



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of APSIRE, INC.

TRIO

May—August 2013

LEARNING TODAY, LEADING TOMORROW

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Message from the President

Greetings ASPIRE!

I hope that the school year has started well for your programs!

The Aspire Board is excited to welcome you to the annual ASPIRE conference in Ft. Collins, CO this year! Colorado ASPIRE has done an excellent job planning both an educational and entertaining conference. Thank you to Oscar, Andrea, Rachel, Lourdes, and all the Colorado members for their hard work!

Your ASPIRE leadership has been active this fall already, with the COE annual conference in Chicago, IL. This was a great opportunity to get together with leaders from other regions to discuss the political climate in DC and in our states. One thing that is certain is that nothing is certain! In the coming weeks and months we will once again be knee deep in terms like sequester, government shutdown, and debt ceilings. COE has taken the lead in advocacy for college access programs with our congressional offices. We hope that as action alerts are sent out to TRIO professionals, that you answer those calls by contacting your legislative offices.

The ASPIRE Board would also like to take a moment to recognize the cuts that we have all faced this year with sequestration. Throughout the region we have heard stories of staff, program, and services that have been cut, not to mention the toll it takes on our students. ASPIRE and COE are working hard to restore that funding in the upcoming budget. We cannot, however, become complacent in our actions, we must advocate for our programs and our students during this difficult time.

On a more positive note, I am proud to announce that ASPIRE did meet our Fairshare objective, with the second highest percentage among regions! We were the only region that had all states at or exceeding 100% of our goals. Thank you ASPIRE! This makes it possible for the COE to advocate properly for us with legislators, and your personal donations and institutional memberships are important! Also, as special thank you to Carol Gritts, Rachel Martinez, Dan Benge, and all the state presidents for leading our development team.

Finally, I would encourage you, if you have questions or see potential areas of growth for ASPIRE, please come and speak with me or other board members. See you in Ft. Collins!

Derek Sporbert



Reflections from ASPIRE Past-President Rachel Martinez

As I end the term of my past-president year on the ASPIRE Board, I would like to offer some reflections on leadership. Being on the road offered me plenty of time for self-reflection about why I was doing what I was doing, particularly when I realized how many hours it actually takes to drive across our vast, weather-changing region. I first learned that making advocacy my own yet inspiring others was surprisingly frightening yet exhilarating. I knew sitting on the board meant a few days of travel here and there, passing some motions and making sure we didn't tank the ASPIRE budget. That was the easy part. The hard part was getting so many ideas, thoughts, and projects from my head onto paper and into action. I was immediately embraced and mentored by ASPIRE board members, past and current. I equate my first year on the board to a tropical storm turning into a hurricane (or basically any given day in Wyoming). The board moved fast and furious to get work done and advocate for our regional students and association needs. And when things didn't go my way and political visits on the Hill left me shaking my head, I learned fast that talking TRIO was so much more than taking in pictures of my students with their stories that would get the attention of appropriators and department heads. I learned that sometimes the best advocacy happened when you accidentally sat next to a senator or representative at some function and struck up a conversation about things in common like having teenage kids or skiing in Breckenridge. I learned that spending hours crafting up creative messaging and formulating statewide, collective communication efforts into a TRIO book or pamphlet could easily end up in the trashcan of my congressman in D.C. but when I sat next to one of them at a Brad Paisley concert during Cheyenne Frontier Days, I couldn't be so easily dismissed. I learned that my passion and leadership for TRIO exceeds the 40-hour work week. And that is how so many of us come to know TRIO as a family and not a job.



For those of you that want to take on more leadership roles, run for officer positions, or just become more active in the association, I applaud you. I encourage you to enter these roles with ideas and with heart and soul but also as a blank slate and bring lots of chalk and a big eraser. You will make lots of mistakes. And if you don't, then you are doing something wrong or refusing to see where you can grow. When you take on an official TRIO leadership role, you don't have to bleed TRIO coming into it but I guarantee you will bleed TRIO when you leave it. And then you will have scars to remind you that leadership is never truly over, it's just a beginning to a lifelong commitment to a cause. And that there are so many others like you who work every day with the hope that someday we will put ourselves out of work because access to education will be like drinking water.

If you find yourself contemplating leadership in whatever capacity, know that you will leave that position with more questions than you had when you first begin your time. And to think that I thought I would actually come off of the board more knowledgeable and with more answers. I think this naivety is what catches many elected persons by surprise. And know that you will never at any point have all the answers, but that this is actually a positive thing. The most important thing to know is that ASPIRE leadership is never a one-person show. You will have your audience, your cast (including lead parts) your orchestra, your backup dancers, your stage hands/crew, and don't forget your critics. You determine the amount of drama, horror, comedy, and monologues that will result in good or bad ratings. I look forward to the show.

News from Montana

University of Montana

TRIO SSS & Upward Bound at the University of Montana

Winds of change and fires were not only in the air in western Montana but also in the TRIO SSS office at the University of Montana! Joe Hickman, TRIO SSS and Upward Bound Director was asked to take on the Interim Registrar's position for the academic year. Darlene Samson is the new Interim TRIO SSS Director and **Susan Rinehart** was hired to fill in as Interim Advisor. Twila Old Coyote is the Interim Director of Upward Bound. A search for a UM Registrar hopes to be final by July of 2014.



Susan Rinehart

Unique to TRIO SSS is our book loan program. We have been very fortunate to have a local Missoula group called Grizzly Riders contribute donations for the past five years to this project. Since 2008, we have helped 715 students with at least two text books. Total contributions from the Grizzly Riders to date are \$50,267! Grizzly Riders would like to see TRIO SSS seek matching funds to continue their contributions. Future endeavors to carry on this program may include fundraising, securing other grants and donations. If anyone has ideas to share on how we may do this, we welcome your ideas!

As Darlene and Peter Donaldson move into the Montana ASPIRE Presidency and Secretary/Treasurer position this upcoming year, we look forward to working with our state colleagues. We hope you will share your thoughts with us about how we can make a strong state association throughout the year and look forward to seeing you at the Regional conference!

TRIO-Upward Bound Staff Update: Associate Director



Twila Old Coyote is excited to be a part of the TRIO family. While a student at The University of Montana, Twila participated in SSS, McNair, and worked for Upward Bound's summer program. She earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Intercultural Youth and Family Development. Twila has over 15 years of experience working with students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Twila is back on UM's campus after working at Montana State University. She is enthusiastic about working with the students from Missoula and Browning high schools and is looking forward to a great year!

