



# ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, INC.

## TRiO

January—April 2011



## The Utah Chapter of ASPIRE

invites you to

### “Elevate Life!”

by attending the

## 2011 ASPIRE Conference

October,

8-12th, 2011.

Radisson Hotel

Salt Lake City, Utah

See you there!



## *Message from the President*

Hello ASPIRE!

It has certainly been an eventful few months since the last Aspirations Newsletter. Successful state conferences have taken place across our region, many meetings and contacts with our state senators and congressional representatives, and of course the disappointing news of the budgetary cuts to TRIO programs in the upcoming grant year. While this was not the news we wanted to hear, I wholeheartedly believe that we will come out of this challenging time successfully with TRIO programs remaining strong. I hope all of us will remain positive now and continue to apply pressure to our congressional leaders to restore *and increase* funding to TRIO. Our students and their families are counting on it!



Lynne Brown, Past President, Rachel Martinez, President Elect, and I attended the COE Board meeting last week, and attended sessions with Dr. Eduardo Ochoa, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, Director of Student Services Division of the Department of Education. It was my impression that they are working closely with COE to identify and implement the least harmful method of budgetary cuts to TRIO, and remain committed to these programs. Evidence of this is that they have accepted the COE Executive Board's recommendation to spread the FY 2011 budget cuts across all TRIO programs rather than apply the full cut to the TS & EOC programs now in competition. For a full report on the details of these meetings, please check out the Alerts section of COE's website at [http://www.coenet.us/ecm/AM/Template.cfm?Section=ED\\_Alerts](http://www.coenet.us/ecm/AM/Template.cfm?Section=ED_Alerts).

Across our region, your ASPIRE Board and the regional committees have been working hard for you this year. The Board met in Salt Lake City, UT earlier this month at the site of our 2011 regional conference. We were unanimous in our thoughts that you will find this conference location enjoyable and well suited to our needs. I look forward to seeing all of you there, and hope you have your calendars marked for October 8 – 12 with plans to attend our regional conference. Some of the items addressed during our January Board meeting were:

- An update on the 2011 conference planning. Jami Bayles is leading an outstanding group of people that are hard at work to organize the conference. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to all of them for all their work.
- This year's Leadership Development Institute will take place October 8-9. It will be a great workshop for anyone considering opportunities to become actively involved within the ASPIRE organization. If you haven't had the opportunity to participate before, I encourage you to consider it this year.
- We are in need of a new chair of the regional website committee. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Rachel Martinez, President-Elect at 307-778-4387 or [rmar-tine@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:rmar-tine@lccc.wy.edu).
- Work has continued on the process of updating our regional operating guidelines. There is still a good amount of work to do on this task, but I hope we can address the rest of it at our final meeting in October.



Your Board continues to be fiscally conservative, and it is paying off with our regional financial situation continuing to strengthen. I am very pleased to report that long-term savings are being re-established. There is more progress needed in this area, but given where our finances were only a few years ago, this is a fantastic step in the right direction.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer!

*Dawn Eckhardt*

## Regional News

### Amy Verlanic Elected Unanimously to COE Board Treasurer Position

On behalf of ASPIRE, Congratulations Amy on your nomination!

Now a few words from the new COE Board Treasurer: *“For the sixth year in a row the important position of COE Board Treasurer has been held by an ASPIRE member. This illustrates a number of important things about our region; (1) we have a commitment to grooming our professionals for TRIO service and leadership and we follow through on that commitment with fidelity, (2) ASPIRE believes that we must advocate for our students at every level and we support our professionals and the organizations that do that work, and (3) we recognize that the funds that operate our state, regional and most importantly national organization are precious and should be spent in an efficient and wise manner.”*



#### COE Board Treasurer History:

- 11-12 Mike Wade, University of Wyoming
- 10-11 Mike Wade, University of Wyoming
- 09-10 Amy Verlanic, Montana Tech
- 08-09 Curtis Sandberg, University of Wyoming/ Berra College
- 07-08 Curtis Sandberg, University of Wyoming

Other ASPIRE leaders who have served in this capacity were;

Andrea Reeve, University of Wyoming when served now at Colorado State University

Barry Ballard, University of Wyoming, and

Paul Thayer, Colorado State University



## *Good Example of a Letter to President Obama Written by Two TRIO Alumni*

*Submitted by Dan Bengé*

### A Letter to the President of the United States

“Growing up there was never any question in my parents’ mind that we would go to college. ... And they always told us that even if we weren’t rich, we were just as smart and just as capable as anyone else. ... They taught us that if we dreamed ...big enough and if we worked hard enough anything was possible. In my country we call that the American Dream ...”

Mr. Obama, those are your wife’s words, shared just last month with students in Chile. Education is vitally important to our country, both in the present and the future. You’ve said you believe that. Your wife has said she believes it, too. So why, then, have you decided to slash funding for TRIO programs by more than \$25 million? That cut will cause many tens of thousands of students to be kicked out of TRIO programs such as Upward Bound this year. There simply won’t be enough money.

I am an Upward Bound success story; I am the first in my family to earn a college degree. And I returned, for several years, to serve as a counselor at UB. I wanted to give back and help others achieve the same success I found with the assistance of the program – where I met my wife, incidentally. She, too, went on to earn a degree, taught one summer at UB and is now a high school English teacher.

These cuts – along with the cuts to PELL, which also helped me through college – will devastate low-income and first-generation college hopefuls. Upward Bound has a proven track record. More than 90 percent of UB graduates will move on to college, and the program’s research has shown that UB students are four times more likely to earn a college degree than students from similar backgrounds who do not participate in the program. This program works. And you are gutting it.

“After you’ve taken control of your own destiny and pulled yourselves up, then I want you to look back and to pull someone else up after you. For those fortunate enough to reach our goals, it is our obligation to help someone else do the same.”

Again, words from the First Lady.

I recognize the need to make budget cuts. Something needs to happen. But it can’t happen at the cost of education, and it can’t come at the cost of students desperately trying to reach their dreams. You made sure you got a good education. You’ve reached the ultimate goal. So, now, isn’t it your obligation to help others do the same?

Troy and Roxanne Shockley  
Billings, MT  
MSU-Billings Upward Bound Alumni



## News from Wyoming

### Let There Be Cake

Any great conversation usually takes place around food. Such was the case for two of the annual SSS events this spring semester.

In March, SSS juniors and seniors took part in the Etiquette Dinner. Jacque Buchanan hosted the students, who experienced a mock business interview dinner. The UW Executive Chef provided exceptional food, while students observed, comedic as they were, ways to *not* interview as well as those ways that could land that special first job after graduation. While it is not difficult for students to dress for a “no” interview, it is more difficult, with limited income, to find that winning ensemble.



Thanks to Mrs. Buchanan and help from Family and Consumer Science faculty who can locate inexpensive clothing in Laramie, Etiquette Dinner participants who performed the “yes” interview skit learned important financial lessons on ways to dress for less, and left at the end of the evening with some nearly new clothing. Not only did those in attendance take away important skills about which fork to use when, but also how to properly conduct themselves during an interview. Comedy and all, everyone enjoyed the evening.

