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4 Colorado ● Montana ● North Dakota ● South Dakota ● Utah ● Wyoming

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6 ASPIRE Business Meeting
7 Holiday Inn
8 Billings, Montana
9 October 7, 2012
10 Submitted by: Lori Brown-Wirth
11 Minutes APPROVED on October 6, 2013
12
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14

15 **Board Members Present**

16 President Rachel Martinez
17 President-Elect Derek Sporbert
18 Past President Dawn Eckhardt
19 Treasurer Cody McMichael
20 Secretary Lori Brown-Wirth
21 Colorado State President Henry Ornelas
22 Montana State President Dugan Coburn
23 North Dakota State President Lori Larson
24 South Dakota State President Tina Ludens
25 Utah State President Craig Harter
26 Wyoming State President Jayne Pearce
27

28 **Call to Order**

29 The business meeting was called to order at 3:24 p.m. by President Rachel Martinez.
30

31 **Parliamentarian**

32 Kathy Felker was appointed Parliamentarian.
33

34 **Quorum**

35 A quorum was established.
36

37 **President Report**

38 Rachel Martinez gave an update on what the Region has been doing for the past year. ASPIRE is
39 changing the title of the Fair Share committee to the ASPIRE Development Committee. Updated
40 ASPIRE strategic plans can be found on the Aspire website.
41

42 Each state has been working on their strategic plans, and COE is implementing a new score card for
43 states to assist State Presidents with tracking data.
44

45 Rachel reported that updates to the Operating Guidelines can be found at the ASPIRE website.
46 ASPIRE is still waiting for the 501(c)3 tax umbrella to be completed by the Internal Revenue Service.
47 Rachel gave updates on State Initiative Grants as well as changes and updates within committees.
48 ASPIRE has 23 committees. The new Master's Committee has been actively involved in this

49 conference. The success of ASPIRE takes a united effort by everyone. Work is also being done in
50 media, alumni, advocacy and leadership development.

51
52 Rachel reported on the competitions this year and thanked everyone for their efforts in communicating
53 with legislators. We must continue with open lines of communication with COE. Rachel, Derek, and
54 Dawn took the membership's ideas and suggestions back to the COE Board.

55
56 With advocacy from everyone, TRiO received a \$5M appropriations increase. Rachel summarized
57 ASPIRE goals for advocacy and strengthening our financial position the membership and the Board of
58 Directors for their work this year.

59
60 **Approval of Minutes**

61 The minutes from the October 2011 business meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah were distributed and
62 reviewed by the membership.

63

64 **Motion to Approve Minutes**

65 Paul Hesco made a motion to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Dan Banuelas. The
66 minutes for the October 2011 ASPIRE Business Meeting were approved with no objections or
67 abstentions.

68

69 **Treasurer Report**

70 Cody McMichael presented the membership with the Treasurer's Report. He went through the
71 ASPIRE financial statements as of October 4, 2012. This report was presented on the overhead, and
72 will be posted on the ASPIRE website.

73

74 Cody gave an overview of income, assets and expenses to date. The 210 registrants at this conference
75 will raise the conference income. Cody summarized a program ASPIRE is working on which will
76 greatly reduce our interest charges on credit card transactions. The new plan will go into effect on
77 January 1, 2013.

78

79 Cody thanked Kathy Hamilton, the ASPIRE accountant, who does a great job for ASPIRE for little
80 compensation. Thanks were given to Cody and his program for all his time spent working on ASPIRE
81 financials.

82

83 **Development Report**

84 Dan Benge and Rachel Martinez are assisting Carol Gritts on the Development Committee. ASPIRE
85 came in third place in COE Fair Share this year. Rachel went through the number of project
86 memberships for each state. On behalf of Carol Gritts, Rachel thanked everyone for their part in
87 supporting ASPIRE, reminding everyone that it is their money that keeps ASPIRE going.

