



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, Inc.

TRIO

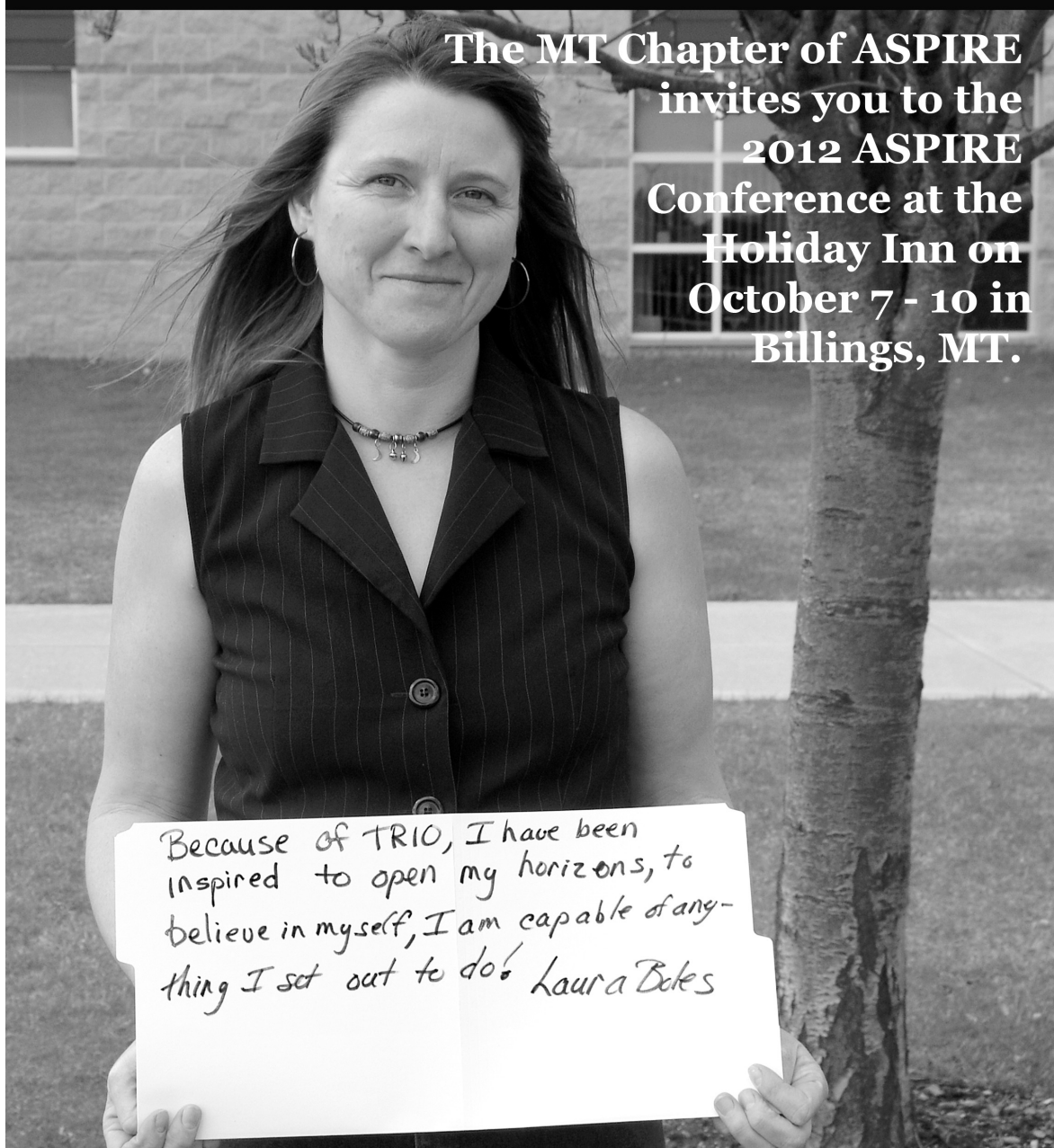
January—April 2012

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

Unlocking Potential



**The MT Chapter of ASPIRE
invites you to the
2012 ASPIRE
Conference at the
Holiday Inn on
October 7 - 10 in
Billings, MT.**



*Because of TRIO, I have been
inspired to open my horizons, to
believe in myself, I am capable of any-
thing I set out to do! Laura Botes*



Message from the President



Dear ASPIRE,

Happy Spring! I have had the pleasure of visiting many of our regional states throughout this time of rejuvenation and growth and I can say with certainty that this region is on track for so many reasons. I was impressed with the high caliber of professional development offered throughout the states. Whether it was financial aid and economic literacy, native history and culture, government relations, or program sharing, the efforts within the states to collaborate and advocate is enormous and builds a collective strong foundation. Above all, I continually enjoy making connections with each and every one of the members and appreciate your ideas and feedback on how the ASPIRE region can grow stronger.

The efforts of our board and committees continue to reflect growth. The website committee has launched a new look for our regional website. We are working on expanding some of the committees to be more inclusive including building the alumni committee to reflect the national push for alumni relations and changing the publications committee to more of an overall media focus which will help our states with sustaining partnerships and marketing. In addition, we are working on our state initiatives and collecting state scorecard information and we are constantly addressing government relations to make sure we have a collective voice as we push for adequate TRIO funding and acceptable regulatory management.

On the development side of things, our regional and national Fair Share efforts are on track. Currently we are only 66% of our COE Fair Share responsibility. We will have no problem meeting our 100% if many of our programs simply renew their institutional memberships. Membership and fiduciary responsibility is not something to be taken lightly. It is through solidarity and a common purpose-our students-that has elevated TRIO to be noticed. A loud voice is one thing, but a voice backed by conscious efforts and diligent attention is even better. I encourage program directors to double check their institutional membership levels. I encourage all of our current members to reach out and bring aboard another member. Lastly, I encourage each individual of this region to build one more partnership within your communities or institutions.

The invitation stands for you, as members, on behalf of the board and committee chairs, to please contact us with any suggestions, concerns or questions you may have. I look forward to the regions continued work on committees, conference, and building our capacity.

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

Rachel Martinez
ASPIRE President



Committee Reports

Election Committee *Elaine Metcalfe, Chair*

ASPIRE Election of Officers

The ASPIRE community is fortunate to have many people with leadership abilities. In the upcoming months, opportunities to throw your hat in the proverbial election ring will come your way for regional offices. Open positions this year are:

- ☒ President Elect (3 year term)
- ☒ Secretary (2 year term)

Both positions will be elected on during the annual conference in October. Details about them will come out soon. Please consider running for one of these regional offices, or encourage others to do so. ASPIRE needs your talents and skills.



News from Utah

Weber State University Upward Bound

This year, the 75 students in Weber State University's Upward Bound program have participated in 17 community service activities, seven extracurricular academic activities and five cultural activities, and they have visited five of Utah's colleges/universities. Activities have included a WSU UB blood drive, attending the play "My Fair Lady" at Hale Center Theatre, participating in Science Day @ the U and at WSU, and traveling to Snow College for a college tour and annual Luau. The students participating in Upward Bound at Weber State University have contributed over 400 hours of service to their community during the academic year. Learning to give back to the community and knowing there are many families that do not have the opportunities Upward Bound students has helped encourage participants to complete high school and to graduate from college. Service has provided opportunities for scholarships, personal enrichment, and community involvement. Many UB students have found employment opportunities with organizations such as the Weber/Davis Boys and Girls Clubs due to their service involvement.

All WSU Upward Bound seniors have been admitted to the college of their choice and have completed their FAFSAs. WSU UB has a 100% graduation rate from high school and a 100% college admissions rate.

Irene Buenrostro, a senior with Upward Bound was named Youth of the Year in her local Boys and Girls club. Irene is a Senior Class Officer and a tutor/mentor with the Boys and Girls Club. Amadeo Ocampo, another UB senior has been awarded the Horatio Alger Scholarship for \$5000. Post Bridge student Laura Madrigal won a \$3000 scholarship from the Sallie Mae Foundation to continue her education while many other post-Bridge students are returning to Upward Bound to work as tutors, mentors, and counselors as they continue their post-secondary education providing excellent role models for current participants.



WSU UB students eating at Snow College's Polynesian Festival.