In April, SSS celebrated its graduating seniors at the Spring Recognition Dinner. The event, hosted at the downtown Historic Train Depot, gave a great send-off to the twenty-one students who had achieved this exceptional milestone. The graduates shared a few lessons they acquired about “college success wisdom” with fellow undergrads. We never tire of hearing success stories and how our program has helped participants. Congratulations, Class of 2011!

### Wyoming Educational Access Day

Educational Access Day draws attention to the need to give everyone equal access to higher education. Feb. 24 was declared Wyoming Educational Access Day this year in a proclamation signed by Governor Matt Mead. Six UW SSS participants took the field trip over the hill to Cheyenne and joined other SSS, UB/MSIP, and GEAR UP students in visiting the Capitol. Students were recognized and applauded in both the Senate and the House. Other activities included students working through the process of a proposed bill becoming a law and a visit to the Wyoming State Museum (see picture). The UW SSS students visited the Cheyenne field offices of federal Senators Enzi and Barrasso as well as Rep. Lummis to discuss how the SSS program positively impacts students.



## News from South Dakota

### South Dakota ASPIRE State Meeting

TRIO professionals from across the state met in beautiful Chamberlain SD April 10-12 for the South Dakota State ASPIRE meeting. Keynote speaker Dusty Johnson, Chief of Staff for Governor Dugaard took time to share how he, as a student from a disadvantaged background himself, appreciates what TRIO programs have to offer. He talked about how students from any walk of life can achieve success with help from programs like TRIO. Johnson also fielded questions about Governor Dugaard's cuts to educational funding.

Other guest presenters included Regional ASPIRE President Dawn Eckhardt who presented *ASPIRE Updates*, Alvin Phillips who discussed *COE Fair Share*, Noreen Pulling and Peggy Kuck from Great Lakes Higher Education who presented on *Financial Literacy*, and DWU campus counselor Sally Wickware-Thompson and campus Nurse Donna Gerlach who presented *Physical and Mental Health for our Students and Ourselves*. SD ASPIRE members presented on varied topics such as *Government Relations and Advocacy*, *The College Crazies (I forgot what?)*, and *Building Your TRIO Alumni Data Base*. The agenda also included plenty of time for networking, sharing of best practices, and having fun with colleagues.



Sally Wickware-Thompson, LPC; DWU Campus Counselor and Donna Gerlach, RN; DWU Campus Nurse

### South Dakota TRIO Day 2011

South Dakota TRIO professionals and students from across the state met at the capitol in Pierre March 1st to promote awareness of federal TRIO programs. TRIO professionals and students advocated for themselves, their programs and fellow participants across the United States. TRIO staff and program participants from SDSU, Northern State University, Black Hills State University, Dakota Wesleyan University and the University of South Dakota were on hand to educate state legislators.



Photo taken by Rob Casey



## Dakota Wesleyan University Student Support Services

### DWU Peer Mentor Training

On Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 DWU students participated in the two-day CRLA (College Reading and Learning Association) certification training for the Peer Mentor Program. The 7 traditional college mentors and 2 non-traditional college mentors spent their days prepping for their role by discussing topics on ethics, do's and don'ts, presentation skills, building rapport, establishing trust, etc.

In addition there were several guest speakers involved who trained the group on Gallup Strengths, professional etiquette, referring students, and the popular Chit-Chat-Challenge; the art of initiating and sustaining small talk.

To wrap up the first day of training, the mentors and TRIO staff enjoying a team building picnic with a fun game of Ladder Ball!



*Peer Mentor trust walk*

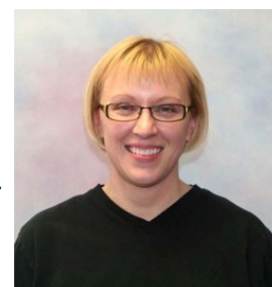


*Ladder Ball at the Peer Mentor picnic*

### DWU Student Support Services Welcomes New Staff Member

Hello All!

My name is Wendi Van Beek and I am the new Success Advisor/Tutor Coordinator of TRIO Student Support Services. In addition I am the Disability Services Coordinator on campus. I am currently completing my M.Ed. Administration specializing in Student Affairs degree at South Dakota State University, as well as completing my research on the changing cost of higher education in modern England. I had the opportunity to participate in a study abroad to England with Clemson University last summer and I loved it! If students are considering a study abroad opportunity during your education, I would strongly encourage it!



So, outside of work, school and research, I spend whatever little time I have left with friends, family and my greyhound puppies – Anya and Bren. I love to travel, cook, and camp and look forward to completing my Masters degree so I can read for pleasure instead of homework!





## Northern State University Upward Bound

Right now the Northern State Upward Bound program is gearing up for the summer program. We have a lot of exciting activities planned for our students. Besides taking classes, doing internships, and participating in evening activities, our students will be taking a tour of nearby Jamestown College and learning about financial literacy through Great Lakes. Northern State is also hosting the Upward Bound Olympics for North and South Dakota UB programs. We plan on having a great weekend full of motivational speakers and fun competitions. Our final trip this summer will be to Denver, CO with college tours at Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado.

This spring we were also excited to find out that two of our students were selected for some major scholarships. Jennifer Michlitsch (Webster, SD) was chosen as a Dell Scholar for 2011 and will receive \$20,000 for up to six years of college. Jennifer will attend Northern State University in the fall and major in accounting. Chelsea Holmes (Aberdeen, SD) was awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship, which will cover all costs of school not met by financial aid. Chelsea is going to major in nursing and will attend the University of Minnesota next fall. Congratulations to these two young ladies and all our other seniors who were awarded scholarships to college!

## South Dakota State University

### TRIO SSS Events in Review

*By Laurie Johnson*

The TRIO Advisory Board has been involved and busy this year and growing their leadership skills! The members hosted two social events both fall and spring and organized one volunteer community service project each semester. Our social events included: Tie Dying, a Cultural Cuisine Celebration, Ice-Skating, and Game Night! Tie Dying produced several creative, colorful designs just in time for Hobo Week. Students and staff shared a diverse smorgasbord of cultural foods and shared stories of family traditions at our cuisine celebration, with several students requesting to do this event every year!!! Student volunteers contributed their imaginative card designs for our service project to show appreciation to ADVANCE community members prior to Thanksgiving, and more than 20 students volunteered to prepare and serve 130 hungry people at our second Harvest Table community service event! We all enjoyed Apples to Apples while eating pizza and pizza with a small group of spoons on Game Night!



With a focus on financial literacy, our fall workshops included: Managing Your Spending and Accessing SDSU Scholarships. This spring semester we offered workshops featuring Time Management skills, Understanding and Renewing Your FAFSA and Campus Involvement.

The TRIO Advisory Board members are already thinking ahead for fall 2011. Tentative events include Re





source Jeopardy, a Bike Ride/Treasure Hunt, a cultural food potluck, bowling and a volunteer community service project working with the Humane Society! Please contact us if you have interactive educational and fun activities you would like to see us organize. We welcome new ideas!