88

89 Rachel summarized the new Development campaign she is working on with Dan Benge. The goal is to
90 increase project memberships within ASPIRE, with the slogan "100% and Nothing Less!" Personal
91 donation forms were on tables and donation levels listed in the conference program. Rachel
92 encouraged everyone to give something.

93

94 **Elections**

95 Elaine Metcalfe, Elections Chair gave a summary of activities for the elections committee and opened
96 the floor for nominations for President-Elect and Secretary.

97

98 **For President-Elect**

99 A call for nominations was made for the position of President-Elect. Craig Harter was nominated by
100 Dawn Eckhardt and seconded by Michael Wade. With no further nominations, a move to cease
101 nominations was made by Rachel Martinez and seconded by Barb Waters.

102

103 **For Secretary**

104 Rachel Martinez nominated Lori Brown-Wirth to the position of Secretary. After a call for further
105 nominations, a call for cease of nominations was made by Cheryl Kingsbury and seconded by Valerie
106 Embry.

107

108 **Motion to Elect**

109 A motion was made by John Shafer to elect Craig Harter as Regional ASPIRE President-Elect for
110 2011-12. Lori Larson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

111

112 A motion was made by Lynne Brown to elect Derek Sportbert as Regional ASPIRE President Elect for
113 2011-12. Lori Larson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

114

115 A motion was made by Derek Sporbert to elect Lori Brown-Wirth for a second term as Regional
116 ASPIRE Secretary. Paul Hesco seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Both motions carried.

117

118 **State Reports**

119

120 **Colorado**

121 Colorado State President Henry Ornelas thanked the Colorado membership and gave a report on
122 Colorado ASPIRE throughout the last year. The complete Colorado report will be available in the
123 Annual Report on the ASPIRE website.

124

125 **Montana**

126 Dugan Coburn reported that Montana ASPIRE had a good year with Government Relations. He gave
127 an update on Montana and welcomed everyone to their state. A full report may be found on the
128 ASPIRE website.

129

130 **North Dakota**

131 North Dakota State President Lori Larson reported North Dakota received two State Initiative Grants
132 for media tools and alumni. She gave positive alumni updates. A full North Dakota report is available
133 on the ASPIRE website.

134

135 **South Dakota**

136 Tina Ludens reported on South Dakota updates; including losses and gains of TRiO programs within
137 their state. The complete South Dakota report is available on the ASPIRE website.

138

139 **Utah**

140 Craig Harter gave the Utah State Report. He reported that Utah is “fighting the good fight” despite the
141 loss of one Upward Bound project. Utah is working on Institutional Memberships and personal
142 donations. The complete Utah report can be found on the ASPIRE website.

143

144 **Wyoming**

145 Wyoming State President Jayne Pearce gave updates on Wyoming ASPIRE. Wyoming lost no
146 programs and has maintained good relationships with their legislators and staff. Jayne reported on
147 visits with the Department of Education Bus Tour in Wyoming. A full report may be found on the
148 ASPIRE website.

149

150 **Membership Committee**

151 Kara Davis, the new Membership Chair, reported that ASPIRE has 331 paid memberships. This
152 number is down 47 from than last year; however, 28 of those memberships were \$5.00 student
153 memberships. Some of the drop may be due to the loss of programs. Kara gave a breakdown on the
154 number of memberships within each state.

155

156 **Government Relations**

157 Government Relations chair Michael Wade gave some background on federal funding for TRiO.
158 Advocacy definitely helped as TRiO received an increase last year. Michael discussed sequestration
159 and appropriations for Fiscal Year 2013. Michael asked everyone to make sure they are receiving
160 COE weekly updates.

161

162 **New Business**

163 With no new business to discuss, a call for adjournment was made.

164

165 **Motion to Adjourn**

166 Dawn Eckhardt made a motion to adjourn the 2012 ASPIRE Business meeting and Dennis Stangl
167 seconded the motion. The 2012 ASPIRE Business meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

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