Westminster College McNair Scholars Program

Kasey Serdar will be the first Westminster College McNair alumna to earn a PhD!



The McNair Scholars Program is excited to announce that Kasey Serdar will be the first Westminster College alum to earn a PhD! A 2006 graduate, Kasey was a psychology major who wrote in her McNair application that she wanted to earn a PhD in psychology — a goal she accomplished! Her 2005 McNair summer research project, Multicultural Relations in Higher Education: Students' Perceptions of College Professor Verbal Immediacy as Impacted by Race, was conducted under the mentorship of Professor Lesa Ellis. Kasey began her doctoral studies in counseling psychology at Virginia Commonwealth



University in fall 2006, immediately after earning her BS. In November 2011, she successfully defended her dissertation, *Comparing the efficacy of Two Cognitive Dissonance Programs for Eating Pathology: Are Online and Face-to-Face Program Equally Effective?* Kasey's doctoral degree will be awarded in August 2012 after she completes the program's internship requirements. We are happy to have had a chance to interview Kasey.

How did the McNair Scholars Program help you prepare for graduate education?

McNair gave me so much preparation for graduate school. I benefited so much from the research experiences I got in the McNair program because they were great preparation for the types of projects I would be designing during my time in graduate education. I also appreciated the opportunities to present my research and all of the other supports the program provided. But beyond the practical preparation I received, I benefited most from the wonderful mentoring and encouragement the program provided. When I entered the McNair program, I was very unsure of myself and I doubted whether I had what it takes to pursue graduate education. My mentors were very much like cheerleaders who helped me believe that I was capable of doing more than I ever imagined myself being able to do. They helped me recognize my strengths and my intelligence and helped me have confidence in my abilities. When I first got to graduate school, I was hit with a major case of "imposter" syndrome. (Thank you, Lesa Ellis, for familiarizing me with this term which so vividly described my experience). One of the things that has helped me cope with this wonderful "affliction" over the years is remembering the encouragement I received and knowing that there were people who believed in me and had confidence in my abilities.

With your experiences as a TA, RA, and also teaching your own course, what advice do you have for McNair graduates who seek similar experiences?

I think that you really need to go towards your passion and try to pursue experiences that you are excited about. I pursued a lot of different experiences (some which I enjoyed much more than others), and found that I performed best when I was doing something that really meant something to me versus when I was doing something just because it would look good in some way. In graduate school there is always pressure to take on experiences you are not so excited about because you know they will make your vita stronger, or will help you build connections. Sometimes you end up committing yourself to things that don't necessarily leave you jumping up and down with excitement, but this can be a good thing because you may find you enjoy something you didn't anticipate that you would. However, don't lose sight of what you are passionate about because usually there is a way to pursue those options. There will be a lot of pull in graduate school to do what other people expect you to do, but don't lose sight of yourself.

Who or what helped you narrow down your interests into a doable dissertation?

I had always known that I was interested in eating disorder prevention, but up until my dissertation most of my research had been focused on obesity prevention and weight management. I knew that I wanted to do a project that would have a real impact and would contribute something new to the research on eating disorder prevention. A lot of my previous research had been intervention based, so it made sense to me to do an intervention project for my dissertation because it was a type of research with which I was familiar and it was also research I enjoyed. I decided to do an intervention project where I examined the effectiveness of an eating disorder prevention program that I had adapted to be conducted online.

What was the most exciting part of your dissertation and defense?

Am I allowed to say when my committee signed the approval paper? That moment definitely was the most exciting because I knew I had really accomplished something. I think another exciting part of the defense was recognizing during the process of defending just how well I really knew my project and feeling confident in



my ability to answer my committee's questions. It's a great feeling to know that you have carried something through from beginning to end (especially since I had a monster of a dissertation project).

What career options are you considering?

Well, I haven't received my Ph.D. just yet (I will officially have my degree in August after I complete my internship), but I just accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Eating Disorders at Sheppard Pratt Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. I considered a range of options, including clinical postdocs and jobs at counseling centers and other hospital jobs. Ultimately I knew that I wanted to be in a position that focused on clinical work with clients who present with eating disorders. This program was a perfect fit for those interests and was also a good personal fit for me too. For me, choosing a postdoc was about balancing personal with professional life. I wasn't willing to move somewhere that would not be a good personal fit for me, but I also didn't want to settle for a less than stellar job either. Ultimately I went for an option that was a good fit both personally and professionally. I very much valued my professors' "real world" expertise and want to be able to provide that to my future students.

James Moreno, Ph.D.

James Moreno received a degree in art history from the University of Utah in 2005; his McNair research project focused on Robert Rauschenberg, Performance and the Visual Arts in the 1950s and 60s. James earned both master's (2006) and doctoral degrees in performance studies from Northwestern University. His dissertation, *Choreographing the "American": The Dances of José Limón*, recovers and re-imagines the prominent Mexican-born modern dance choreographer, José Limón (1908-1972). He is currently a Fulbright Professor of Dance at the University of Panamá, Panamá City, Panamá. We are fortunate to have interviewed James regarding his academic journey.



How did the McNair Scholars Program help you prepare for graduate education?

The community of students and scholars that the McNair Program brought together provided a wonderful support system and gave me a sense of the intellectual rigor I would encounter in my graduate work at Northwestern. Additionally, the opportunity to select and work with a mentor was incredible. I was fortunate to be able to work with Professor Monty Paret at the University of Utah and this one-on-one mentorship helped bring my work to a higher level of critical thought than I would have experienced otherwise.

What was the process of narrowing down your dissertation topic/performance?

I'm a "non-traditional" student; I worked as a professional modern dancer and choreographer before getting a BA in art history at the University of Utah. My work as a McNair Scholar merged these two pursuits and explored the confluence of visual art and dance in the 1950s and 60s. My plan was to continue down this path for my dissertation. But when I started Northwestern's MA/PhD program I was so excited by everyone's different topics! So many fascinating ideas and classes to investigate! However, Northwestern's master's is a one-year program, so I did not have time for much exploring. I began breaking down my reasons for being in grad school and what dissertation topic would help me to become the best person I could be. I asked ABD students and professors how they chose their topics. I had several conversations with Professor Susan Manning, who would become my advisor, and she helped me narrow down my ideas. I ended up writing on the choreographer José Limón (1908-1972) in large part because I danced his dances, trained in his technique, and share his Mexican ancestry.



Can you tell us about the Fulbright application process and what advice would you give to a McNair alum who is considering applying?

At first, I was intimidated by the Fulbright name and application. So I avoided looking at the enormity of the name and process, and began working on the application bit by bit. I broke the process up into pieces that seemed manageable and slowly put them together. If possible, make connections with the country you are interested in visiting. Check out particular institutions or people working in your field of interest. Also, check out the Fulbright website and familiarize yourself with Fulbright as well as the stories from previous scholars. Try to get a draft of your proposal together as soon as possible so you can present it for feedback.

Can you explain your teaching experiences at the University of Panama?

I am teaching in the undergraduate and master's programs at the University of Panama. My classes in the undergraduate program include advanced, intermediate, and basic modern technique, Dance Composition, and Music for Dancers. In the master's program I teach Research Methods for Dance and Choreographic Analysis. The experience has been wonderful. What stands out for me is the opportunity to see an approach to movement and choreography that I had not previously experienced. The choreographers and dancers in Panama merge folkloric dance, African-based dance, indigenous dance, and modern dance in a way that inspired and challenged my understanding of dance. Teaching these dancers has helped me clarify my own approach to movement and choreography, as well as offer inspiration for future choreographic projects.

What advice do you have for our current McNair Scholars and alumni?

Keep on keeping on! The grad school experience will have its highs and lows. Remember that both ends of the continuum will pass and keep on working consistently.

What is next?

I officially graduated in March 2012! Yay!!! Starting in the fall, I will be a tenure-track assistant professor of dance at the University of Kansas. I plan to continue my work in both dance practice and theory.

For more information about James, feel free to visit his website at <http://www.jamesmoreno123.com>.