**Happy Spring!**



## **TRIO SSS A Small Starfish Story** *By Laurie Johnson*

As student success professionals, we continually search for *the* perfect semester event schedule. You know, that all-inclusive yet illusive, interactively engaging, spectacularly planned and marketed series of events that will change a student's entire perspective of being successful.... Only to end up wondering why only two people attended this important, fabulously fun, snacks included event. Well, sometimes you just don't know. This past March, right on schedule with the FASFA renewal priority deadline, we hosted our regular FASFA workshop and follow-up walk-in assistance. Cindy Swinson, SDSU Financial Aid Assistant Director, was able to answer questions for five students, more than have attended previously. Yeah! But the big deal.... with Cindy's expertise and assistance, one student made a net gain of \$11,000 in grant dollars by *correctly* submitting the online FASFA. So the moral(s) of the story: *Students*, when you don't know (note: you are *not* supposed to know everything), ASK the people who do know; *Faculty/Staff* (note: you're *not* supposed to know everything either).... even if we only see a few students, it can and does make a huge difference for the ones that we do help! At least for that starfish, it did!

## **University of South Dakota Talent Search Program** *By Raven T. Soulliere , TRIO Talent Search Advisor for Lower Brule and Crow Creek Reservations*

Hello TRIO,

I would like to share some things with you about some of my Talent Search students. I have six students that I am most proud of and what they are doing at this point in their lives.

**Cody and Kevin Wright** are brother and sister. Kevin was in Talent Search for 4 years. He graduated from



*SDSU Talent Search continued*

Lower Brule HS in 2008. He is now in his third year of college at SDSU. Kevin is a dedicated student and a great asset to his people. He won the Gates Millennium and with that scholarship he has been able to fulfill his dream of a higher education.

His sister **Cody Wright** graduated from Lower Brule HS in 2010 and has just finished her first year at SDSU. She won several scholarships and continues to chase her dream of a Bachelor's Degree. Cody was in Talent Search for 5 years.



*Cody Wright*



*Casey Soulliere*

**Casey Soulliere** is a very highly motivated student and he is also my son. Casey was a participant in the Upward Bound program. He won many scholarships and is now finishing up his second year in college. He will begin his third year at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay. His major is in Biology and will soon be working with a Biologist in Africa this fall. And yes he is a bonfire cheese head!

**Elliott Driving Hawk** who is my nephew, graduated from Lower Brule HS in 2010 and he was also a recipient of the Gates Millennium Scholarship. He is finishing his first year at Lower Brule Community College and is doing quite well. He was in Talent Search for 4 years Joseph Skunk graduated from Lower Brule HS in 2010 and he is currently a Lower Brule Community College student and now has one year behind him. He plans to transfer out after he completes his two years here. He was in Talent Search for 5 years.



*Elliott Driving Hawk*

**Eltwin Grass Rope** put off going to college due to health reasons, but is now going to Lower Brule Community College. His is a young father and wants to get his degree. He plans to finish his two year here and then transfer out to SDSU.

The last student I am most proud of is **Seneca Skunk**. She graduated from Lower Brule HS in 2010 and she is a single mother. She decided to pursue her goal of obtaining a degree so she is now finishing up her first year at SDSU. She has held on to the dream of one day becoming a nurse. She was in Talent Search for around 5 years also.

These students have all overcome major life issues, but they have remained true to themselves. I have been most privileged and honored to not only have known them, but to have watched them work toward having a better future! I am very proud of them all and will continue to be there for them if and when they may need me.

Gooooooo Students!

## More from University of South Dakota Educational Talent Search

### TRIO DAY at Dupree School *By Marion Blue Arm*

The TRIO Educational Talent Search Program (ETS) celebrated TRIO Day 2011 on Fri, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Dupree School.

The national TRIO programs provide equal opportunity in education. In John F. Kennedy's words "All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talents."

With its home office at the University of South Dakota (USD), the program has served Cheyenne River students, in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, for over ten years at C-EB, Tiospaye Topa, Takini, and Dupree, with Lynelle Whitebull-Rousseau and Marion Blue Arm as the local teachers. Marion also meets with TRIO Math and Science Initiative (MSIP) high school students at C-EB High School. While in Dupree High School, Marion works with the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students with the annual focus on meeting the *Career Cruising* program expectations that the State Dept. of Education has created to assist students in becoming more prepared for making decisions about college, career paths, and their futures.

One day each spring, TRIO Day celebrates the achievements of its participants toward the completion of their high school diploma and their efforts of preparation for a post high school continuing education and career. At Dupree School, the junior high and high school students, who are all participants of ETS, were surprised after lunch with cake, candy, and a drawing with over 50 prizes, ranging from pizza gift certificates, t-shirts, and a flash drive to small items such as key chains and liter pops.

TRIO ETS students should be proud of completing another successful year. All their hard work is appreciated. Please note that "for every difficulty that supposedly stops a person from succeeding there are thousands who have had it a lot worse and have succeeded anyway. So can you." (Brian Tracy)





## Message From South Dakota ASPIRE President

The South Dakota ASPIRE website has been completed and is available online. The website contains valuable information about SD TRIO Programs. The web address is <http://www.sdaspire.org>.

The South Dakota ASPIRE spring conference was held in Chamberlain, SD on April 10-12. It provided 32 TRIO professionals in South Dakota with valuable networking and professional development opportunities. General sessions provided valuable information on TRIO advocacy, public relations, alumni and financial literacy. General session topics included:

- Dusty Johnson, chief of staff for Governor Dugaard, was the keynote speaker at the state conference. TRIO professionals had an opportunity to ask questions and promote TRIO to one of the top government officials in the state
- Non-TRIO staff from Great Lakes Higher Education presented a session on Financial Literacy.
- A general session on developing alumni relations was presented by DWU TRIO Director, Kate Miller.
- A general session teleconference with Alvin Phillips. Carol Gritts updated SD TRIO programs on the importance of meeting Fair Share and where the state was in reaching the goal of 100%.

SD TRIO Day was hosted by TRIO Professionals from six different TRIO programs, participants and alumni on March 1, 2011 at the state capitol in Pierre, SD. TRIO professionals and students met with state senators and representatives in the lobbies of each chamber to share the TRIO message at the South Dakota state capitol.

Cody McMichael, President of South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE, attended COE's Policy Seminar March 6-8 to ensure South Dakota TRIO programs have a voice of support for TRIO programs across the nation.

SD ASPIRE officially moved to a two-year presidential term by approving SD Executive Board recommendations to the operating guidelines. SD ASPIRE has developed a transition/development plan for the president-elect to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities with each new presidential term.