Academic Coordinator- Mickey Lyngholm is happy to be back in ASPIRE-land. She previously worked at Flathead Valley Community College in a variety of TRIO-esque roles. Mickey returned last October to the Montana TRIO family as Academic Coordinator for University of Montana Upward Bound. Most recently employed by University of Idaho in Moscow, ID, she worked with Student Support Services to provide resources for UI Students. Besides advising, assisting, and mentoring individual students, she served as tutor coordinator and taught College Success Strategies courses each semester. While at UI, Mickey earned a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and her research analyzed data from a probation intervention that she helped design and coordinate in its first four years. Though she says she misses



working with Bud Sather, Mickey is excited to be in a new role with TRIO.

Summer Program: There were over 40 students who participated in this year's summer program. The theme was "Exploring the Supernatural" and students attended various field trips that included Garnet Ghost Town, the Blue Mountain Observatory, Travelers' Rest and an actual archaeology dig at Fort Missoula. TRIO-Upward Bound students were also highlighted in the Missoulian after spending a day learning how to play traditional Native American games and the Irish sport of hurling. TRIO-Upward Bound enjoyed a great summer!

News from Wyoming

Alumna of Pepperdine University Wins 2013 National TRIO Achievers Award

Trinity Thorpe-Lubneuski, an alumna of the Upward Bound program at the University of Wyoming, is one of the winners of the prestigious national 2013 National TRIO Achievers Award honoring individuals of distinction who, as students, made the most of their TRIO participation.

Thorpe-Lubneuski is currently a Senior Strategic Analyst in the Office of Strategic Analytics for the School District of Philadelphia. She says that participating in the Student Support Services program made the difference in her life.



"I am who I am because of the people who intervened in my life," Thorpe-Lubneuski said. "These are the individuals who encouraged, disciplined, and led me to believe more was possible from me than I would have like to; the people who had high expectations of me."

Thorpe-Lubneuski graduated from Pepperdine University with a degree in psychology. She went on to earn a Master of Social Work and M.S in social policy from the University of Pennsylvania.

"I cannot think of a more suitable or appropriate National TRIO Achiever than Trinity," said Pam Richardson, Assistant Director, Upward Bound and the Upward Bound Math Science Projects at the University of Wyoming. "Her personal accomplishments and achievements are a testament to her personal characteristics of integrity and grit and the capacity of TRIO to make a difference."

Thorpe-Lubneuski will join the other awardees at a ceremony honoring their achievements at the 32nd Annual Council for Opportunity in Education Conference in Chicago, IL September 8-11.

Upward Bound, one of the federally-funded TRIO programs, provides college preparation, mentoring, and college admissions assistance to thousands of low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities across the country.

News from Utah

Southern Utah University

SUU Talent Search Program Welcomes Four New Staff Members

The TRIO Talent Search program at Southern Utah University would like to welcome four new staff members to our team: **Spencer Kohler** (Advisor at Beaver High School), **Kara Monroe** (Advisor at Milford High School), **Alice Meanea** (Advisor at Cedar and Canyon View Middle Schools) and **Dona Murphy** (Advisor at Parowan High School). We are happy to have them on our team and are excited by their energy and their new ideas. They have just started working with their schools and are working hard to get to know their students.



Kara Monroe



Alice Meanea



Dona Murphy



Spencer Kohler

The TRIO Talent Search staff are in the midst of recruiting new 7th grade students for the program as we will welcome nearly 100 of them this school year. We are also gearing up for a few upcoming campus visits. The first one will be in October where 100+ 8th grade students will visit the campuses of Dixie Applied Technology College and Dixie State University. Halloween will be fun for our students in Arizona at Fredonia High School as they will be traveling to visit Scottsdale Community College and University of Arizona. November finds us traveling with 11-12th graders to Snow College for a "Snow Blast" weekend. Here, 40 of our ETS students will have the opportunity to be a college student for a weekend. Students will take a campus tour, go to a ballgame or event, stay in the dorms with Snow College Student Ambassadors, visit a class, and much, much more.

James "Shep" Shepherd is Retiring from VUB September 30, 2013



It is with mixed emotions that VUB is about to say, "Fare well," to Jim Shepherd, also known as "Shep". While we are happy that he will be able to relax and spend more time with his family, VUB is losing a tremendous asset and he will be missed.

Shep began working in Veterans Upward Bound on August 1, 1991, after having worked 13 years teaching Junior High School. He is quoted as saying, "What a wonderful change. In Junior High those students were daring me to teach them. With the vets they are anxious to be taught."



He continued, "Preparation was emphasized my very first day. A student came in and asked for help with logarithms. In Junior High for 13 years I hadn't had much occasion to work with logarithms and I had to say so. I told him if he came back the next day I would be ready to help him. I spent the rest of the day reading up on logarithms and doing the problems with the text books I had. That lesson in readiness and admitting it if I wasn't was one of the best lessons I learned in VUB."

Jim says this about the program, "VUB – My Opportunity to serve those who served."

During Shep's time in VUB the program has been moved to several different office spaces. It began in Annex 10 where the high school Upward Bound program is now. It later moved to Annex 2 that faces onto Birch Ave. Following that it went to the Miller Administration building, the same building the President's office occupies. And now the program is housed in Annex 12.

The following comes from a self-written page from Shep's military history and reflects his interest in serving although a physical condition prevented it. Shep's desire was to be a Marine.

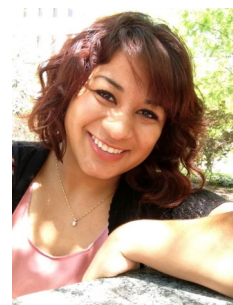
- 1958 – Registered for the draft and was classified 1Y(eligible in case of national emergency) because I could not turn my left arm over flat (supine position)
- 1959 – Graduated high school and was a first alternate to go to Annapolis. (The first choice went.)
- 1959 – Went to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) on a baseball scholarship and joined the Naval Reserve Officers Training Program (NROTC) there. (Everybody had to join one of the ROTC programs. I served there for two years and then had to have brain surgery. When I told my commanding officer he told me that I would be discharged and if I ever asked for benefits I would be court-martialed.
- After surgery I went back to UCLA for a year, but could no longer qualify for the NROTC program or play baseball.
- 1965 – Went to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. While there I talked to the Marine Corps recruiter in Provo but he did not give me much hope of ever qualifying for enlisting.
- 1967 – Went on a church mission to the Northwestern state mission for two years.
- 1969 – As I was being released, my mission president at that time was retired Army Colonel Joe Whitesides. He took me to the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Seattle and encouraged them to give me a chance.
- They agreed to accept me after some discussion. Then, after my exhilaration that I would be going to boot camp, they had more discussion and came back again and said, "Maybe we should have your doctor's O.K. first. If he says it is alright then you will be accepted.
- So I went back to the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute (NPI) where the surgery had taken place to ask permission from Dr. Richard Walters who had been the doctor in charge of the research project I had taken part in. He said that he didn't think it would be a good idea. So, I was disappointed once again.
- After that I left things alone for a while, but after I started teaching in Ogden, Utah, I decided to try one more time. I talked to the Marine Corps recruiter in Ogden and he said they would still have to have the doctor's approval. I was sure that was not forthcoming so I called it quits for being a part of the military.
- The closest I've come to working with the military is working with the vets in the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) program at Weber State University teaching and tutoring math. One of the great privileges of my life.