Southern Utah University SSS Recognizes TRIO Achievers

Southern Utah University SSS program hosted their annual TRIO Achiever Award Luncheon on Thursday, April 5, 2012. This is one of the events on campus that the President's and Dean's Councils look forward to each year. The luncheon allows our university leadership an opportunity to learn more about the achievements of SSS and most importantly to visit with SSS students and to hear their personal stories. For the past few years we have invited SSS alumnae to be a guest speaker and this year we were pleased to have Melanie Orton visit with us. She currently has her Master's in Accounting and is a CPA for a local firm. She was a struggling first-generation, low income and discouraged student when she started with SSS last decade. Her story is one of perseverance and celebration of success!

In addition to recognizing Melanie, four current SSS students were honored and given a \$200 scholarship for being exemplary SSS students. The four students recognized this year were: Joy Hardin (Accounting), LeAnne Jones (Elementary Education), Kallie Sams (Nursing) and Tim Turpin (Secondary Education/



Coaching). Each student shared his/her story of struggles, barriers and challenges and how SSS helped them achieve academic and life success. As always, their stories were touching, tearful and will have a long-lasting positive impact on all who attended.

The staff members of SSS at SUU are extremely proud of our students and their accomplishments! We look forward to many more TRIO Achiever Award Luncheons in the future!

Dixie State College

Educational Talent Search

Dixie State College – Educational Talent Search has been through a few staff changes in the last few years and would like to present our 2011-2012 staff.

In the back row: Len Hartley (Dixie High School – Advisor), Diane Platt (Enterprise High School – Advisor), Beth Campbell (Secretary), Krystal Sorensen (Parent Specialist). Middle row: Mike Esplin (Snow Canyon High School – Advisor), Angie Atkinson (Pine View High School – Advisor), Stephanie Wilkey (Millcreek High School – Advisor), Wes Christiansen (Hurricane High School – Advisor). Front row: Kitty Hughes (Director)



Enterprise Mayor talks with ETS Students



their community. They felt important and special that he would take time to visit them. The students said afterward that they were getting the message to “take school seriously now, use the ETS program to help them stay on task and plan ahead to accomplish what they hope to.”

ETS students of Enterprise, Utah had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Mayor Lee Bracken. He took time out of his schedule to talk with the students about the importance of setting goals and organizing the time to accomplish them.

The students loved being given the opportunity to talk with such a well known person in





Dixie State College 2012 ASPIRE Leadership Conference

Dixie State College TRIO programs (UB,ETS, & SSS) had the opportunity to host the 2012 ASPIRE Leadership Conference. Twenty students from Washington County spent months planning and following through with this great event. There were 130 participants that attended and participated in the Leadership Conference. The conference attendees listened to motivational speakers from the community that have been through difficult circumstances and have not just survived but positively impacted others in the community. Our theme this year was to “Make the Impossible, Possible.” The conference focused on fighting through the hard times and working to become the best possible students, citizens, and people that we can be. The students completed a service project organized by the Washington County Volunteer Center which thanked the men and women that serve in the 222nd. They also make treats and thank-you letters to send to those on active duty. The students were also able to serve lunch to Veterans and listen to stories of what their service meant to them.



Overall, the conference was a great experience and we hoped that the students were able to internalize a “fight to survive” attitude that will help them deal with the challenges that will come in their life.

Students doing “Zumba” at the opening dinner



Students attending the ASPIRE Leadership Conference

Veterans Upward Bound at Weber State University

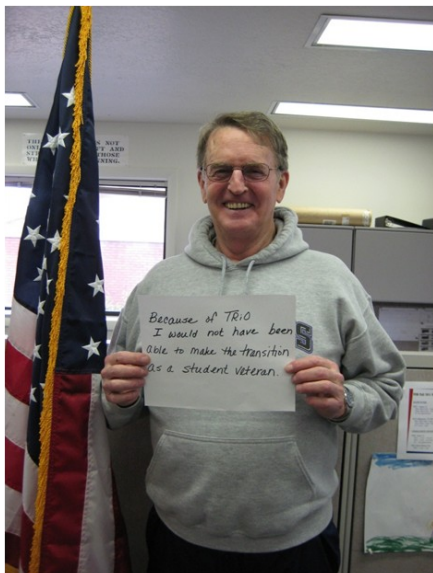
Proposal Writing

Dan Czech and **Randy Wilson** attended the national VUB Conference in March. We learned that VUB will probably write our proposals this June but staff around the country worry that this will not allow the appropriate time for funding and notifying programs before programs end at the end of August.

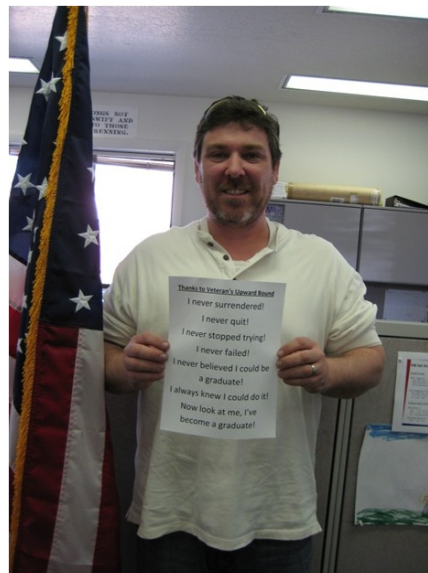
Weber State University has the only VUB program in Utah. Obviously we will be doing all we can to retain the program but the scuttlebutt is that this writing cycle will 4 times as many VUB applications as there were in the last cycle and yet there will be no addition to the current number of 45 programs. It will be a tough competition.

TRIO Day

The campus TRIO programs made posters this year showing statements of successful participant with their picture. Two veterans represented VUB in this effort. They are shown below **Tim Jones**, left, **Joe Schilchter** right.



Tim's statement reads: "Because of TRIO I would not have been able to make the transition as a student veteran"



Joe's statement reads: "Thanks to Veteran's Upward Bound I never surrendered! I never quit! I never stopped trying! I never failed! I never believed I could be a graduate! I always knew I could do it! Now look at me, I've become a graduate!"

TRIO CAMPUS UPDATE

Randy Wilson has been coordinating a TRIO Newsletter that is located on a TRIO web Page at Weber State. The newsletter is designed to let the campus see what each of the campus TRIO Programs are doing so we will be more recognizable on campus. You may see examples of these newsletters if you go to <https://www.weber.edu/TRIO>. A new newsletter will be out in May or June.

News from North Dakota

The North Dakota TRIO community has been busy! Members participated in the policy seminar in March. North Dakota still has a long way to go in educating our congressional members but state members use every opportunity possible to advocate for our programs both in Washington and in the state.



South Dakota hosted the Co-State Conference in Aberdeen April 1-3. Twenty-four participants attended from North Dakota. **Loren Houle** was given the North Dakota Outstanding Alumni Award. Loren was a participant in the University of North Dakota Upward Bound and Student Support Services programs. He is currently working on his Masters in School Psychology. **Wally Erhardt** from the Bank of North Dakota was awarded the Friend of North Dakota TRIO for his work with the College Access Network. **Theresa Leiphon** received the Service to North Dakota ASPIRE for her work as state secretary, taking opportunities to advocate for TRIO, and running an exceptional Student Support Services Program.

North Dakota held the first state wide alumni reunion at Lake Region State College. There were alumni present from four programs. It was fun to hear stories from the alumni about their TRIO experiences and to get updates on what they are currently doing.

The following is an article on TRIO-SSS at LRSC that appeared in **Lake Region Woman** in April, 2012

Standing Together for Student Success—TRIO Student Support Services Help Students Achieve Educational Goals *Written by: Erin Wood*

From a simple smile to being a sounding board, the TRIO team at Lake Region State College guides students to success. "They are who they are because they stand together," said Lauree Wangler, LRSC graduate and former TRIO student. "They are a wonderful bunch of professionals working with a needed program, assisting those with various needs and obstacles. They help clear the fog to personal success," she said.

Wangler's testament to the value of TRIO and its wonderful staff is not unique. This story has been retold by voices of countless other students, some of whom are now nurses, social workers, business professionals, information technicians, and entrepreneurs who work in the Lake Region and throughout North Dakota.