Have a great summer! – Cody McMichael, SD ASPIRE President



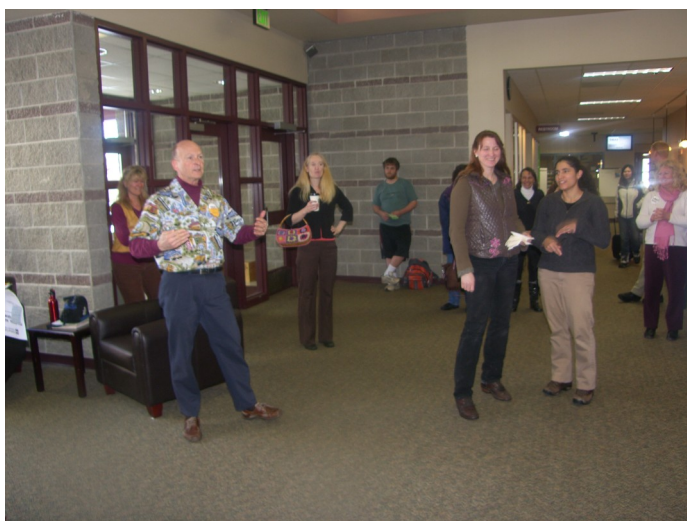
## News from Montana

### Flathead Valley Community College Celebrates TRIO Day

Flathead Valley Community College celebrated National TRIO Day on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two weeks before the celebration day, staff manned tables in different campus locations informing students about TRIO services and encouraging students to stay financially fit by completing FAFSA and scholarship applications.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, students were treated to coffee, punch and snacks, free TRIO pens, pencils, and buttons. Students who had completed FAFSA or scholarship applications, or who brought a nonperishable item for the local food bank, had the opportunity to win FVCC Bucks and other prizes.

Students who had previously received TRIO grant monies received special invitations to attend and were recognized. Also, two outstanding tutors: Rachel Ruch and Shawdee Dillon with many years of service to TRIO students were honored with Certificates and gift cards. Three boxes of non-perishable food were collected for donation to the local food bank. TRIO Day 2011 was enjoyable and productive time.



*Transfer Advisor Dan Voermans talks TRIO*



*Food collected for local food bank.*



*Some of the TRIO participants who attended TRIO Day*

## University of Montana Western

### UM Western TRIO SSS Participant Receives TRIO Achiever's Award

TRIO Student Support Services at UM Western nominated **Viliami Haunga** for the prestigious Montana ASPIRE 2011 TRIO Achiever's Award. Vili was chosen to receive this award at the state meeting of MT ASPIRE in Helena, and gave his acceptance speech at the TRIO Achiever's luncheon Thursday, February 3, 2011.

TRIO Student Support Services serves 160 low income, first generation, and/or disabled students at The University of Montana Western. While almost 80% of the students currently attending UMW qualify for TRIO SSS under one or more of these criteria, only 160 slots are open under the Federal Grant which supports the TRIO program. Those students who are chosen to be a part of this program must show their potential to serve and succeed in the University culture, and Viliami is one of the best.



Viliami Haunga was chosen to receive the TRIO Achiever's Award due to his extraordinary service to the campus and Dillon communities through his contributions as an Assistant Residence Hall Director, mentor, volunteer, tutor, and Campus Corps member. Vili has been an active positive role model for his fellow athletes and education peers, as well as to many of the incoming Polynesian students at Montana Western. He has been the President and one of the choreographers for the Polynesian Club, which has performed throughout Montana, including the State Legislature.



We are proud to have Viliami as a representative of the best of both TRIO programs, and Montana Western.

### UM Western TRIO SSS Program Proudly Celebrates the Special Achievements of Two Participants! *By Chrisy Keys, Director TRIO SSS*

Dylan Goheen and Nathan Boll are both active members of the TRIO program at UMW and are also math peer-tutors in the campus learning center. They amaze us as outstanding students, mentors, role models and tutors, and we are happy to share they are also outstanding competitors.

This year, the Pacific Northwest Section of the Mathematical Association of America hosted its first annual (hopefully) KRYPTOS challenge. This was a contest in which students were presented with three cryptanalysis, or codebreaking, challenges to complete between April 28th and May 2nd. Details can be found here:

<http://www.cwu.edu/~boersmas/kryptos/results.html>

A team of three UMW mathematics students, Susie Bleken, Nathan Boll, and Dylan Goheen, competed in



this year's contest. The contest opened at 5pm local time and the team completed and submitted all three of their solutions before midnight. This was fast work that they completed entirely on their own. Faculty involvement was limited to signing them up for the contest and sharing some books on cryptanalysis with them.

The next day, they were informed that they were the first team to submit solutions to all three challenges (in just 7 hours and 45 minutes) and ultimately that they placed first among 21 teams representing colleges and universities from Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

Dylan and Nathan exemplify why and how TRIO is successful. We have outstanding students!

## Fort Peck Community College Student Support Services

*By Rhonda Mason, SSS Director*

The end of the semester came faster than we expected, but we believe our students had a successful year. Of the 63 graduates this year, 40 were SSS participants. Twenty-five of the 40 graduates received their Associate degrees.

We use our Grant Aid for weekly gas vouchers for eligible students. They had to receive Pell, be in good academic standing and use our services. This year 33 students received the gas vouchers, 16 of them graduated with their Associate degrees. In their thank you notes, they all stressed how helpful the vouchers were to get them to college. Some of them traveled over 100 miles per day. With the balance of the Grant Aid we awarded eligible graduates a stipend.

This year we hired a Professional Tutor for the Learning Center. Faye Coleman is a retired teacher from Poplar School District. She worked five hours weekly with our students along with the peer tutors and the Instructor Coordinator. Our students had plenty of help.

Nelson Olney attended the American Indian Higher Education Conference (AIHEC) in Bismarck and gave a speech on the Vietnam War. Although he didn't place, he had the confidence and courage to participate in this event.

Patrick Pipe was hired in January as the Instructor Coordinator. He is a retired police officer and has a degree in Elementary Education. He brings lots of energy and enthusiasm not only for the academic part, but the activity part of SSS. He is a native of this area, married and father of three beautiful children. His wife Sudie, is a past SSS participant and graduate of FPCC.

This summer we are going to have mini-sessions on "Student Success". We hope our future students will attend to get a head start on their study skills and become college savvy. We also hope our current students will take in this activity; a person can never have enough training.

This is all from FPCC, we are looking forward to the ASPIRE conference in Salt Lake City. It is a great time to get together with old friends and learn new information.





These are students who received a Grant Aid scholarship for graduating:



*Amber Plummer-AA Human Services*



*Rachel Escarcega-AA Gen Studies*



*Randy Plummer-AS Environmental Science*



*Little Crow Baker-AAS Building Trades*

## The Montana Career Information System (MCIS) TRIO Partnership Scholarship a Success

The Montana Career Information System (MCIS) TRIO Partnership Scholarship is happy to report \$24,500 has been awarded to 49 scholars from MT TRIO programs.

The competition for this scholarship was truly statewide. One hundred and ninety two (192) applications were received. TRIO program participation was broken down by Eighty-two (82) applicants from Educational Talent Search, 60 from Student Support Services, 33 from Upward Bound, 10 from Educational Opportunity Center, and 7 from McNair programs.