SUU McNair Scholar Spotlight—Wendolens Ruano

How did you come to choose the topic of your research “The Burden that Is Lifted Off: Experiences of Undocumented College Students Pre- and Post-Obama’s Deferred Action”?

I had originally planned to study how religion and spirituality aided in the students’ retention in college since this seemed to be a gap in the literature review. It had been mentioned in one of the articles I read as future research. However as I began the interview process with the students, this did not seem to play as much into their retention as the sacrifices made by their parents and the mentorship they had received. Halfway through the interviews President Obama announced Deferred Action which completely shifted the work I was doing. This seemed to be big news to the students I was interviewing. I was able to get both perspectives from students, before and after the announcement. It was a very exciting time for all of us, and it was also very emotional. I knew this was something that was historical and I wanted to have an understanding as to how this affected the four students I was interviewing.



What did you enjoy most about your research experience?

Since the research I was doing was qualitative in nature, I enjoyed interviewing the students the most. It was great to have that time to learn from them. It was also very exciting to know that I was actually conducting research. I now feel equipped with some of the knowledge and skills I will need in graduate school.

What insights were gained from this research project?

I definitely learned what it means to do research. I had not gone through the process before and it was new, however I had a wonderful faculty mentor who guided me along the way and encouraged me even when I did not know what to do next. I believe that I learned most from the students I interviewed and their empowering stories. They are an inspiration for this work which is why it is so important to continue it even though it can be a difficult topic at times.

Have you presented this research anywhere? If so, where and how has the presentation of your research findings been received by the audience?

I was able to present this research at the Westminster McNair Symposium and at University of California Berkeley McNair Symposium a week after that. The presentation overall went very well. I am so grateful for the McNair staff (Jo, Brian, and Lesa) as well as my McNair cohort for all their support and help in getting the presentation ready. They were all catalysts in helping me practice and present in a professional and academic manner. As I presented the research findings the audience received the presentation well. They asked great questions and I was able to begin dialogue with some of them.

What advice would you offer to McNair Scholars on selecting a research topic?

The advice I have received is the advice I would pass on to other McNair Scholars - choose a topic you love and for which you feel passion. Through much of the research, you will be reading more articles than you can imagine on this topic, writing about it more than you know, and talking to people about it all throughout summer (and then some). Make sure that your topic will be able to sustain you through this and that your passion for your topic will lead you out of those tedious, or difficult moments of the research process.



Dixie State University Educational Talent Search

DSU

DIXIE STATE
UNIVERSITY



TRiO
TALENT SEARCH

SENIOR CULTURAL ACTIVITY 2013

Every year we are able to attend a cultural activity that doubles as an opportunity to meet with our Trio director Mr. Jonathan Morrell. During this outing our Seniors gain a cultural experience that many of them have never had as well as extremely helpful advice from Mr. Morrell on how to fine tune preparation for their transfer from high school to college.

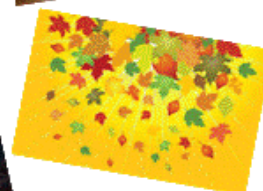
This year, On August 29th we were able to meet at the Pizza Factory in Ancestor Square to listen to Mr. Morrell. He covered important topics such as getting a 19 or above on the ACT in order to qualify for scholarships, how much cheaper it is to complete cred-

its in high school than in college, and where to go to apply for scholarships. We are thankful that Mr. Morrell spent time helping our ETS seniors understand the process of going from high school to college. His wisdom and knowledge is very well respected.

After our meeting with Mr. Morrell we were able to enjoy a cultural experience at Tuacahn Amphitheater. We had the chance to experience Starlight Express under the stars while getting to know our ETS peers from Hurricane High School, Pine View High School, Snow Canyon High School, Dixie High School, Millcreek High School, & Enterprise High School. All of the

students in attendance seemed to really enjoy the show and the comradery with fellow Educational Talent Search students.

Thank You to all of the students & staff for making the



WE LOVE OUR STUDENTS!!!

This year we will serve only 782 compared to a high of 1200 in 2008. All because of budget cuts and flat level funding. We do love our ETS students because we know each one of them and their stories. Many of their stories are heartbreaking, yet the students move forward with tremendous strength and hope for the future, not only for themselves, but their families too.

The Dixie State University ETS program is alive and well because ETS has the support of the University, School District and the individual high schools and middle schools we work with.

We are so fortunate! I hear from other schools that they do not experience the same acceptance that our program receives.

Nothing could be finer (except get

ting the funding we need from the Department of Education) than being a member of TRiO—which includes everyone involved in making this program work.

**TRiO really does
WORK!**

Weber State University

WSU Talent Search Program Welcomes Three New Staff Members

The TRIO Talent Search program welcomes three new staff members to our team. **Alejandro Valquinto** (Advisor at Ogden High School) comes to us with experience in grants and working with students. **Marisol Velasco** (Advisor at BenLomond High School) comes to us with experience in higher education and helping students enroll in college. **Nick Berg** (student at WSU) will also be working at BenLomond with Marisol; he has experience working with high school students from his work with the Student 2 Student program. We feel very fortunate to have them on our team and they have recently started working with students at their respective high schools.

TRIO Talent Search staff are currently working on meeting with Seniors and tracking who qualifies for "Rigor" coursework within our program. Benefits for our students who complete a track for Rigor coursework include: 1) Being more academically prepared for college, 2) Receiving a "Certificate for Rigor Completion" with our program can be used for scholarship and job applications, and 3) Those students who complete a Rigor track will receive priority for a tuition waiver scholarship (for those attending Weber State).

We are also still hard at work assisting graduated Seniors with enrollment into post secondary education. After learning about the many barriers students can face with this process, our Director provided training in the department on how Advising first generation students differs to a large extent, from other general advising.

This work reminds us that our jobs require "above and beyond" effort, but the results with the students are what drive us and keep us going!



Utah State University

Talent Search Student Wins 1st Place at Biotech Summer Academy

'Neurons', and 'Protons', and 'Biomimetic Synthesis of Nanoparticles', oh my! Those were just a few words and phrases that were thrown around during Utah State University's 13th annual Biotechnology Summer Academy for high school students, held July 8-12.

Nineteen teens from Utah, Nevada, Oregon and Wisconsin donned lab coats, gloves and safety goggles and delved into hands-on research that was coordinated by USU's Center for Integrated BioSystems. The academy exposes teens to university-level research, as well as, life on a college campus.