Those graduates assert that their dreams might have vanished without the support of TRIO director Theresa



Leiphon and the staff of TRIO at LRSC. “I feel like the TRIO Program and the remarkable staff treated me in a holistic manner. They guided me academically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually. They stood for me when I was weak, encouraged me when things were rough, and always understood,” Wangler said. Today, Wangler is working as Director of Nursing Services at the Good Samaritan Society in Devils Lake.

TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) is a grant funded through the Department of Education to qualifying colleges and universities. Lake Region State College has been funded to offer such a program since 2001. The goal of this program is to increase its participants’ college retention and graduation rates. TRIO serves students who are first generation college students (meaning that the students’ parents did not complete a bachelor’s degree), students with low-income backgrounds, and/or students with a disability.

“TRIO is a great tool for students to utilize. It is great to watch students succeed, especially when they come in to TRIO in the beginning of the year, so unsure of themselves. With a little guidance and support, they can do great things. It is heartwarming to be a small part of their success,” Leiphon said.

Leiphon has served as the director since the program started in 2001, and maintains that TRIO weaves a balance between supporting students and challenging them with goals and objectives. This balance helps students gain the confidence and self-awareness needed to tackle college challenges without excessive apprehension.

The program provides tutoring, financial literacy classes, college expectation guide, cultural enrichment, and more. Leiphon expressed that there is a strong need for tutoring in classes such as statistics, chemistry, and algebra.

Kateri Long, LRSC graduate and current student at UND, said that TRIO's tutoring was a great tool to use while on campus at LRSC. “Annette Schmid (TRIO staff member) went above any tutoring expectations. She was a great help.”

The TRIO program at LRSC serves 160 students each academic year, two-thirds of which are women. That could be due to a higher number of women—both traditional and older-than-average—who are going to college, many whom are juggling family, college, and work. For that reason, the TRIO staff keeps the office area family-friendly, welcoming kids with a box of toys near one of the worktables to keep children busy if mom needs to pop in and talk to her advisor.

At first glance of any college classroom or student union, one cannot know the personal story of each student. College entrance exams guide advisors and instructors in placing students in the right classes and career tracks. But, those exams do not measure other influencing factors such as finances, support systems at home, and balancing priorities of children, career, and earning a degree. All of these factors are a part of daily life for many college students.

Leiphon added that students who are eligible for TRIO come into the office with those very concerns.

For Melanie Gehrtz, returning to college to complete her degree while commuting, working, and raising a family made the mountain called college appear insurmountable. Then, she met the TRIO staff at Lake Region State College. “I needed that confidence boost—just knowing someone was there,” she said. “I went from not wanting to walk in front of a class to not being afraid to speak in front of 500 (people).”

Today, Gehrtz has not only earned her associate’s degree from Lake Region State College, but has



completed her bachelor's degree from Mayville State University. She still pops in to the TRIO office occasionally. "Once TRIO always TRIO," she said with a smile.

Kateri Long also stays in touch with members of the program. "They continue to support me on my journey," she said.

Along with Leiphon, three other staff members are dedicated to work with students. Coordinators Annette Schmid and Patty Wallace work with students, depending on their majors. Wallace works with students who plan to transfer to universities for advanced degrees, and Schmid works with students in the career and technical fields.

Leiphon and Wallace have been with the program since it started 10 years ago. Leiphon also mentioned past staff members Melinda Martin, Andy Wakeford, and Lane Azure, who were all fantastic additions to her team. Administrative Assistant Heidi Becker completes the LRSC TRIO team.

Heidi Becker is also a product of the TRIO program. She can't believe that she now works in the same area where she sought advice during her college studies. "There was always someone there to answer my questions and guide me through the college process. They kept me on track to my degree," Becker said. Now she's there to lend a helping hand.

The University of North Dakota also has TRIO staff based at LRSC. Kelsey Walters is an advisor for the TRIO/Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), which helps individuals with academic potential to enroll in the college of his or her choice. The EOC works specifically with people who are low-income and/or first generation.

EOC has several Outreach Advisors. Walters' position serves the Lake Region and Turtle Mountain Community High School in Belcourt. She assists students with the college process from choosing a major, completing financial aid forms, and more. Walters emphasizes that the EOC position does not recruit for any one school, but rather provides options to the participants and assists students in making decisions that fit their needs. Walters admits that she has seen successes every day that she has worked for TRIO/EOC.

"Whether it is helping high school students figure out where they want to go to college, or a GED student who is unsure of what to do next, or single mom of three who wants to come back to school after graduating high school 20 years ago—we're there. Working with different people from all different backgrounds, and helping them achieve their goals...I wouldn't want to do anything else," she said.

Retention Tool

TRIO and other similar programs are key to retaining students—assisting them with any roadblocks that they face on the way to reaching educational goals, and making sure that they don't fall short of those goals due to reasons that can be resolved.

College president Dr. Mike Bower asserts that the TRIO Program at LRSC is one of the best directed programs to assure first generation and low-income students and families that we care about student success. "It is one of the best because of the devoted staff in that office," said Bower.

"The credit for the success of this program goes to Theresa Leiphon and her team members whom work



diligently to assist students in financing their college education. They make sure the students enroll in challenging college-preparatory courses and provide academic assistance through tutoring, supplemental courses, and to fill in any gaps in the student's academic preparation," Bower said.

According to the Department of Education, all Student Support Services (SSS) projects must provide the following:

- Academic tutoring, which might include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science, and other subjects
- Advice and assistance in post-secondary course selection
- Assistance with information on the full range of student financial aid programs, benefits, and resources for locating public and private scholarships
- Assistance in completing financial aid applications
- Education or counseling services that help improve student financial and economic literacy and assist students in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs
- Assistance for students who are enrolled in two--year institutions in applying for admission to, and obtaining financial assistance for, enrollment in four--year programs

The SSS projects can also (but do not always) provide the following:

- Individualized counseling for personal, career, and academic information, activities, and instruction
- Individualized counseling to help acquaint students with career options
- Exposure to cultural events and academic programs that are not usually available
- Mentoring programs to help secure temporary housing during breaks for students who are homeless, youths and students who are in foster care, or students who are aging out of the foster care system

Student Support Services does all that and more, Kateri Long asserts. "One of the biggest things they helped with was academic planning and advisement. They really helped to map things out for me and put classes and timelines into perspective. As far as the transfer to UND—again, TRIO helped aid in that process as well," she said.

Long continues to use TRIO services as she advances through her degree work. Now a senior at UND, Long is majoring in social work and minoring in chemical dependency. She will earn her bachelor's degree this December.

"I am utilizing the TRIO program here at UND—and they have also helped aid in the advisement and planning aspect. TRIO is a great help and offers hope to a lot of students that may not find it elsewhere. I owe a big thanks to TRIO because I truly believe they have helped me to come this far," Long said.

Along with her career in nursing, Lauree Wangler is raising five wonderful children and celebrating 19 years of marriage. "I also do some consulting as a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant. I enjoy writing devotionals and encouraging others to choose their attitude and be all that they dream to be. I am aspiring to finish my BSN, which has been put on hold for various reasons. I am blessed and thankful for all the joys and trials God has set before me," she said.

Melanie Gehrtz is working and considering relocating to eastern North Dakota for her dream job.

As for the TRIO staff, they are continuing to serve students and help support student dreams, something Patty Wallace hopes to continue for a long time.



“It’s the best job I’ve ever had,” Wallace said. “I feel good about what I do and know I make a difference.” The rest of the TRIO staff agree.

“TRIO is knowing someone is there and a solution is a step or call away. It’s a way for students to make connections,” Theresa Leiphon said.

Wangler hopes that eligible students use the services that TRIO provides, and that they also remember to give back to others in need of a boost. “Mentor others because they need the strengths you have to offer.” [LRW]

Cankdeska Cikana Community College

Cankdeska Cikana Community College’s Student Support Services Program is currently in fiscal year two. The SSS program serves 105 full-time and part-time students for the 2011-2012 academic year. CCCC has an experienced SSS staff that provides services listed. The SSS program is a critical element in fostering student success. The SSS staff consists of the following individuals:

Mr. Clayton Peltier – Program Director

Ms. Elisha Lawrence – Administrative Assistant

Ms. Johnda Griffin – Academic Advisor/Instructor

Mrs. Marliiss Platz – Academic Advisor/Instructor

North Dakota State University

NDSU TRIO Program celebrates students at annual banquet

Wednesday April 18th, proved to be an exciting night at the TRIO Day dinner and awards. Mistress of Ceremonies Kris Mickelson invited guests to enjoy the sumptuous meal catered by NDSU’s Dining Services. Letters of support were read by representatives of Senators Conrad and Hoeven. Congressman Rick Berg’s representative also addressed the attendees from the podium, followed by the introductions of special guests.



