away, I was scared! I was a 40-year-old man having to start my life all over again. Swallowing a BIG lump in my throat, I walked into the office of BHSU's Student Support Services and was welcomed with opened arms from everyone. The knot in



my stomach started to shrink after I met with Susan and was accepted into the program. Susan did not stop there—she went through my class schedule, which was a mess, and after an hour, she finally got all my classes straightened out.

The first tutor I was introduced to was Cody McMichael, the math tutor. It wasn't long before I was working in the math lab anywhere from 2 to 4 hours a day. Following College Algebra, I had a class called Energy, Power and Transportation. This was a Physics class so Cody wasn't rid of me yet! I needed him to help me through the math in this class, too. There were times that we would have a problem that would leave Cody scratching his head, so then we would get Juli's input on the problem. Juli was the Science tutor. Between the two of them, I never left the lab without knowing how to do the problem. I also met Linda Wilson who was going to help me with my English and writing skills. Linda also helped me get through Speech. She made me practice in front of her and even sometimes in front of whoever was in the office at the time!

I am now in my final semester of school and even though it has been 3 years, every time I open the door to SSS I think about the first time I opened the door. I remember how I felt then and how I feel now. When I started school in 2004, I was on probation with a low 1.7 GPA. Thanks to the help of the SSS staff, I plan to graduate in May with a 3.0 GPA. With a lot of help from SSS and my hard work and determination, I am just three months away from seeing A DREAM I once had COME TRUE.

Northern State University

SSS Highlights from Northern State University

The TRIO Student Support Services program at Northern State University recognized students' achievements during a year-end awards ceremony on April 30, 2012.

The SSS program recognized NSU students, staff, and community supporters by presenting the following awards:

- TRIO Rising Star
- TRIO Commitment to Excellence Award
- Spirit of TRIO Award
- Peer-to-Peer Award
- SSS Achiever
- TRIO Bridge Builder
- Champion of TRIO

Additionally, students receiving Dean's List honors from NSU were also recognized.



The evening culminated with inspiring words from Ms. Holly Hoffman. She delivered a positive message to students on facing adversity, overcoming obstacles, and staying committed to personal, academic, and professional goals. Hoffman, a South Dakota native and NSU alum, placed fourth in Season 21 *Survivor Nicaragua*.



Update from Northern State University Upward Bound

We had another great summer at Northern State University this year. It began with some exciting news in May when we received notification that we were funded for five more years! Our program also had a great turnout for the six week summer program. The students worked really hard every day even with some of the extreme heat we had. After this summer, I think we might finally try to get in one of the air-conditioned residence halls for the next year!

Over the past few summers we have been able to retain a great teaching staff for the summer. These instructors have really challenged the students and they embrace the positive effects of the Upward Bound program. Some of classroom projects included dissection labs with frogs and worms, math competitions, and a reading and writing unit covering the book, *Stotan*. Our Bridge students stayed very busy as well. They took an American History course in the morning and had an Introduction to Speech course in the evening through Northern State University.

Outside of the classroom we had excursions to the Black Hills area and to the Twin Cities. The students were exposed to a variety of educational and historical activities, including, but not limited to Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, the Minnesota Museum of Science and the Sea Life Aquarium. There were also tours of Black Hills State University, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Augsburg College, and the University of Minnesota-Morris.





Dakota Wesleyan University

The Dakota Wesleyan TRIO SSS Peer Mentor program is off to a great start this fall. The Peer Mentors had a great time helping to host the TRIO orientation event in August where they worked hard to ensure that all the new TRIO participants felt welcome and included. During the orientation, they hosted fun icebreaker games and even got the students into and out of a human knot. The Peer Mentors have also been helping with educational seminars such as College is Different, where they shared their stories of getting used to college and helpful hints to make the transition from high school to college successful. In early September, they hosted their first campus connection event, which was supposed to be s'mores and lawn games outside of the freshman dorm. Due to the citywide burn ban, the group had to scramble to find an alternate location. Who would have thought that having microwave s'mores in the basement of the freshman dorm would turn out to be such a success? The peer mentors are also keeping busy meeting with all the freshman participants individually or in small groups as part of the freshman experience course. We look forward to a great year with this energetic and dedicated group of student leaders.



TRIO Peer Mentors help with the human knot during the DWU TRIO orientation event



DWU TRIO Peer Mentor motto



Card games in the freshman dorm



Microwave s'mores with the peer mentors



Getting to know each other during orientation