"It was such a great experience!" said Shania Bitsoie, a Talent Search student from San Juan High School in

Blanding, Utah. “I’ve always been interested in science, so being able to do design a real project was awesome. I learned so much and had so much fun that I’m planning to attend again next year.”

During the week-long academy, Bitsoie and her teammate Miles Robertson, worked in the lab of biological engineering faculty member David Britt. Once their project was completed, they dimmed the lights and watched as fluorescent nanoparticles gave off a bright green glow.

Jami Bayles, Director of Talent Search at USU Eastern – Blanding Campus, referred Shania to the academy. “When you can bring students to campus and give them the chance to actually participate in science research with hands-on activities, you immediately get them excited about learning and pursuing higher education,” says Bayles.

At the conclusion of each year’s academy, participants, who reside in campus dorms, present their research projects to family, peers and faculty members. After, the faculty judges select the top three presentations. Shania Bitsoie and teammate Miles Robertson were awarded 1st place for their project “*Synthesis of Fluorescent Nanoparticles*.”

“This is an important part of the academy — as future scientists, the students practice articulating what they’ve learned to an audience,” Afifa Sabir, who designed the academy in 2001 and has welcomed more than 400 students to participate every year. “Each year, I’m more and more motivated by the students who take part in the academy,” said Sabir. “They’re excited to learn and often ask to return the following year.”



Biological Engineering faculty member Dave Britt, center, guides Biotech Summer Academy 1st place winners Shania Bitsoie and Miles Robertson in synthesis of fluorescent nanoparticles.



News from North Dakota

University of North Dakota

TRIO Programs Update

The UND TRIO Programs are starting strong this fall. All five programs have received their continuation award grant notifications and submitted revised budgets. During this process much planning has been done to assure the reduced funding will not reduce program operations, including successfully seeking outside funding sources from both the state and the university to supplement the program budgets. In September a TRIO Staff Retreat day is planned to provide professional development as well as opportunity for staff interaction and team building. A portion of the day will be devoted to a presentation by Neil Reuter, retired UND TRIO Director, discussing the history of the local UND TRIO Program development (including information regarding how support networks were built with university, TRIO alumni, and community entities throughout the years- which will give perspective to keep moving forward in these areas).

UND's TRIO Talent Search program rounded off the 2012-2013 academic year with two outstanding summer program sessions. Each one-week session accepted ten students to an intense week of workshops, tours, and learning activities. The first two days of the program were held on the UND campus, led by Dawn Eckhardt, Assistant Director of Talent Search, and assisted by Josh Tharaldson, a TRIO Talent Search alum now teaching high school science classes at a Talent Search target school. After a couple of days of classes at UND and living and dining in the residence halls, the group was on the road to the Black Hills of South Dakota. In addition to multiple college tours; exploring caves, touring the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, the Mammoth Site, Crazy Horse Memorial, and witnessing the evening flag lowering ceremony at Mount Rushmore were among the other highlights. Participants wrote daily journals about their experiences, which were combined with photos from the trip to create a memory book for the group. This element of their trip continues to be a wonderful learning tool that enhances what they experience each day, develops their writing skills, and serves as a treasured keepsake from their journey.





UND Upward Bound

The University of North Dakota Upward Bound program had an amazing summer program. Our program has a June 1 start date so the effects of sequestration have been challenging. The program is working in collaboration with the Housing office on campus and has also secured an additional \$25,000 from the Bank of ND College Access Challenge Grant. This has been a very big asset for our students.

The summer program was a success with many fun activities happening! The students were again able to participate in a work-study component. We had our bridge students complete 9 college credits. One of the biggest highlights of the summer for the students was to have Northern State University from Aberdeen, SD come and participate in Olympic style activities with us this summer. The program ended with a trip to Duluth, MN.



Cankdeska Cikana Community College **TRIO Talent Search**

The TRIO Talent Search collaborated with various Cankdeska Cikana Community College programs and students/staff from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health from New York, NY. The collaboration brought together staff and students to organize a 4-day camp highlighting a variety of health careers – "Health Careers 4 U." The camp was held July 22-25, 2013 for youths between the ages of 11-14 years. A total of 18 students attended the camp.



Students partaking in Ambulance/EMT techniques in a car accident scenario where they placed victim in stretcher and onto the Ambulance.

The first day included an introduction of staff and camp agenda as well as group assignments. They participated in five simultaneous stations that consisted of an Ambulance/EMT demonstration, disaster planning, wilderness survival, a Jeopardy Health Care professions game, CPR training and basic first aid where they had the opportunity to assemble their own first aid kits for home use.

On day two, Talent Search Advisors, Peggy Burckhard, Audra Poitra and Jennifer Platz worked with students on a career skit that was videotaped and shown to the audience during the awards ceremony. Students were introduced to four health stations that emphasized five body parts; Eyes-in-a-box, Ears-in-a-box, Bones/Brains-in-a-box and Guts-in-a-box. They also worked with NDSU

College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences to conduct a Nutrition research where each student was given a new camera to photograph meals/food geared toward health and fitness.

Students learning CPR techniques

The third day covered suicide prevention, substance abuse, nutrition, diabetes, and physical fitness. Throughout the week, the students worked on a Public Service Announcement (PSA) regarding healthy messages, i.e. healthy diet, do not smoke, do not text & drive, etc. They were required to create a poster and record a video with their message.

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Students learning CPR techniques



ASPIRATIONS

Finally, on the fourth day the students completed their PSA poster and videos that were shown and displayed at the awards ceremony. Parents and staff were invited to the awards ceremony and a meal was served to all upon completion. Each student was awarded with a \$120.00 gift card from Walmart for school supplies and a Certificate of Health Careers 4 U Completion.

The Fort Totten Police Department demonstrated Drunk Goggles that simulated different levels of intoxication.





North Dakota State University

NDSU Upward Bound

North Dakota State University Upward Bound has been awarded a grant from the United Way of Cass Clay for the next three years. Upward Bound will receive \$15,000 each year to support the Living Learning Program as part of the Summer Program. Within our UB Program, a non-residential program, the Living Learning Program (LLP) has been developed to allow students the opportunity to experience life in the residence hall while balancing classes and social activities. NDSU UB is participating United Way Education Collaborative with 30 other groups/organizations in the area to come together to discuss and share resources and strategies for students.

This past summer Program was awesome. NDSU Upward Bound found a new home in the C.I. Nelson Hall for our classrooms and for a staff office. Everyone really enjoyed having space and a place to call home.

Students learned Korean as their foreign language. The students not only learn the language but customs from our instructor Kyo Yeon Hwang, an international student from Korea. The class was very lively with dialog, singing and ended with a traditional dress fashion show.

One science component was downright gross: dissection of rats!! Yep, that's right students worked in pairs as they learned more about the different systems: circulatory, digestive and more from science instructor Jen Shearer. When asked if they would like more dissection, the answer was an overwhelming "yes".