Following the welcome and history of TRIO by Assistant Dean of Students, Michael Harwood, Kay and dedicated service to TRIO Programs and NDSU. **Kay Modin** was recognized for her service (18 years) as the director of the McNair Scholars Program was presented a panoramic photo of the Fargo Dome during the playoffs, signifying her love of Bison Football and as NDSU alumni.

The Friend of TRIO Award recipient for 2012 is Viet Doan, Enrollment Management, Technical Service Manager. Viet’s involvement has been essential to the forward movement of TRIO programs at NDSU.



Awards were distributed to recipients in each of the four TRIO projects. McNair Scholars (MSP) Achiever recipient was Casey Totenhagen, Ph.D. The High School Upward Bound (UB) Achiever recipient was Helei Amini. Student Support Services (SSS) designated Dave Hagberg as their SSS Achiever and Lincoln Bathie as the SSS Outstanding Leader. Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) gave their Achievement Awards to Roberta Butler, Yvette Lederer, Sam Christley and Andy Wichman.

Student Support Services

North Dakota State University (NDSU) TRIO SSS will celebrate their End of the Year SSS Tutor Recognition gathering on Thursday, May 3. This even will celebrate Charles Cherry's 20th year with SSS. We thank all of our tutors and staff for their hard work and commitment to transforming lives.

In addition, SSS has applied for a Fargo Marathon Grant to fund the SSS L.I.F.E. (Lead, Inspire, Focus, Excel) Book Scholarship. This book scholarship will be created to assist SSS tutors wit the high cost of college text-books and study materials. Awards will be open to students who have dedicated a year of service in tutoring SSS participants. Our tutors are students who not only have an outstanding academic path, but that lead with compassion and heart. We look forward to hearing good news!

McNair Scholars Program



The McNair Scholars showcased their research by conducting a poster board presentation to the NDSU community during the TRIO Day Celebration.

At the event, the winner for the McNair Scholars Program Achiever Award was given to **Dr. Casey Totenhagen**. Dr. Totenhagen completed her Ph.D. in Family Studies and Human Development in 2011 from University of Arizona. She recently accepted a position as a Research Scientist in the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Office.

Another opportunity the scholars were able to share their research was at the Spring Research Forum. Our scholars did a fabulous job sharing their experience with the campus community.

Zechariah Andersen, Computer Science and Mathematics major, just received the Goldwater Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. He was the only North Dakota recipient to receive this award for the upcoming school year. In addition to this award, he also received a mathematics scholarship for next school year. Over the summer, he will be interning with Fast Enterprise in Arlington, Virginia. Way to go, Zech!



Another scholar I would like to highlight is **Jane Loueng**. Jane is a pre-pharmacy major. Since her freshman year at NDSU, she is a Gates Millennium Scholar. Great job, Jane!

Upward Bound

NDSU Upward Bound hired **Sydney Knutson** as the UB project coordinator last April, congrats to Sydney on her first year with UB. The students and staff have been busy with service learning and community participation over the past year partnering with:

- Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast for three years (benefitting area non-profits)
- Disabled Veterans Benefit for seven years (benefitting veterans and their families)
- Fargo Marathon for eight years (benefitting area non-profits and schools)
- Third year to participate in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign



UB received a \$1000 donation from the Fargo Marathon Foundation for our participation and has been given the status of Friend of the Fargo Marathon. In addition, UB has submitted a grant request to the Fargo Marathon Foundation to expand our Living Learning component during the summer program. The LL gives the students an opportunity to experience resident hall life in a non-residential summer program. The LL was first offered the summer of 2011 and was very successful with the students and staff.

In December, three members of the UB staff were recognized for their years of service to the program:

- **Joan Halland** and **Nancy Schnabel** (summer instructors) - 10 years
- **Travis Dockter** (tutor/student coordinator) – 5 years

Congratulations to all.

Veterans Upward Bound

VUB has been busy this year. Currently, we are preparing for the upcoming grant writing and moving forward with recruitment. We have been lucky in developing collaborations with colleges in our area that help enlarge recruitment of veterans while keeping costs down.

This year VUB will celebrate 40 years on the NDSU campus and plan to hold a celebration reception this fall.

Bruce Steele, long-time director of the project, retired in March to pursue a career in teaching and spending time enjoying his grandchildren. Bruce was with VUB for 13 years and we wish him well.



Dickenson State University

Student Support Services

We held a spring “Welcome Back Gathering” the first week of the spring semester for SSS participants. 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.



DSU Student Support Services celebrated National TRIO Day on February 24th. Display tables and posters were set up explaining the TRIO program, the success the program has had and the number of students who have been served by the program. All DSU faculty, staff and students were invited to the reception. The reception included cookies and punch.



Social activities during the spring semester included a trip to Bismarck to see a Wizard Basketball game.

The SSS Recognition Banquet honoring student recognition as well as graduates will be held Wednesday, April 18th.



University of North Dakota

Upward Bound

The University of North Dakota Upward Bound program senior participants met in early December to learn more about the financial aid process, to apply to colleges and to fill out scholarship applications. They took part in a Christmas program put on by UND's Music Department as well as participated in community service at the Grand Forks Community Action Center where they boxed food for needy families.

In April the Upward Bound Student advisory board met to discuss activities for the summer and fall. This group provides leadership and experience during the summer program. The students also volunteered at the Larimore Elementary School Carnival they ran games and painted faces and nails.



Talent Search

UND's Talent Search is bringing to a close the first school year of the new grant cycle. The new grant brought several changes for us, including two new schools. We were pleased to welcome Grafton and Dakota Prairie school districts to the TRIO Talent Search family, and thrilled by the welcome we received at both locations. Students, staff, and faculty at all locations have been wonderful to work with this year.

Among the many services our new school districts were happy to receive was assistance with developing and sponsoring field trips. Ninth graders from Grafton High School attended UND's TRIO Day awards luncheon, in addition to touring the ND Museum of Art, the Ralph Engelstad Arena, and meeting with students from UND's SSS and McNair programs to learn the inside scoop about being a college student. This was the first ever field trip for this group of students.

Most recently, juniors from Dakota Prairie High School spent a very full day exploring colleges and career opportunities in the Red River Valley. Their tour day took them to Northland Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks, MN, North Dakota State University, Microsoft, and Butler Machinery in Fargo, ND.

As the school year draws to a close soon, we are gearing up for our summer programs. This year we are offering two one-week summer programs for high school students from grades 9-11. Each program will include on-campus components at UND as well as field experiences; one to Duluth, MN, and the other to Sioux Falls, SD. Fun learning experiences should be had by one and all.



McNair Scholars Program

UND's McNair program held their banquet on April 19th in conjunction with the student's oral and poster presentations. This year there were nine students who completed their poster presentations and thirteen that presented orally on their research. The McNair program also had eight students attend conferences to present their research.

Student Support Services at UND held their annual student recognition program on April 25th.

The EOC program held an alumni reunion in conjunction with the Grand Forks Adult Learning Center, it was well attended. Current college students returned to talk with and share experiences with current alumni that are just returning to college or in the process of applying.

News from Montana

Dawson Community College SSS

Susan Carlson, long time Math tutor for Student Support Services at Dawson Community College, will retire at the end of this academic year. For the past 22 years Susan has helped countless students survive their math courses. Her ready smile, patience, and understanding will be missed by all of us who have had the pleasure of knowing her.



Montana State University— Billings

A Show of Strength for TRIO Day

This year the TRIO programs housed at MSU Billings approached TRIO Day a little differently. This year the project staff wanted people to see the impact TRIO had on the community. A thousand t-shirts were ordered and students, alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters could purchase the t-shirts with the expectation that they would be worn on Tuesday February 28 to celebrate the TRIO programs. Prior to this the staff from the various offices took pictures of students in their shirts and a collage was made and submitted to the Billings Gazette. On February 28, 2012, the T-shirts were seen being worn in the community, schools and university and the picture below was featured in the Billings Gazette.