The selection committee included 17 TRIO professionals from the Commissioner's Office, 2 year campuses 4 year campuses, and tribal colleges.

The scholarship recipients reported which campus they will attend in the Fall 2011 semester, which is where





their scholarship dollars have been paid. The University of Montana will capture 9 or 18% of the scholars. Montana State follows with 14%, 12% will attend FVCC, MSU-Northern, and Montana Tech. Western will capture 10%, MSU-Billings 8%, Great Falls 6%, and 2% will attend Carroll, Dawson Community College, and Salish Kootenai College.

We are encouraging TRIO programs to utilize MCIS within their advising efforts and to be sure to have their students apply next year, as the available scholarship dollars will triple.

For more information about MCIS visit <http://mtcis.intocareers.org/> or schedule training by contacting Kehli Kankelborg at [kkankelborg@mtech.edu](mailto:kkankelborg@mtech.edu).

CONGRATULATIONS! to the 49 scholarship recipients who are:

- Kaysha Young from Bozeman attending Montana State University -Bozeman.
- Erin Miller from Bozeman attending MSU Bozeman.
- Kallie Madler from Glendive attending Dawson Community College.
- Seth Bergman from Kalispell attending The University of Montana.
- Travis Tikka from Kila attending The University of Montana.
- Jan West from Whitefish attending Flathead Valley Community College.
- Ema Delby from Kalispell attending Flathead Valley Community College.
- Robyn Thomas from Kalispell attending Flathead Valley Community College.
- Maata Latu from Billings attending Montana State University - Billings.
- Courtney Sutherland from Conrad attending Montana State University-Billings.
- Annie Kish from Billings attending Montana State University - Billings
- Linda Wipf from Sun River attending MSU - Great Falls.
- John Coler from Butte attending Montana Tech.
- Elizabeth Patterson from Butte attending Montana Tech.
- Amanda Copus from Dillon attending The University of Montana- Western.
- Cheyenne Bray from Emigrant attending The University of Montana- Western.
- Jordan Bronec from Missoula attending The University of Montana- Western.
- Brittany Miller from Dillon attending The University of Montana- Western.
- Sara Christensen from Columbia Falls attending Flathead Valley Community College.
- Nadezhda Leonchik from Kalispell attending Flathead Valley Community College.
- Linda Wurz from Sun River attending Montana State University – Great Falls.
- Austin Petak from Billings attending The University of Montana- Western.
- Kristen Rattler from Browning attending Salish Kootenai College.
- Kelcie Boltz from Butte attending Montana State University.
- Connor Willhite from Butte attending Montana Tech.



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- Melissa Ruschetti from Butte attending Montana Tech.
- Tiana Pallister from Helena attending University of Montana.
- Nathan Christianson from Helena attending University of Montana-Missoula.
- Elyse Ramirez from Helena attending Carroll College.
- Corey Fox from Harlem attending Montana State University-Northern.
- Trent Jones from Harlem attending Montana State University-Northern.
- Colton Dirden from Harlem attending Montana State University-Northern.
- Anfernee Standing Rock from Box Elder attending University of Montana.
- Corderro Strickland from Havre attending Montana State University-Northern.
- Ty Bauer from Havre attending Montana State University-Northern.
- Brueshana granrt from havre attending Montana State University-Northern.
- Madison Santy from Worden attending The University of Montana.
- Allison Walsh from Worden attending Montana State University.
- Alisha Rickman from Laurel attending The University of Montana.
- Alisha Gill from Deer Lodge attending Montana State University.
- Lakota Stahl from Shepherd attending Montana State University Billings.
- Sally Weinand from Billings attending Montana State University.
- Michele Hagen from Martin City attending Montana State University.
- Hannah Smith from Kalispell attending Flathead Valley Community College.
- Kelee Lensing from Great Falls attending Montana State University - Great Falls.
- Trevor Bras from Hot Springs attending The University of Montana.
- Eddie Stugelmayer from Plains attending Montana Tech.
- Savannah Moore from Superior attending The University of Montana.
- Taylor Sewell from Twin Bridges attending Montana Tech.

# TRiO



Montana Career Information System

## News from Colorado

### Colorado State University

#### Academic Advancement Center (SSS) Colorado State University TRIO Day Honors Luncheon February 2011

Every spring the Academic Advancement Center celebrates national TRIO day by recognizing the academic achievements of program participants. This year the AAC recognized 98 students whose cumulative grade point averages are 3.0 and above. The students were invited to attend an Honors Luncheon recognition ceremony that included the awarding of Honor Student t-shirts and certificates. The AAC believes it is important to recognize students with a GPA of 3.0 as well as those students who make their college Deans' lists with a 3.5. These 98 students have shown great dedication to their academic pursuits and exhibit great dedication and persistence to achieving success on campus! These scholars are well deserving of recognition for their accomplishments.



*Amber Lopez presents award to first-year student, Cynthia Diaz*



*AAC students and staff help themselves to food served at the luncheon.*



*AAC students and staff from across campus come together to Celebrate at the Honors Recognition Program.*

## Metropolitan State College of Denver

### **Metropolitan State College of Denver Says Goodbye to SSS Director** *By David Luker*

*Interim Project Director, Student Support Services, Metropolitan State College of Denver*

I am writing to inform ASPIRE of Patricia Trotman's retirement as Director of Student Support Services (SSS) at Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) on December 31, 2010. The ASPIRE regional meeting in Cheyenne recognized Ms. Trotman with a retirement award for her numerous years of service, the following is an article recognizing her many contributions.



Ms. Trotman is a strong advocate for students of all color, traditional and non traditional students as well as all people who seek to improve their economic situations. At Metropolitan State College of Denver, Ms. Trotman has been an outstanding educator. As is well known, an educator's work is not motivated by money, it does not stop when one leaves the campus, and it is a life-long commitment. Pat Trotman's work at MSCD, which has demanded extreme commitment and focus, has been frequently acknowledged by administration, faculty and students for its consistent competence for over twenty years.

Ms. Trotman has had a long history of serving. She has had successful professional involvement in the field of education in a number of different settings for a number of years. Patricia Trotman has been Project Director of a TRIO program, Student Support Services (SSS), at Metropolitan State College of Denver for 17 years. The SSS program under her guidance has motivated and supported students from disadvantaged backgrounds, namely low-income, first-generation students and students with a disability to be success in college. The SSS program provides academic tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, financial guidance, and other supports necessary for the educational access and retention of eligible students.

However before her career at Metro, Ms. Trotman engaged in numerous activities as a champion of civil rights. She worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development preparing Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plans. For those too young to remember, segregation issues in the United States manifested in many ways. Besides limiting access to equal educational opportunities, segregation frequently cropped up in housing.

Also Patricia Trotman was an assistant director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, a national organization advocating individual rights, by litigating, legislating, and educating the public on a broad array of issues affecting individual freedoms and rights. In addition Ms. Trotman has many years of experience teaching and consulting in the field of communication, reading and developing effective support programs for disadvantaged students. Students have recognized Pat Trotman as "a supportive and approachable member of the MSCD community". Students who, for example, selected her for the Metro Natural Helper award in 1990.