Another science component was sidewalk astronomy. Students created chalk images of the solar system on the sidewalk outside C.I. Nelson Hall to the scale. As you can imagine, this project attracted the attention of many folks on campus including the approval from our Provost, who has degrees in physics and astronomy.





This summer, NDSU High School Upward Bound students rocked. Really! Students formed UB Rocks, a rock band. They were led by volunteers Mark Berntson and Brad Storm, both teachers in the West Fargo School District. Students learned to play guitar and drums during their weekly practice.

By the end of the summer, they performed “Next to Me” by Emeli Sande and “Girl on Fire” by Alicia Keys to a “sold out” crowd of NDSU personnel, area school teachers and principals, family members, and of course the rest of the NDSU TRIO family.

Students even made refreshments and hosted a reception to celebrate. Plans are already in place to learn more songs next summer. Rock on!



As always the NDSU Upward Bound is involved in community service and this past summer was no different. Several projects were Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, Great Plains Food Bank, CHARISM and River Keepers. Students and staff worked with River Keepers to plant 300 seedlings in just a few hours. Despite the mud and insect this was a very successful endeavor and the group received a huge “thanks” from the organization.

Students at the Great Plains Food Bank lending a hand!





The last day of the Summer Program the students and staff enjoyed the traditional day at Buffalo River State Park to swim, play games, chill and a great picnic. Staff presented students with “Fun Awards” for hard work, humor, academics and leadership that afternoon. A great day!



NDSU McNair Program

Six undergraduate students attended the 21st annual Ronald E. McNair California Scholars Symposium August 1-4 at the University of California, Berkeley. The symposium's theme was “McNair Scholars: Creating the Discourse.”

In addition to keynote speakers and a series of plenary and breakout sessions, the students learned about the graduate school application process from admissions staff and former McNair Scholars. “Learning about and meeting graduate schools was a definite highlight as well as meeting other undergraduate McNair Scholars and being able to discuss ideas with them,” said Krystal Kalliokoski, a chemistry and chemistry education major from Bottineau, N.D.

We have 3 scholars who will be attending graduate schools on a full-tuition scholarship. They are:

Austin Maples, B.S. '13 in Chemistry, is attending University of Southern Mississippi in the Polymer Science & Engineering program.

Samantha Skinner, B.S. '13 in Zoology, is attending the Masters in Education program at NDSU.

Anna-Alicia Watson, B.S. '12 in Criminal Justice, is attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Social Work program.

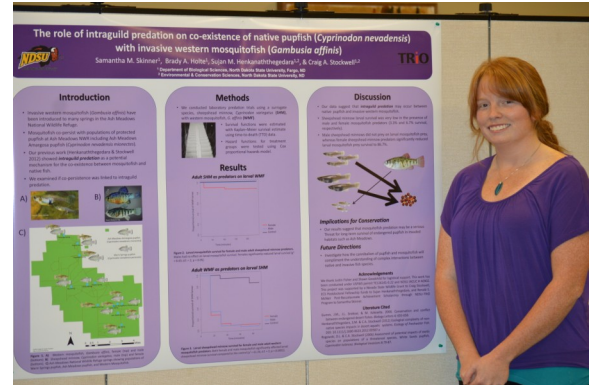




Austin Maples



Anna Watson



Samantha Skinner

NDSU Development Foundation TRIO Scholarship Fund

The NDSU Development Foundation TRIO Scholarship Fund was established to provide financial support for TRIO students to assist in their academic journey. Funds are collected through private donors and in partnership with the NDSU Staff Senate annual fundraiser.

At our TRIO Day banquet held in April, we awarded eight \$200 scholarships. These recipients were the first to receive this funding.





Dickinson State University

DSU Student Support Services

Greetings from Dickinson State University TRIO Student Support Service! We are in the process of wrapping up the 2012-2013 academic year. We ended the year with our Annual Awards Ceremony held April 17th. At the banquet we honored outstanding students for their accomplishments as well as recognized faculty and staff who have assisted students in their accomplishments.

The annual “Summer Bridge” program took place the end of August. Students attending “Summer Bridge” move to campus one week early to learn about the university, and prepare for the demands of college. The program assists in making the adjustment to college life and increases their chances for success. The Bridge Program also included a trip to Medora for students to experience the “Old West.” Other evening events included charades with resident hall directors and resident assistants, an on-campus scavenger hunt and bowling.

Our annual “Welcome Back Gathering” for the fall semester took place the first week of school. During this gathering we introduce new SSS initiatives. The gathering also assists new participants in meeting the current participants in the program. Participants who attend are granted priority appointments for early registration. We will be holding our annual “Backpack to Briefcase” event for seniors on October 19, 2013. During this event seniors gain skills in job searching, resume and cover letter writing, interviewing, professional social networking, budgeting, navigating the complexities of employer benefits, wearing appropriate attire for work and business etiquette.





News from South Dakota

Northern State University

aberdeennews.com

Upward Bound provides 'a college-like experience'

By Creighton Hoefer, choefer@aberdeennews.com

11:56 PM CDT, June 12, 2013

Rachel Lynch admits the idea of attending summer classes through Northern State Upward Bound does not appeal to many of her peers.

"When people hear about Upward Bound summer program, they say, 'You go to classes? We just got out of school. That's stupid,'" said Lynch, a senior at Doland High School.

However, Lynch and fellow Upward Bound participants say the summer program is preparing them for an experience most of their family members have never encountered: attending college.

Upward Bound is a federally funded program designed to help first-generation and low-income students obtain a college education, said Northern State Upward Bound Director Rocky Burkett.

Burkett said the summer program, which began June 2 and ends July 11, is the ultimate college preparation



experience.

"They have a chance to live in the dorms and get a roommate," he said. "These are things kids struggle with when they get to college for the first time, so they get to experience it right away."

Devin Flynn, a sophomore at Fredrick High School, enrolled in the program last summer. A first-generation college student, he hopes to study architecture or forensic science. Flynn said Upward Bound's summer courses gave him an early start.

"For architecture, you need a lot of geometry classes," Flynn said. "So last year when I came here, the math classes were doing geometry before I learned it in school, so I had a big head start, and I was able to do tougher work in geometry at school."

Lynch, now in her fourth year of the summer program, said she has learned skills applicable to her future career as a math teacher. Lynch said she helped other Upward Bound students with their course work.

"It has taught me not to do certain things and to put things in layman's terms so people can understand," she said.

Burkett said Upward Bound also wants students to improve personal skills.

"We have college-age counselors here supervising them and mentoring them, talking to them about some of their experiences in college. In the evenings, we do a variety of activities to help them build their social skills and leadership skills. A lot of things that go into being successful at college — that people don't realize — is that it's not just being smart and going to class. College is about growing as person," Burkett said.