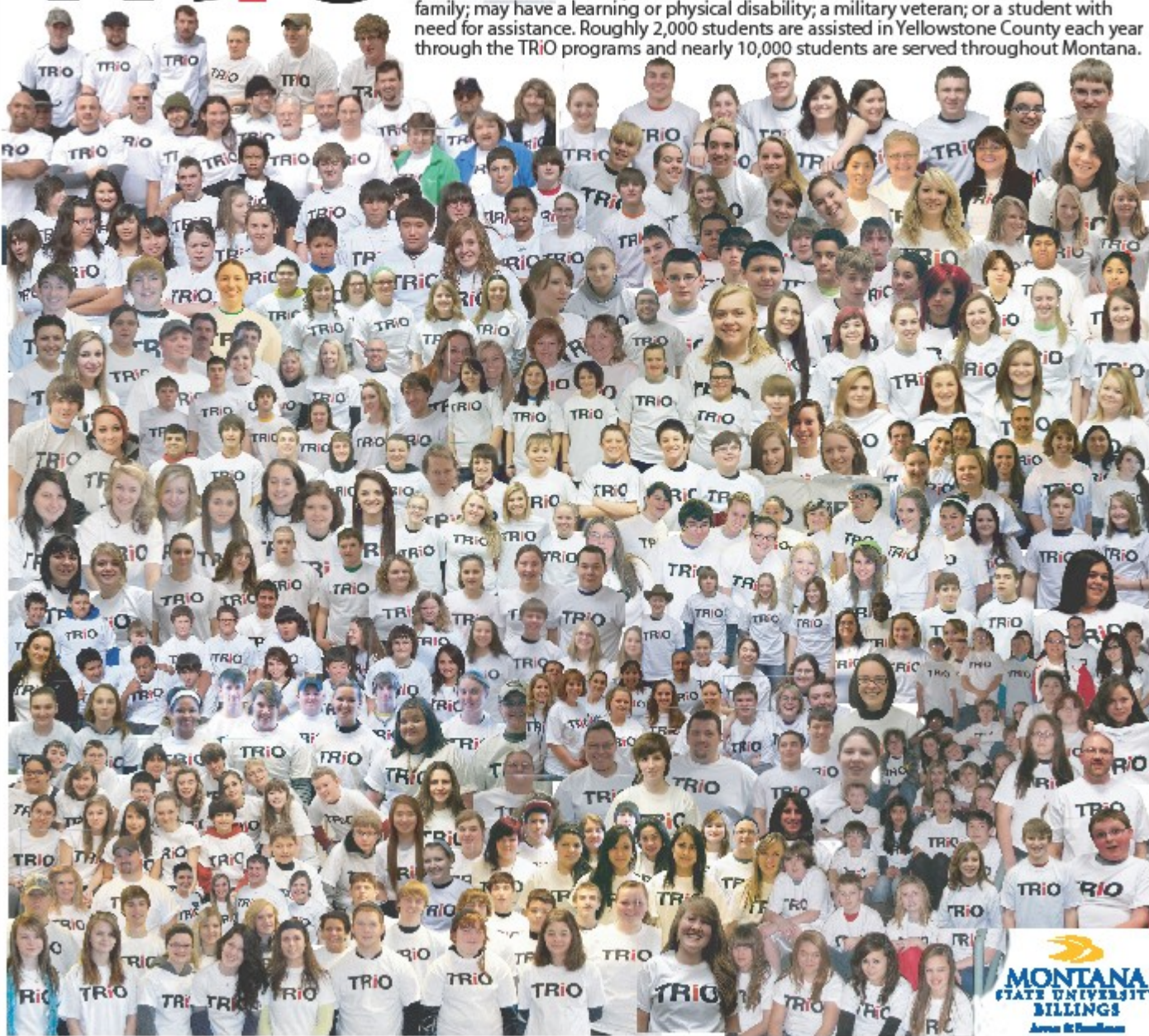
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Serving Yellowstone County and Montana for over 45 Years!

TRiO

Who is TRiO? You may know them by their program names: Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Veteran's Upward Bound, Education Opportunity Center, Ronald McNair Scholars Program, and Math/Science Upward Bound.

What is the Mission? TRiO is the country's first established college access program that provides educational opportunity to students that want to further their education beyond high school. Students may be first generation college-bound; come from a low income family; may have a learning or physical disability; a military veteran; or a student with need for assistance. Roughly 2,000 students are assisted in Yellowstone County each year through the TRiO programs and nearly 10,000 students are served throughout Montana.



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY
BILLINGS
Arrows to Excellence

News from South Dakota

2012 SD TRIO Day in Pierre, SD



South Dakota TRIO professionals and students from across the state met at the capitol in Pierre Feb. 23 to promote awareness of federal TRIO programs.

TRIO programs serve students in junior high through graduate school. These programs were developed to improve the college retention and graduation rates of students who are first-generation, low-income or students with disabilities. Seven state institutions host at least one TRIO program in SD.

TRIO is a unique organization because professionals and students alike need to advocate for themselves, their programs, and fellow participants across the United States to ensure funding. TRIO professionals and participants from Northern State University, Black Hills State University, University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University, and Dakota Wesleyan University educated state legislators.

TRIO participants also had a chance to share their stories with Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Secretary of Education Melody Schopp at a luncheon.

TRIO programs in South Dakota:

- Serve a total of 2,515 low-income, first-generation and disabled students in South Dakota
- Provide \$3.6 million in federal grant funding annually for South Dakota students
- Provide jobs for 50 education professionals in the state
- There are 12 federal programs in the state located at: SDSU, USD, DWU, BHSU, NSU, Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, and Oglala Lakota College

Dakota Wesleyan University

Thomas Madut Receives South Dakota TRIO Achiever Award and Places 46th Overall in the Boston Marathon



"I would like to thank the entire TRIO SSS staff that serves the TRIO students. I couldn't have done it without the support as far as tutors, mentors and programs. I would encourage any new student to utilize all the resources available to them through SSS. Attending the socials, programs and workshops is a great way to learn something new and build friendships. My time management is stronger thanks to what I learned from TRIO SSS and Dakota Wesleyan. I learned how to prioritize and balance my schoolwork, activities, clubs and athletics. I feel well prepared for my future. It is not enough just to say thank you to Student Support Services, you are all like a second family to me."

Thomas G. Madut

Thomas started participation in Student Support Services at DWU in the fall of 2005. He earned his BA in Human Services and minor in coaching in May 2010. Thomas completed his first Master's Degree in December of 2011 in Educational Policy and Administration. He will complete his 2nd Master's in Curriculum Instruction in May 2013.

Thomas is originally from Sudan; he is one of the "Lost Boys". Thomas is very proud that he became a US Citizen in 2007. Thomas came to DWU from Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Thomas was an active member of TRIO Student Support Services while enrolled as an undergraduate. He actively sought out academic and social support resources such as the Writing Center, tutoring, mentor and tutor workshops, career workshops, and professional mentoring.

Thomas is currently employed as a Direct Support Professional at LifeQuest a private, nonprofit, community agency that provides services and supports to people with developmental disabilities.

On April 16, 2012 Thomas competed in the Boston Marathon, one of the top 5 marathons in the world. He placed 46th out of 22,500. Currently his record time stands at 2 hours 29 min 57 seconds, which is 11-12 minutes away from qualifying for the US Olympic trials. Thomas's goal is to qualify and compete in the next Olympic Games.



TRIO WORKS at DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

With graduation right around the corner on May 5th, we are proud to announce that our SSS students are off to conquer the world! Here are some of the degrees our proud alum will have earned:

Human Services (5), Sports Management (4), Criminal Justice (3), Behavior Science (3), Athletic Training (2), Business Administration (3), Public Service and Leadership (2), Religion (2), Math (2), Biology, Psychology, History Education, Elementary Education (2), Accounting, Theater, and History.