Ms Trotman has not taken her responsibilities lightly. She has championed the message of education for all in a wide variety of community settings, from church organizations to community service groups. Ms. Trotman is a recognized face in the community whose wise words have motivated many to attend or return to a higher education institution. Ms. Trotman has presented many professional workshops to professional organizations ranging from Financial Aid administrators to Student Services Administrators.





*Patricia Trotman continued*

Patricia Trotman has received numerous honors and awards many focusing on her commitment to TRIO, her leadership abilities and her commitment to student success. Pat has professional affiliations with over a dozen professional organizations at the national and local level. These organizations range from the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) to American Association of University Women and include the African American Advisory Council at MSCD. Her support and commitment to equal access for all to education is easily recognized in the wide range of committee work she has done while here at MSCD.

The number of education professionals who have called her a mentor cannot be underrated. Thank you for the opportunity of putting forward Patricia Trotman's retirement information.

## TRIO Day in Pueblo Colorado

### Students to show appreciation

#### ***Saturday is set for TRIO recipients to express gratitude***

*By Gayle Perez from the The Pueblo Chieftain Posted: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 12:00 am*

A group of Colorado State University-Pueblo and Pueblo Community College students will give back to the community Saturday as a way of saying thanks for the support they've received for their education.

Approximately 100 students in the federally supported TRIO programs at PCC and CSU-Pueblo will be organizing the grief library at the Sangre de Cristo Hospice, 1207 Pueblo Boulevard Way.

The students also will be doing light housekeeping for the families of terminally ill individuals and deeper cleaning for families who recently have experienced a death.

As part of the students' efforts to support the grief library and kids grief camp, they are soliciting new and used items that can be dropped off at select locations in Pueblo through Friday.

Items in need include children's books, spiritual books, grief books, stuffed animals, puppets, CDs, markers, colored pencils, construction paper, activity books, granola bars and water bottles.

The items can be dropped off at PCC in the Upward Bound office, Room 154, and TRIO Support Services office, Room 174, both in the Academic Building.

CSU-Pueblo dropoff sites are the Upward Bound office, Room 004, and Student Support Services, Room 035, both in the Occhiato University Center and the Southern Colorado Educational Opportunity Center, Room 265, of the Health Physical Education and Recreation Building.

Dropoff sites are also available at East, Central, Pueblo County, Centennial and South high schools by



calling 549-2750.

PCC's and CSU-Pueblo's service projects have been scheduled in conjunction with National TRIO Day, which is held the last Saturday in February.

National TRIO day has been designated as a day of service where students are encouraged to give back to their community as a way to say thank you for its support.

TRIO is a set of federally funded college opportunity programs that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds as they pursue a college degree.

The program originally had only three programs but today it has expanded to eight programs that help students from grades sixth through college-age with programs and services to support their educational goals.

PCC has two TRIO programs: Upward Bound and Student Support Services. CSU-Pueblo has four TRIO programs: Upward Bound, Student Support Services, Veterans Upward Bound and the Educational Opportunity Center.

Recently, both institutions received multiyear grants for student support services, which will provide services to provide qualifying students with tutoring, mentoring, academic advising, financial aid and financial literacy.

## Students give their day to hospice

***A commitment to service 'makes you feel real good,' one says.***

*By Gayle Perez from the The Pueblo Chieftain Posted: Sunday, February 27, 2011 12:00 am*



*Tori Sanchez, a junior at Central High School paints a room at Sangre de Cristo Hospice Chieftain Photo/Chris McLean*

As Eric Montoya stocked the canvas bins in the Rainbow Room of the Sangre de Cristo Hospice House with new pencils and coloring books, he took a moment to reflect on the significance of the simple task.

"This makes you feel real good when you know you are doing something that's going to help a lot of little kids," said Montoya, a freshman at Pueblo County High School.

"This isn't such a big deal for me but I know it's going to mean a lot of the kids who are going to use all this stuff."

Montoya organized the bins with craft and art supplies that will be used by children in grief camp and grief sessions at the Hospice House.

He and about 60 high school and college students volunteered their time and



service to the Sangre de Cristo Hospice as part of the national TRIO Day of Service.

Students involved with the federally funded TRIO programs at Pueblo Community College and Colorado State University-Pueblo joined forces with NeighborWorks of Pueblo to paint, clean, organize and replenish shelves of the Grief Library at the Hospice House.

They were from the programs Upward Bound, Veterans Upward Bound, Student Support Services and the Southern Colorado Equal Opportunity Center.



"For us this is energizing," said Stewart Francies, director of the Sangre de Cristo Hospice. "This gives us an opportunity to make a connection with a part of the community we don't normally have a connection with — the youth." Francies said he was pleased that TRIO program officials and NeighborWorks chose Hospice for its community service project.

"This helps us a lot," he said. "As a nonprofit agency, having someone come in and help us with these projects is huge. We rely a lot on community support and we are grateful they chose us to help this year."

South High School students Derrick Medina and Natasia Martinez, along with Centennial sophomore Andrea Casados applied a fresh coat of paint to the living-room area of the house.

"I love doing community service projects and helping others who need it," Casados said. "It's a good feeling to know that you are helping your community."

Medina said he didn't mind spending his Saturday morning sprucing up the area that is used by families whose loved ones are in hospice.

"Any time I have the chance to help someone else, I'll do it," he said. "It makes you feel good and you know it's going to make others feel good, too."





## News from Utah

### TRIO Day

Utah Chapter of ASPIRE celebrated TRIO Day on February 28th at Weber State University. TRIO professionals, students, and alumni from around the state came together for workshops and a banquet honoring TRIO programs.

Weber State hosted several workshops focusing on the importance of civic engagement among TRIO professionals, students, and alumni. One of the sessions focused on the history TRIO programs throughout the state, region, and nation. Another session consisted of a panel discussion, with representatives from the offices of Congressman Bishop, Congressman Chaffetz, and Senator Hatch leading the discussion.

Following the workshops attendees came together for a banquet. The Vice President for Student Affairs from Weber State welcomed the group. Banquet attendees heard from six TRIO participants: one each from McNair, Student Support Services, Talent Search, Upward Bound, and two from Veterans Upward Bound. Additionally, scholarships were awarded to four current TRIO participants. These scholarships were awarded by the Utah Chapter of ASPIRE.

### ASPIRE Utah Scholarship Recipients

Every year, ASPIRE Utah awards four scholarship to current TRIO participants. Two scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors, and two are awarded to current college students. Students are selected based on their participation with TRIO, their academic performance, their ability to overcome obstacles, and their financial need. As you might guess, it is not an easy process to pick only four of the hundreds of applicants we receive each year. Following are the application essays written by the four scholarship winners for 2011.

#### **SSS Scholarship Recipients**

##### ***Rebecca Farnsworth – SSS, Utah State University***

I consider my first semester back to school as an academic achievement. It was less than a year after my husband's death that left me as a young widowed mother with five children under the age of 10.