Lynch said she improved group leadership abilities in previous summers and applied them at her high school. "In my high school class, we have maybe 10 people and in a group, there is always going to be the same leader. Because of Upward Bound, I take charge and prioritize what we need to do," Lynch said.

Burkett said Upward Bound also promotes leadership through volunteer service.

On June 7, the students volunteered by packaging food and cleaning the thrift shop at Kids Against Hunger. "It lets you see that what you're doing has an outcome and is going to affect someone in the long-term," Lynch said.

Burkett said serving at Kids Against Hunger exemplifies the program's mission to impact students on a personal level.

"This is a federal program, so we want the kids to realize that it's important for them to give back because somebody is giving them the opportunity to do this. And someday when they have their college education, they're going to understand it's important to give back to people," Burkett said.

News from Colorado

Adams State University

Student Support Services Program

Fun in the Sun at ASU!

Student Support Services had a great round of Summer Scholars this year. Students from all around the state as well as Texas, New Mexico, and California came to participate. The students were introduced to the ASU campus, earned up to 6-credits of coursework, and had a ton of fun on several field trips. Congratulations to the thirty-five hard-working students who completed Summer Scholars this summer!



University of Northern Colorado

August 19-21, 2013

Connections

TRiO

Center for Human Enrichment

What is the Connections Conference?

The Center for Human Enrichment (CHE) at the University of Northern Colorado, hosts a two and a half day Connections Conference the week before school starts. During this time we have our incoming freshman move in early, meet other incoming CHE students, participate in team building activities, take tours of the campus, and participate in interactive workshops.

Reggie Rivers Welcomes Incoming CHE Students

Reggie Rivers is an incredibly motivational speaker. He delivered his message on success through his personal experiences. One big piece of advice he shared with the students and their families was to set goals for themselves. In accomplishing those goals, one must take little steps at a time. The goal may not be easy but if it is broken down, it is possible! One message he delivered was that if you never try, you will never know. Life is all about taking risks, and if you take those risks it can lead to something great. There are times where there are more things you can gain out of taking risks than what you can lose.



Left to right: Marina Orozco, Reggie Rivers, Shawanna Kimbrough, Berlinda Saenz

Having Fun & Building Connections with Each Other

On Day 2 the students had already gotten comfortable with each other. They were supporting each other through a Challenge Ropes Course while having fun. Staff members could hear the encouragement: "You can do it!" "You are almost there!" "Do not give up!" "Just try it!" "You did it!" "Good Job!" It was great to see everyone cheering each other on. Not only were participants having fun, they were also learning a lot from the activities incorporated during connections. Students were very appreciative of the support the CHE Staff provided. They felt very comfortable asking questions about what was to come. By day 3, they were having fun playing volleyball, mingling amongst each other, and making plans to hang out after Connections was over. They met a lot of new friends and were ready to begin the year together.

-Written by: Perla Borunda,
CHE Participant, Anticipated
Graduation May 2016

2013 CHE Cohort





Otero Junior College Student Support Services

Helping Students Succeed

Source: The La Junta Tribune, La Junta, CO

Written by: OJC Staff

<http://www.lajuntatribunedemocrat.com/article/20130903/NEWS/130909993/>

Posted Sep. 3, 2013 @ 1:00 pm

Graduate. Transfer. Succeed. That is the motto of the TRIO Student Support Services program at Otero Junior College. TRIO is a federally funded program started in the mid-1960s to address the war on poverty. Eligibility for the program is determined by any one of three criteria: first generation college student status, income eligibility, or the presence of a documented disability.

The services available to eligible students include tutoring; academic advising; career exploration; assistance with transferring to four year institutions; financial aid assistance; and workshops to help develop career and life skills.

"The goal is to provide the comprehensive services needed to increase academic standing, retention, graduation and transfer rates," said Holly Lewis, TRIO Support Services director. "We are here to help our students achieve their academic, personal and professional goals."

The real proof of a program's success comes from those it is intended to help. Cassi Rapp, a sophomore in OJC's TRIO program is not sure that she would still be at Otero without the support it offers.

"Without TRIO, I wouldn't have known where to start," said Rapp. "I have received career assistance and help with scheduling classes. My advisers are always supportive. They are there to listen and help with personal and academic problems. Mrs. Newby is a math genius. She knows it and can teach it. Mr. Davis is a great adviser."



Courtesy Photo: TRIO Support Services director, Holly Lewis, assists a student in completing paperwork for the program.

The role of TRIO goes beyond academic assistance. "TRIO is like family, but I actually want to be around them," joked Rapp. "We all support each other. The staff holds you accountable while encouraging you and supporting you. I would recommend that those who are eligible apply for the program."

Adriana Perez, another OJC TRIO student, agrees that there is a sense of community within the TRIO program. "The advisers and students in the TRIO program accept everyone," said Perez. "They have become an extra support for me along with my family. We take care of each other. If a new student has a class one of us



had in the past, we help them learn how to study for that class and what that instructor's exams look like."

Perez also praises the workshops offered by TRIO. "We have learned different ways of note taking, how to manage finances, all kinds of things," said Perez. "If a student is struggling with something, the advisers will help them look for resources."

The important thing according to Perez is for students to take that first step. "Don't hide. Get involved," Perez recommends. "TRIO is like a box of chocolates. We are all different, but we all fit."

Gabe Guerrero, a TRIO student who graduated with an associate of arts degree in May, credits TRIO with helping him complete his degree. "The tutoring I got in American government and math really helped," said Guerrero. "I am not sure I would have made it without that help."

TRIO also served as a place for Guerrero to get his class work done. "The TRIO room was a great place to go and get work done without distractions," said Guerrero. "It always has a welcoming feeling to it and there is support from both the student group and staff."

OJC's TRIO program is funded to assist 180 new students each year. TRIO's retention rates from fall 2012 to spring 2013 and fall 2012 to fall 2013 were higher than for the general OJC population.

For more information on the TRIO program at OJC, contact Holly Lewis at 384-6835 or holly.lewis@ojc.edu or the TRIO office line at 384-6896.



Courtesy Photo: TRIO Student Support Services tutor, Margaret Newby, assists students with questions on how to access D2L, OJC's online learning management system.

Metropolitan State University of Denver **Student Support Services Program**

TRIO Success Story – Raquel Behar Maciel



The TRIO SSS program at MSU Denver has many remarkable students who have accomplished incredible things while pursuing their degrees. This article is highlighting a unique summer internship completed by senior, Raquel Behar Maciel. Raquel is finishing her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communications in Broadcasting and a minor in Criminal Justice; once she graduates she plans to become an investigative reporter.

During the summer 2013 semester, Raquel applied for and received an impressive internship opportunity to serve as a journalist for KZKO Radio the Vibe in Denver. The Vibe is broadcasted online and can be heard across the nation and in 160 countries worldwide. During Raquel's experience she researched, interviewed, and created stories for the radio station, which were published to the radio stations website.