A special shout out to our students who are impressively pursuing the following:

Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine at Iowa State University, Masters of Professional Accountancy from the University of SD, Masters of Business Administration from the University of SD, University of Wyoming Law School, Master's in Kinesiology from University of TX, and Masters of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary



Northern State University

Upward Bound

Greetings from NSU! We are in the process of wrapping up our academic year activities and are busy planning for our summer program which begins on June 3rd. The summer will involve many exciting opportunities for our students including the chance to tour Black Hills State University, the University of South Dakota, Augsburg College, the University of Minnesota Morris, and Presentation College! Besides touring colleges, we also have a great staff of teachers returning for the summer and have planned many other activities including internships, service-in-learning projects, and leadership exercises.

We are excited to announce the plans for our senior class. Many of them are in the process of registering for classes and finalizing their financial aid packages. Our seniors will be going to Northern State University, Dakota State College, Sitting Bull College, and Mitchell Technical Institute. This summer they will also be participating in our Bridge program and earning college credits in United States History and Speech Communication!



South Dakota State University

Student Support Services

On November 14th, TRIO held its 2nd Annual **Cultural Cuisine!** This fun event brings together our students' cultures and traditions by having them bring and share a food dish that is traditional in their family. After each student shared the story behind their dish, we ate, enjoyed culture music and pictures, played fun cultural games, and had a great time getting to know each other! This year, we incorporated the "I Am" poem, which we displayed in the TRIO office. The "I Am" poem embraces and celebrates the uniqueness of our students here at SDSU and within TRIO.



For the third consecutive year, the TRIO SSS program served the Brookings **Harvest Table**. At this event, Brookings community members came to the First United Methodist Church and received a warm meal. Students and staff donated nearly 250 food items, while 14 students volunteered their time by helping to prep the food, serve the meal, and clean up. On Monday, February 27th, we served 185 Brookings Community members. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this another successful community volunteer opportunity!

In January, our graduate intern, Nadine Gjerde, conducted TRIO's first **Exploring Leadership Seminar** exclusively for TRIO students. This interactive workshop allowed students to explore some basic concepts about leadership and helped them start to think of ways they can start to be leaders in their activities and communities based on their own unique leadership styles. In the future, TRIO hopes to expand this into a longer seminar where students can start to plan ways to become actively involved as leaders and assist in planning TRIO events to enact their leadership skills!

Another new event this spring was **Cupcake Wars**, an exciting social event led by three energetic TRIO students. Participating students separated into teams and battled to create the best themed cupcakes in three categories. The winning team received some great prizes like SDSU attire and gift certificates for local businesses. TRIO looks forward to continuing this fun event next year as everyone had a great time and went home with some delicious and well decorated treats! A special thanks to Danna, Amanda & Danyelle who hosted the event!





On March 27th, TRIO students and staff put their creativity to work and participated in TRIO's first **Group Art Project!** The project involved melting crayons on a canvas with hairdryers to create a wall art piece that will be displayed in the TRIO Office. Students really got into creating their own unique designs and enjoyed the chance to interact with other students in an imaginative way. A special thanks goes out to Alex who came up with the idea and hosted the event!



University of South Dakota

Talent Search

TRIO Day 2012 at Dupree School

The TRIO Educational Talent Search Program (ETS) celebrated TRIO Day 2012 on Friday, March 30th at Dupree School.

With its home office at the University of South Dakota (USD), the program has served Cheyenne River Sioux students, in grades 6th-12th, for over eleven years at C-EB, Tiospaye Topa, Takini, and Dupree, with Lynelle Whitebull-Rousseau and Marion Blue Arm as the local teachers. Marion is the Educational Talent Search Program Director and she meets with TRIO Math and Science Initiative (MSIP) high school students at C-EB High School. While in Dupree High School, Marion Blue Arm works with the 7th-12th 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.



high school students, who are all participants of ETS, were treated after lunch with cake, candy, and a drawing with numerous prizes, ranging from iTunes gift cards and t-shirts, to an XBOX game and small items such as key chains and water bottles. TRIO ETS students should be proud of completing another successful year. All their hard work is appreciated.

TRIO sets aside a day each spring to hold a TRIO Day that 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



Upward Bound

USD Upward Bound and Math & Science Students Step Forward to Provide Assistance in a Time of Need.

During the Spring and Summer of 2011, South Dakota (and several neighboring states) were devastated by flooding along the Missouri River and its tributaries. Many homes were evacuated, and hundreds of millions of dollars in damages were done across several states.

Hearing a call for action and seeing people in need, the students of the Upward Bound and Math & Science Initiative Program at the University of South Dakota stepped forward to provide assistance in a time of need. Students volunteered during their free time and on weekends, making lunches for members of the South Dakota National Guard who were housed at the University of South Dakota during the summer. In addition, on June 12, 2011, the students of the Upward Bound and Math & Science Initiative Program filled more than 5,000 sandbags to help protect homes and businesses in the Dakota Dunes, SD area.



News from Wyoming

TRIO Day 2012

Tuesday, February 21 was Wyoming Educational Access Day in Cheyenne, WY. Over 50 TRIO and GEAR-UP students and staff from around the state were in attendance. Unfortunately, bad weather precluded students and staff from the University of Wyoming from attending.

This is an annual event to promote awareness of TRIO and GEAR-UP programs in Wyoming. The day included observing legislative processes, being introduced in the Senate and House chambers, and a luncheon with speakers and students/former students who have used legislative processes for advocacy. The highlight of the day was a meeting with Wyoming's Governor Matt Mead where he signed a proclamation for Wyoming Educational Access Day and spoke with the students about achieving their higher education goals. Local students were also able to proceed to the Mayor's office where Mayor Rick Kaysen signed a proclamation for Cheyenne Educational Access Day.



Our Wyoming Governor, Matt Mead, with TRIO and GEAR UP students for Wyoming Educational Access Day



Northern Wyoming Community College
SSS Program Students/Staff meet with Senator Enzi
Jerry Budenske, Gabriel Beasley, (Senator Enzi),
Cameron Willett, Joshua Espinoza, Staff: Joseph Aguirre



Northern Wyoming Community College District stu-
dents with Rached Martinez and Director of SSS, Joseph
Aguirre.



TRIO and GEAR UP students with Cheyenne Mayor Rick Kaysen

University of Wyoming

Student Support Services

University of Wyoming Student Support Services Program Holds Annual Spring Recognition Dinner

Laramie, WY. On April 12, 2012, the UW Student Support Services program honored eighteen students who are graduating with bachelor's degrees this spring and summer. The program also recognized numerous



other students who contributed to TRIO by serving as peer mentors and officers in a TRIO student organization. Also honored were scholarship recipients.

While unable to attend the event in person, Wyoming's U.S. Senator Mike Enzi expressed his support in a letter. He wrote in part, "As the Ranking Member of the Senate's Education Committee, I am very aware and strongly supportive of the good work Wyoming TRIO and GEAR UP are doing. Those who are being recognized at this dinner provide visible proof of the importance of these programs and the impact they will continue to have on our future as a state and a nation."



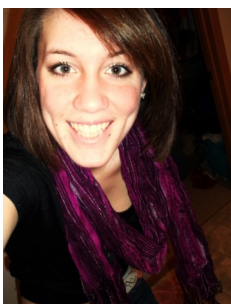
*TRIO student organization officers
Paul Sandler and Alison Grendahl*



*UW graduate Colleen Oliver with SSS
Advisor Rita Burleson*

While unable to attend the event in person, Wyoming's U.S. Senator Mike Enzi expressed his support in a letter. He wrote in part, "As the Ranking Member of the Senate's Education Committee, I am very aware and strongly supportive of the good work Wyoming TRIO and GEAR UP are doing. Those who are being recognized at this dinner provide visible proof of the importance of these programs and the impact they will continue to have on our future as a state and a nation."

University of Wyoming Etiquette Dinner for SSS and McNair Scholars



Earlier this spring I had the privilege of attending an etiquette dinner hosted by Jacque Buchanan, the wife of the president of the University of Wyoming. The event was so much fun and I really was quite thankful to have the opportunity to participate. The food is prepared by a top chef and is incredible. When you're in college free food always tastes good, but to enjoy a full four course meal for that same price was quite the experience. If you get the chance to participate in a similar event, I would highly recommend taking them up on the offer. Not only do you get to partake in a wonderful meal, but you learn some very valuable skills that are applicable to almost any formal type of setting you may find yourself in later in life.