A higher education is very important to me for many reasons. It will help me reach my personal, academic and career goals. Receiving my degree will open doors to better support my family, get off welfare, and start giving back to the community. My late-husband never went to college. This kept us in poverty because of the difficulty finding a decent paying job without a degree. A great concern after my husband's death was "How will I support my family? I don't have a degree." I decided a college education was a must for finding a job, and I have found benefits to it along the way. For example, studies have shown that people with a degree are less likely to get into an abusive relationship. Receiving my degree will show my children that importance of college education in multiple ways. They will see the difference of what life is like without a degree versus with a degree. Watching my struggles as a student and a widowed mother with five children shows my children it is easier to receive their education while young rather than wait until a crisis hits later in life.

In January of 2010, I broke my leg. I spent eight-and-a-half weeks on crutches and then walked on a broken





leg with a dislocated ankle for two months. In May I had my first surgery and spent another eight-and-a-half weeks on crutches. In August, one week before school started, I had my second surgery on my ankle. This year, I have spent more than 18 weeks on crutches while going to school, chasing children, cooking meals, cleaning house and fulfilling my leadership and service activities. This situation has been a physical and financial burden; not an easy task. I have come to appreciate my challenges. They give more self-confidence, compassion, education, hands-on-experience. I become a better person with every difficult situation I overcome. There is good that comes from any situation/hardship if a person will just look for it.

Continuing my education is the best time I could have done. It has helped me heal from my husband's death, and has given me more self-confidence. I plan to graduate in 2016 (sooner if possible) with a 3.68 GPA or higher.

Student Support Services has provided me with a tutor and helped with registration and making sure everything went smoothly. They have been an emotional support for me with getting used to a big campus. I can walk in at any time and they are willing to help I would be lost on the main campus if it were not for Student Support Services.

### ***Robert Wayne Brown – SSS, Utah State University***

Higher education is important to me for so many reasons. First, I am a first generation college student and an only adopted child so I cannot stress what a privilege I feel it is for me to be here at USU. Second, I come from a background where the money or the encouragement to go to college was not there for me. I have a great passion for education and through that education the idea of being able to make the world a better place.

In 2008, I found myself unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. Wanting to add some stability and better possibilities for my future, I applied for the Vocational Rehabilitation program for assistance attending college. I want to get a degree in Social Work and help others like me to be able to take their place as an important and productive member of society. It would mean so much to me to be able to earn an education that would allow me to help other recovering addicts and victims of sexual abuse and rape to know that anything is possible. No matter what mental disorders and trauma I may deal with, I want to be able to be an example of higher education being not only possible but achievable.

The people at Student Support Services have provided me with excellent information and help focusing my direction and energy. Also, by allowing me access to thing like early registration and classes taught specifically through SSS, I feel my chances of success have greatly increased; this is tremendously important to me as a non-traditional student trying to make a major change in my life. I have relied on and sought the help and advice from SSS on an almost constant basis which helps me to feel not so alone or detached in my endeavor.

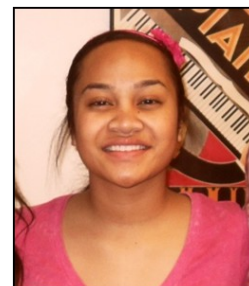
### **TS/UB Scholarship Recipients**

#### ***Lose Uluave – UB, U of U***

When I was nine years old, my father was diagnosed with Lupus. He is now disabled and unable to provide



for my family. My mother works twelve-hour shifts, Monday through Friday, to keep food on our table for my four sisters and me. It's been a hard transition, but I've been able to learn responsibility as I take care of my younger siblings and attend school. My parents never wanted me to get a job and help out with finances, however, they wanted me to work hard in school and get good grades. I have two other sisters that are in college, and seven who are currently living at home. It has not been easy to help provide for everyone, but our family works together to improve our situation and make it work.



The bell rings at the end of second period and the lunch hour begins. My stomach turns, yet I manage to get up and walk out. I think to myself, "Where should I go? The library... no, I went there yesterday. I'll just go to the bathroom."

This year has been one of the hardest years of high school, academically and socially. I've been able to accomplish many of my goals with being a member of Student Government, singing in Ensemble and A'Cappella, and serving the community on the National Honor Society. However, I find myself stuck – stuck in between two worlds. I have a world of friends in my honors and AP classes, who are applying for colleges and scholarships just like me. I have many things in common with these kids but sometimes I feel like the Sesame Street song, "One of these things is not like the other." They don't live in my neighborhood or attend the same functions I do. And when it comes to lunch, I definitely won't fit in at their table; brown girls don't sit there.

On the other hand, I don't quite fit in with the kids in my neighborhood either. I like Bob Marley's music and hanging out after school, but I also like going to class before the bell rings and reading *Crime and Punishment* during the Christmas break. I don't know how to screen in basketball or how to do the latest dance move: the jerk. My lack of "ghetto" knowledge as well as success in class equaled me wanting to be white or having a better-than-thou personality. And it was because of this reason that I wasn't accepted in this brown circle of friends, either. I've had to withstand a lot of bullying and just outright mean girls who prey on anyone who is the most visible, and try to bring them down to their level.

## **Shaquille Kevon Heath** – TS, Weber State University



From TS I have gained knowledge that has made the college process a lot easier. Having to do this process alone, I am very grateful for the TS program and its employees that have helped me every step of the way.

I have a cumulative GPA of 3.9 and 26 ACT score. I take as many advanced, AP, and concurrent enrollment classes as I can, including U.S. History and Medical Terminology, both concurrent enrollment classes, my junior year. This year I am taking AP U.S. Government and AP English. My concurrent enrollment classes consist of Physics and Communications 2110. I also have received Highest Honor Roll every year and have lettered in Academics.

Higher Education is important because, to me, it is the only way! Higher Education opens doors that allow you to pursue many of life's goals and dreams. Not only does it provide education, but also experiences that help you to grow as an individual.

My financial need is quite great. Right now I am under legal guardianship because of choices my mother and



father made. Both of them pursued drugs heavily when I was young, and I was abused and neglected. Fortunately when I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade I was able to live with a close friend and her parents, where I reside currently. When I turn eighteen, I will have to finance everything myself, which leaves me stressing for money to finance college.

## Dixie State College

The TS program at Dixie State College of Utah has had a very successful year servicing 850 students in six high schools and four middle schools. Our college tours have been very informative and insightful for the students in each grade (8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>). Our TS Juniors participated in two college tours traveling to northern Utah visiting several of the state universities. Our students were able to mingle with college students from the universities we visited, see the campus and meet professors.

Most of our TS students in Southern Utah have never been to northern Utah and, if they do go, they do not visit universities/colleges.



*Talent Search students during a Northern Utah College Tour*



*Talent Search students during a Northern Utah College Tour*

We would also like to offer kudos to the administration and faculty of all the high schools/middle schools who allow our program to have offices in their schools. We appreciate using the facilities for workshops and computer labs to do on-line college, FAFSA and ACT applications. Many teachers are very accommodating - dismissing students from their classes to work on these tasks. The transition to college is difficult for any student but our TS students do not even know college was a possibility until they enrolled in TS!