Raquel is a non-traditional student and started her college career in 2000 after being a barber for 15 years. Moreover, Raquel is the first in her family to attend college and with the assistance of the Displaced Aurarian Program, Raquel receives a scholarship to help her accomplish her academic goals. Raquel's number one priority has always been school and her ambition and drive in all she pursues makes her a great role model in the TRIO SSS community and for all college students. Raquel shared that once she completes her Bachelor degree she wants to pursue her Master's and hopes to inspire her daughter and grandchildren to follow in her footsteps. The staff in the MSU Denver TRIO SSS program is honored to share Raquel's triumphs and is proud she is a member of our program!

Submitted by Brandi Scott, TRIO SSS Student Development Specialist, MSU Denver

Metropolitan State University of Denver

High School Upward Bound Program

On September 17, 2013 from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m., MSU Denver students, faculty, staff and alumni, along with their families and friends volunteered with Project Homeless Connect 13 for a one day, one-stop shop event that connects homeless individuals and families to services. Over five-hundred volunteers from Metropolitan State University of Denver volunteered for this very special outreach, including Administrators from two of the TRIO Programs hosted by MSU Denver, High School Upward Bound and Student Support Services.

This activity provided each of the Clients access to more than 60 free services that span health care to hair-cuts. Through Project Homeless Connect, Clients have the privilege to receive these services in one place during one day, as opposed to visiting multiple services throughout the Denver metropolitan area. These are critical support services being offered by organizations that work closely with our homeless population every day. Project Homeless Connect has provided assistance to over 15,000 individuals and families since 2005. Volunteering to serve in this capacity demonstrates a strong commitment to not only ensuring MSU Denver's ability to transform lives, but also how staff demonstrate their commitment to transforming lives in the community.



Dr. Stephen Jordan, President, Metropolitan State University of Denver will be participating on the TRIO College Presidents-Administrators Panel during the upcoming 2013 Regional ASPIRE Conference in Fort Collins, CO.

Pictured are President of Metropolitan State University of Denver, Stephen Jordan; Sherrie Munoz, the Director of the TRIO Student Support Services Program; Paulette McIntosh, Director of TRIO High School Upward Bound Program; and Pamela Osborne, Assistant Director of Upward Bound.

Submitted by Pamela Osborne, Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE, President-Elect and Assistant Director, TRIO High School Upward Bound Program MSU Denver

Colorado Mountain College *Upward Bound Program (Eagle and Lake Counties)*

Summer Academy - Academic Challenges and Fun All In One

Source: The Achiever – Eagle and Lake Counties

August 2013 Edition, Vol. 2, Issue 2

The Summer Academy took place from June 3rd to July 9th.

As opposed to previous years, Summer Academy 2013 occurred over six weeks. During the first week, 25 participants from Eagle and Lake county high schools met each other, some for the first time, and participated in ice-breaker activities, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in Gypsum, and attended a day camp. At the day camp, students learned about career choices, values, preparing for college and the science of tracking bighorn sheep lambs. Guest speaker Cynthia Malleck, wildlife biologist, spoke to Leadville students about her job tracking bighorn sheep lambs with collars. To demonstrate this process, one group of students wore collars and hid in the woods near Timberline campus, while another group of students tracked the collared group with a transceiver. The students had great fun learning about local wildlife.



Samantha Montes helps dig a trench.



Twenty-five students work together to simultaneously jump over a 20+ foot rope. Fun activities like these are essential to fostering a positive environment for the Summer Academy. Other activities included trips to Turquoise Lake, soccer, foosball, table tennis, watching movies, and a boys vs. girls cooking contest.

Michelle Stecher, Eagle River Youth Coalition Executive Director, met with Eagle County students to help participants discuss and discover their values and priorities. Students studied value cards and created collages that displayed their personal values.

As part of their service with Habitat for Humanity, students cleaned the Stratton Flats work site, repaired fences, and dug and lined water drainage ditches for two homes. In addition, students organized and mailed Habitat information to donors and members of the community. The day's work included hard labor, but students enjoyed their time. It was difficult to get them to take breaks or stop working!



Upward Bound students Kaylee Gonzales (Lake County HS) and Jenny Cirkovic (Eagle Valley HS) move dirt from a trench.



Students stayed and studied at the Leadville CMC Timberline campus June 9th through July 3rd. Each day, students attended classes in forensic science, 'real world' math, English language arts, and foreign language/digital storytelling. After class, students interacted with the community and listened to guest speakers talk about how to complete library research, write a resume, and plan for college and future careers.



Leslie Cano "reviews" evidence for forensic science class.

The Summer Academy structure also included an hour and a half long study hall after dinner to complete homework assignments. Our three resident assistants Mackenzie Gurrola, Ana Perez, and Monica Martinez - all former CMC students - organized and helped tutor students during study hall.

"I would have to say that my favorite part of Upward Bound is meeting new people and getting comfortable with them really fast...Math class was my favorite class because the teacher made it understandable," said Kaylee Gonzales, Lake County High School freshman.

In forensic science, students investigated a poaching crime and had to present their findings to the district attorney, played by Summer Academy instructor Jeff Keidel. Azael Mendoza, Lake County High School junior, enjoyed forensic science class the most because he was able to figure out the poaching crime. Azael also had great fun playing capture the flag during the first week of the Summer Academy. In digital storytelling class, students created their own video in any language they chose to study during the Academy. To learn more about the digital storytelling project be sure to read Dr. Erin Allaman's article *Connected Learning through Language, Culture and Digital Media*. In language arts, students learned about the hero's journey. Freshmen read the novel *Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie*. In 'real world math' class, students used Google chromebooks to solve math problems. Students focused on problem solving and the process of being a great mathematician.

At the end of the residential portion, students attended an awards banquet to celebrate their accomplishments throughout the Summer Academy. Battle Mountain senior Gladys Villa won the top award - the Mike Doyle Award for Excellence.



Battle Mountain senior Tania Carrasco and Lake County senior Ivan Gonzales won the Outstanding Young Woman and Young Man awards. Eagle Valley sophomore Giselle Azcona won the top award for foreign language/digital storytelling. Eagle Valley junior Leslie Cano won the top award for science. Lake County senior Ivan Gonzales also won the top award for English language arts. Battle Mountain freshman Alexis Castillo won the top award for math. Congratulations to our outstanding students and their academic achievements!

Battle Mountain senior Gladys Villa receives the Mike Doyle - Above and Beyond, Excellence Award from UB coordinator Allen Burch. The Mike Doyle Award is named in honor of Mike Doyle, former administrative assistant, who passed away in November 2010. Mike was a strong advocate of education for all and went beyond his duty to ensure excellence in the Upward Bound program.