SSS Student - Dawn Moon



McNair Scholars Program

David P. Rivera, a Cheyenne native and University of Wyoming McNair Scholar recently earned his Ph.D. in Multicultural Counseling Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. David was accepted into the 1996 UW McNair cohort and completed a research paper titled *Methods of Reducing Anxiety in Children Receiving Routine Immunizations*.

After graduating from UW, David moved east and began working at Georgetown University as an instructor for College Preparation classes for pre-college students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Motivated to begin working on his master's degree, David was accepted into the Clinical Community Counseling program at John Hopkins University and earned his M.S. in 2004.

David was then accepted into the prestigious Teachers College at Columbia University. During the 2011-12 academic year, he completed his doctoral counseling internship at the University of Pennsylvania and defended his dissertation on May 1, 2012. His dissertation title is *Micro aggressions & Health outcomes for Latina/o Americans: Understanding the influences of external characteristics & psychological resources*. David will begin work as an assistant professor at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey in the fall.



David has been and continues to be dedicated to helping first generation, low income and minority college students and has truly given back to TRIO. David has attended numerous fundraisers at COE events as well as attended COE's Policy Seminar on numerous occasions to share his story and the importance of TRIO to congressional law makers. David is a scholar and dedicated TRIO advocate.

News from Colorado

Community College of Aurora Student Support Services

The Community College of Aurora (CC Aurora) held its first annual TRIO Student Support Services Awards Banquet on Friday, April 27th. CC Aurora was awarded its first TRIO grant in 2010 after competing for an SSS grant. The program is contracted to serve 160 students. The CC Aurora program started serving students in February of 2011 when the TRIO staff was initially assembled.

During the Awards Banquet, six students were awarded the TRIO Achiever Award for being selected as exemplary students during the academic year. Twenty-two students earned the TRIO Scholar Award for maintaining a 3.0 GPA, while accumulating more than thirty college level credits. Individual Awards were presented to three students, highlighting their significant accomplishments as students and members of the CC Aurora community.

Jazmyn Collins received the North Star Award for maintaining her integrity and values in the face of adversity and challenges. Jazmyn has been the primary provider for her younger brother in high school and for her terminally ill mother while taking on the challenges of college. Jazmyn has participated in student government at CC Aurora and consistently volunteers for events and programs on campus. She plans to major in



journalism as she transfers to Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado this fall.

Fernando Garcia received the Rising Star Award as a promising student who has yet to earn thirty college level credits. Fernando is a candidate for CC Aurora's Integrated Nursing Pathways program, where students begin their studies at CC Aurora and earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Colorado Denver's Anschutz Medical Campus. Fernando has been an instrumental figure in the life of his family and has paved the way for his sister to have the opportunity to attend college when she finishes high school. He also volunteers at St. Joseph's Hospital and is participating in UC Denver's Undergraduate Pre-Health Program.



From left to right in photo. Angela Love, Bailee Bannon (TRIO staff), Tyree Cole, Jazmyn Collins

Derek Sanchez was selected as the Shining Star recipient. Eligibility for this Award required students to be eligible for the TRIO Scholar Award and to have demonstrated commitment to the CC Aurora community. Derek's story of overcoming a near fatal motorcycle accident and recovering from being laid off as an electrician to achieve a 3.94 GPA secured him the Award. Derek is completing an articulated degree at CC Aurora and will transfer to Metropolitan State College of Denver in 2013. In addition to being awarded a CC Aurora Student Success Award and a CC Aurora Foundation scholarship, Derek interacts with staff and faculty at CC Aurora in a positive manner and is known for his cowboy hat and boots on campus. The Community College of Aurora TRIO SSS Program attributes the success of its first year to a dedicated staff, supportive administration, and collaboration across the college.

Submitted by: Daniel Sandoval, Director of TRIO Student Support Services

University of Colorado Denver Student Support Services

The CU Denver TRIO Student Support Services Program sponsored the TRIO Alternative Spring Break Trip from March 22-24, 2012. During spring break, fourteen TRIO SSS students committed to several graduate school visits and a service learning project with the Salvation Army in Greeley, CO.

The trip began on Thursday as students along with the professional staff headed to the University of Colorado Boulder. The campus was beautiful and has that "traditional" college feeling. Students attended a GRE exam preparation workshop. The students also had the opportunity to visit with a student panel consisting of five students who were working to complete their graduate studies. This was a wonderful opportunity for TRIO SSS students to ask questions about their graduate school experiences. In addition, students also attended a graduate school preparation workshop and a financial aid seminar to discuss financing graduate school. Most of us walked out realizing how broke we will be attending graduate school. Thankfully, the next session hosted by the Colorado Diversity Initiative to increase the number of diverse graduate students at CU Boulder, discussed possible funding from stipends and assistantships.

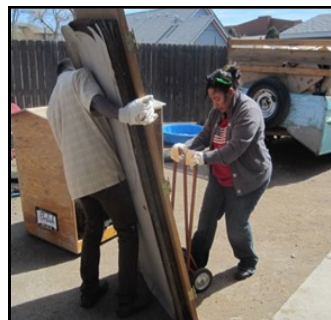
During the second day, the TRIO SSS students and staff drove to Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. The agenda was packed with several workshops and lunch. The group had the opportunity to visit with



two former CU Denver TRIO SSS Alumni for a lunch session about graduate school. Students visited the Psychology, Molecular Biology, and the Social Work graduate school programs.

We jumped in the vans and traveled to the University of Northern Colorado. We completed a campus tour and attended an informational session about the different graduate programs offered at the university. The TRIO McNair office staff at UNC welcomed us and answered questions about graduate school and the campus.

TRIO students and staff met early Saturday morning to discuss poverty in America and to prepare for the Service Learning Project with the Salvation Army. Students and staff put on their working boots. Duties included painting, yard work and various projects. It was definitely hard work and rewarding to lend a helping hand for a program that does so much for its community.



Submitted by: Dat Bui, TRIO SSS Peer Mentor and Henry Ornelas, TRIO SSS Staff

Pueblo Community College Student Support Services

Leonardo Gomez, Pueblo Community College TRIO Student Support Services participant was accepted to participate in the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Study Abroad Program in Salamanca, Spain. The Council for Opportunity in Education sponsors the program. On April 18, 2012, Leonardo was interviewed by the local Pueblo news (KOAA - News 5). Below you will find the transcript of the interview and link to the website to view story.

It is the chance of a lifetime to be one of the 20 selected to study abroad in Spain.

A Pueblo student now has that opportunity.

"Not in a million years would I have thought I'd be studying in Spain," said Leonardo Gomez, a non-traditional student at Pueblo Community College and CSU-Pueblo.

On February 1, Leonardo Gomez, 29, received an email about the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program in Salamanca, Spain.



The email read, "After careful review by our Committee, we are happy to notify you that you have been selected to participate."

"I will be taking nine credit hours this summer out there in a month's time, so it's definitely going to be challenging but nothing is impossible," said Gomez.

Gomez decided to go back to college almost a decade after high school.

"Just being a father," said Gomez. "It really gave me a different aspect of life, and the true meaning of an education."

He will receive his bachelor's degree in two years and hopes to teach Spanish.

"I would like to stay in the Pueblo area," said Gomez. "We have a lot of great kids in this community, and we really need to reach out to them. The rest of the world, everybody knows two to three languages. I think we need to be up to par with that, and I think knowing a foreign language is just a great avenue for anybody."

There was strict criteria to apply for the study abroad opportunity, including pursuing a degree in Spanish.

"Low income, first generation, and you do have be part of TRIO," said Gomez.

TRIO Student Services is a program at Pueblo Community College and CSU-Pueblo where he works and takes classes.

One of his advisors told him he should apply.

"Big language war over there from what I hear, and I really want to get more familiar with the different dialects over there," said Gomez. "It's just something that's always interested me, especially the difference between Madrid and Barcelona Spanish."

Gomez says he will miss his young sons and wife.

"She knows it's something really important in both of our lives," said Gomez.

Gomez will continue his education at CSU-Pueblo after he graduates from Pueblo Community College.

Link to website: <http://www.koaa.com/news/pueblo-man-selected-to-study-in-spain/#!/prettyPhoto/0/>