To show our thanks and appreciation for the schools' support throughout the year, TS held in-service meetings to train the administration and staff during the month of April at each high school. We are able to inform and train school personnel on what

TS and the other TRIO programs are about. Principals, vice-principals, secretaries, guidance counselors, custodians, and other important people who contribute to the success of our program are invited to attend. We mingle, talk about TRIO and spotlight several of the students from their school.

## Southern Utah University

Another TRIO Day Celebration occurred at the southern end of our great state. After the event, Southern Utah University issued the following press release:

No one ever said college was easy. And though for some, the challenges within higher education may appear insurmountable, Southern Utah University's Student Support Services prove otherwise every day, touting countless success stories of students who have overcome intimidating financial struggles, disabilities and adverse circumstance to earn a college diploma. The most notable of these success stories were highlighted at the annual TRIO Achiever Awards Luncheon where students who have overcome intimidating challenges to successfully perform in the academic world are recognized and rewarded.

The event started out with a special guest speaker, Detective Kyle Bell, who was himself a former SSS student. He graduated in 2007 and credited SSS for being the reason for his success. He has a promising career in law enforcement and is preparing to start a master's degree program. Without the services he found in SSS, he would not be a college graduate nor would he be on his way up in a rewarding career.

During the award ceremony on March 20<sup>th</sup>, each recipient recounted his or her path to and through SUU. Student Support Services Director Lynne Brown says this is an event that people across campus look forward to each year, as a showcase of all the good that can be accomplished by SSS's dedicated faculty, mentors and tutors. The four recipients this year were Jacob Malie, a pre-med student, Carlie Christensen, a May graduate in Early Childhood Education, Linda Baldock, an elementary education major, and Amber Dalton, a Nursing graduate in May.



Detective Kyle Bell, SSS Alumnus



TRIO Staff, Students, and Alumni during SUU's TRIO Day Celebration

Most importantly, the annual award ceremony individually recognized individuals who have overcome much to succeed as Southern Utah University students. Though their stories are all very different, each of the four students has worked hard to succeed and deserved the accolades from the entire campus community. As is often the case, the attendees and students were often moved to tears during the award ceremony. Nothing beats a great TRIO story from the heart to remind everyone how important these programs are in our country.





## Weber State University

### WSU Talent Search

In April of this year we took 40 sophomore and junior Talent Search students on a day trip to several of the institutions of higher education in Northern Utah. We were able to tour Utah State University, Westminster College, and the University of Utah. Though a long day of road travel, our students enjoyed the opportunity and are starting to make their post-secondary plans based on their experiences with the field trip.

Undoubtedly, one of the best parts of working for TRIO is celebrating the successes of our students. Talent Search at Weber State recently held a parent night for our graduating seniors, where we honored students for their dedication to education and recognized all scholarship recipients. So far this year, our cohort of 128 seniors has been offered over \$330,000 in scholarship monies.



*Graduating TS Seniors from Ogden High during our Senior Recognition Night.*



*TS Sophomores and Juniors from Ogden and Ben Lomond High Schools pose for a picture at the University of Utah*

### WSU Veterans Upward Bound

**Utah has a new VUB Director!!** In October 2010 Randy Wilson became the third director of the Veterans Upward Bound program at Weber State University, following Donna Rigby and, prior to her, Jim Kopecky.

Randy Wilson is a 32 year TRIO Professional, having started in TRIO in 1979. This veteran of the U.S. Air Force was a Low-Income, First Generation student and would have been in TRIO as a high school student had there been a program in his home area. Randy attended college and earned his first degree almost entirely paid for by the GI Bill and work study (including a graduate assistantship). There he could have been in SSS and VUB if the programs had existed in that location.

Randy earned a Bachelor of Music Education, and M.S. in Human Services, and a



*Randy Wilson, Utah's Newest VUB Director.*



Specialist in College Teaching, all from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky.

Randy worked 17 years in the high school Upward Bound program, three years as director, before moving over to Veterans Upward Bound in April 1996 at Western Kentucky University. Randy has been on the board of Directors of both KAEOPP (Kentucky Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel) and is a previous KAEOPP President. SAEOPP (Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel) and NAVUBPP (National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Program Personnel) for most of his 32 years in TRIO. Beyond his elected duties and committee duties Randy has also made numerous presentations during annual conferences for these organizations.

When not working with VUB and NAVUBPP Randy ran the KAEOPP Listserv and still is the webmaster of the NAVUBPP Website.

Randy has already volunteered to work in ASPIRE at the state and region and is looking forward to involvement in both organizations.

## Westminster College

It has been an exciting and busy season of acceptances and school visits, and now the decisions are made! Please join Colin Ben and me in congratulating the Westminster McNair Scholars who will enter graduate programs this coming fall.

### From Westminster College:

**Benson Stevens** will attend Georgetown University's Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience. After conducting a year of research in their labs, he will enter the PhD program in summer 2012.

**Erika Rodriguez** will start work on her MA in Romance Languages at the University of Oregon.

**Jeremy Reynoso** will begin doctoral studies in education at Washington State University. His specialization will be Culture Studies and Social Thought in Education.

**Kamille Sheikh** will attend the master's program in Human Development and Social Policy at the University of Utah.

**Lauren McCrady** will enter the master's program in English at the University of Nevada- Reno where she will be able to pursue her interest in eco-criticism.

### From the University of Utah:

**Zain Siddiqui** will begin doctoral studies in economics at the University of Utah.

**Victoria Morales** will enter the PhD program in English at the University of Florida; her specialization track will be Children's Literature and Ethnic Literature.

**Lara Galas** will start her PhD in literature at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

These McNair Scholars did an outstanding job of pinpointing programs where they will thrive; each received



funding in the form of an assistantship and/or a fellowship. We wish them all the best as they move on to the next stage in their academic careers. It has been an honor for the McNair staff to work with each one of them.

Jo Hinsdale, Ph.D.  
Director

## ***News from Wyoming***

### **Wyoming Educational Access Day**

By Jade Cunningham KGWN TV

40 students and staff from Wyoming TRIO and GEAR-UP programs went to the State Capitol for Wyoming Educational Access Day.

TRIO and GEAR-UP are federally funded programs giving kids with college potential, the chance to live their dreams and get an education.

The day consisted of Mayor Rick Kaysen and First Lady, Carol Mead, signing proclamations celebrating both programs.

Students also sat in on both the House and Senate Legislative Sessions to get an idea on what happens behind closed doors.

"We want to raise awareness at the state level because it's so important. Although we're federally funded, our local officials know the importance of GEAR-UP so that we can advocate for increased funding."

Currently in Wyoming there are twelve TRIO projects and two GEAR-UP programs serving over 5,000 students across Wyoming.

News Clip found here: <http://www.kgwn.tv/Global/story.asp?S=14137687>