On July 8th, Upward Bound students take a tour of an Encana gas rig site near Parachute. This particular rig could continue to provide gas for the next 30 years. Encana is an oil and gas corporation with Colorado headquarters in Denver.

the oil and gas industry. On the last day of the Summer Academy, students and staff rafted the Arkansas River at Brown's Canyon outside Buena Vista. For many, it was their first raft trip. What a great way to end a great summer program! For more pictures of the Summer Academy, please visit our Facebook page: *CMC Upward Bound of Eagle and Lake Counties*.

On July 8th, students were given a natural gas rig tour in the Parachute area. Students learned a great deal about the engineering efforts necessary to make a gas rig operate successfully. They viewed technology that showed drilling depths and even learned about the water treatment process that is integral to the drilling site. Students looked at large drill bits up close and learned what type of education is necessary to participate in the oil and gas industry. The gas rig site workers were very impressed with the great questions our students asked throughout their tour. After going on the tour, students visited the Rifle CMC campus to learn what programs are available for those who wish be in



Maricruz Cornelio, Giselle Azcona, Jesus Ortiz and Ivan Gonzales present their case to "district attorney" Jeff Keidel. Throughout the Academy, students investigated a poaching crime for their forensic science class. Part of the investigation involved interviewing different CMC staff and faculty who portrayed different characters in the crime scenario.



Summer Academy students and staff: (back row l-r) Kevin Rodriguez, Erin Allaman (digital storytelling instructor), Jeff Keidel (forensic science instructor), Debi Martinez-Brun, Maricruz Cornelio, Azael Mendoza, Chris Corona, Jose Soto, and Allen Burch; (middle row l-r) Ivan Gonzales, Alexis Castillo, Jose Velasco, Mackenzie Gurrola (RA), Leslie Cano, Ali Mejia, Isela Saucedo, Sarahi Marin, Ana Perez (RA), Monica Martinez (RA), Jesus Ortiz, Marialex Duran, Cesar Hernandez, and Robert Mejia; (front row l-r) Gladys Villa, Tania Carrasco, Giselle Azcona, Bella Trujillo, Jenny Ortiz, Jenny Velasco, Rosa Guerrero, and Kaylee Gonzales.

Pueblo Community College

Student Support Services Program

Community Members Called on to Volunteer as PCC Mentors

Source: The Pueblo Chieftain

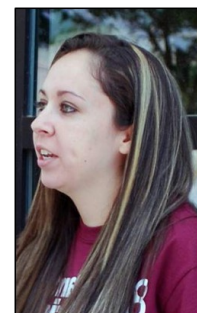
By Jeff Tucker, The Pueblo Chieftain

<http://www.chieftain.com/news/pueblo/1202484-120/program-community-pcc-students>

In an effort to reduce loan defaults and increase the number of graduates from Pueblo Community College, the school announced a new mentoring program Thursday and is asking for community volunteers. Pueblo Community College student Jessica Aguilar speaks at the TRIO Student Support Services news conference on Thursday.

PCC President Patty Erjavec said the school plans to use the program to provide students guidance and emotional support to navigate through the collegiate environment.

Jessica Aguilar, a PCC student, said she wasn't the best student in high school and wasn't thrilled at the idea of more school, but she found similar mentoring through PCC's TRIO program.



Jessica Aguilar
(courtesy photo)

"I got academic advice and help to get through classes," she said. "Now I have the confidence to pursue my goal of becoming a dental hygienist."

Erjavec said the community program will help expand that kind of help to the rest of the college. "There are 6,000 Jessica's on this campus," she said.

The new program is the result of work by the Hispanic Advisory Committee, which looked into the issues of remediation, loan defaults and the dropout rate at the school.

Much of the program will be volunteers, but Erjavec said the school has committed to paying one new, full-time position to coordinate the effort.

Eva Tapia, chairwoman of the college's nursing department, said the school intends the program to be an active one, saying studies show students who meet with mentors once a week have an 88 percent greater chance of success than those who meet once a year.

Joe Aldaz, CEO of Chavez/Huerta Preparatory Academy, said the community has a moral obligation to provide its wisdom and experience to students, but also said it will pay off. "We want to see as many students as possible get their two-year degree and become assets to the workforce in this community," he said. For folks interested in the program, the school is inviting volunteer mentors to sign up at a 5 p.m. event Thursday at the PCC student center.



New mentoring program dependent on involvement of community members

Usually, PCC initiatives aimed at helping students succeed are "in house," operated thru the efforts of college personnel. On Thursday, PCC announced a new Student Mentoring Program that will require the efforts of passionate community members if it is to succeed. The program, unveiled at a news conference held on the



also pictured here, telling the crowd how she has benefitted from the mentoring she has received in the TRIO Student Support Services program.

patio outside the Student Center, is the brainchild of PCC's Hispanic Advisory Committee (HAC) team, which is pictured above lined up next to PCC President Patty Erjavec as she addresses the audience. The committee is chaired by Chavez/Huerta K-12 Preparatory Academy Director Joe Aldaz, and its goal is to provide guidance and support to PCC students who are from diverse backgrounds and face academic and social challenges. It will rely on community members who want to help students achieve success and are willing to serve as mentors. To recruit them, a Mentor Reception will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20, in PCC's Fortino Ballroom. Encouraged to attend are individuals who will commit some time to students throughout the 2013-2014 academic year, starting with the fall semester that begins in August. PCC student Jessica Aguilar is

Courtesy: The Panther Pause, which is a daily online information page that is written for and about students, staff, and college-related activities at PCC.

Community College of Denver

Educational Opportunity Center at Community College of Denver forms New Partnership with the Denver Scholarship Foundation

The Educational Opportunity Center at the Community College of Denver is excited to announce a new partnership with the Denver Scholarship Foundation, designed to engage scholars who may need assistance re-enrolling in postsecondary education.

[About the Denver Scholarship Foundation](#)



The Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) makes college possible for Denver Public Schools students. A direct service provider, DSF provides college and financial-aid advice to Denver students and families through its high-school based Future Centers, and it offers a renewable, need-based scholarship to support students throughout their college careers. DSF also partners with colleges across Colorado on strategies to help Denver students complete their postsecondary education. DSF aims to create a community-wide movement to prepare Denver's youth to succeed in the sophisticated workforce of today and tomorrow.

The Partnership

As scholars face life's challenges and some are forced to stop-out of higher education, DSF is making a concerted effort to reach out to these students to ensure they have every chance at completing their degree. When DSF reaches out to these students, they are referred to the Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) for assistance. The EOC then assists the student with navigating the challenges that caused them to take a break from their education, which may include advice on financing college, counseling on student loans, or providing access to tutoring resources,

Both the EOC and DSF are excited about the opportunity this partnership creates to reach students with great potential who may just need an extra bit of advice and support to re-enroll.



Submitted by Khara O'Connell, Director, Educational Opportunity Center, Community College of Denver