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

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6 APPROVED on October 7, 2012
7 ASPIRE Business Meeting
8 Radisson Hotel - Salt Lake City, Utah
9 October 9, 2011
10 Submitted by: Lori Brown-Wirth
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14 **Board Members Present**

15 President Dawn Eckhardt, President-Elect Rachel Martinez, Past President Lynne Brown, Treasurer
16 John Shafer, Secretary Lori Brown-Wirth, Colorado State President Nickie Archibeque, Montana
17 State President Zach Hawkins, North Dakota State President Lori Larson, South Dakota State
18 President Cody McMichael, Utah State President Lindsay Beddes, Wyoming State President Sandy
19 Straley.
20

21 **Call to Order**

22 The business meeting was called to order at 3:08 pm by President Dawn Eckhardt
23

24 **Parliamentarian**

25 Kathy Felker was appointed Parliamentarian
26

27 **Quorum**

28 A quorum was established.
29

30 **Approval of Minutes**

31 The minutes from the previous business meeting held on October 10, 2010 in Cheyenne, Wyoming
32 were distributed and reviewed by the membership. The following changes were suggested:

33 Line 169 – add “e” to end of Metcalf.

34 Under “State Reports” for Colorado - Line 75. Remove “services” and add “projects.”
35

36 **Motion to Approve Minutes**

37 Lindsay Beddes made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments. The motion was seconded
38 by Dugan Coburn. The amended minutes were approved.
39

40 **Treasurer Report**

41 John Shafer presented the membership with a statement of accounts for the current year. The bottom
42 line is that we took in more than we spent last year. Currently we have approximately \$77,000 in
43 checking and \$51,000 in savings, and \$50,000 was taken from the savings account and placed in a
44 Certificate of Deposit. The Treasurer’s Report was presented on the overhead screen. John stated
45 that he will e-mail the report to anyone who requests it and that it will be posted on the ASPIRE
46 website.
47

48 ASPIRE budgeted a \$5,000 profit for last year, and actually made a \$35,000 profit. ASPIRE is doing
49 much better than a few years ago. John shared the differences in profits over the last few years. Dawn
50 Eckhardt shared that her goal as president for this last year was to again have a rainy day fund for the
51 region with the goal to eventually have a year's worth of funds in long term savings.

52
53 John reminded the membership that 25% of their membership fees go back to the state in which they
54 are registered. Thanks were given to John Shafer for his hard work as ASPIRE Treasurer the last four
55 years.

56
57 **Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report**

58 Cheryl Kingsbury moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Nicholas Goodsow seconded
59 the motion and the report was accepted.

60
61 **President's Report**

62 President Dawn Eckhardt commended the Board for their hard work this year. She commented on the
63 strange happenings with the Board this year. The original President-Elect moved to a non-TRiO
64 program and Lynne Brown, who was a past ASPIRE president, filled the vacancy. The Past President
65 then left the Board for personal reasons. Rachel Martinez stepped up to fill the President-Elect
66 position, and Lynne Brown became Past President.

67
68 The 2012 Regional ASPIRE Conference will be held in Billings, Montana with Barb Waters as
69 Conference Chair. The 2013 conference will be held in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Our successful
70 conferences, and the frugality of the Board, continue to improve the financial stability of ASPIRE.

71
72 Dawn reported that the Talent Search and EOC competitions were overall successful for ASPIRE. She
73 issued congratulations to both projects and acknowledged the challenges to staff and students.

74
75 ASPIRE met the Fair Share Goal at 136%. ASPIRE was in second place in the nation and Dawn
76 tipped her hat to Dave Megquier and the NEOA region for coming in first place. All six states in
77 ASPIRE met their goal and Dawn gave thanks to the membership for their personal donations.

78
79 Dawn acknowledged that TRiO and Gear up owe their existence to COE and encouraged everyone to
80 keep their donations coming. ASPIRE has two representatives at the national level. Dawn expressed
81 appreciation to Mike Wade, who has served as COE Treasurer for the past two years, and to Amy
82 Verlanic who is stepping up as the next COE Treasurer.

83
84 Dawn reported that she was able to attend four of the six state ASPIRE conferences this year. She
85 drove to meetings in an effort to save the region money and gave a brief update on some of her travel
86 condition experiences, stating that she now has a new appreciation of the unique landscape in our
87 region. She appreciates the time it takes for everyone to attend these conferences and encouraged
88 others to explore our region. Utah and Wyoming held state conferences on the same day last April, so
89 Rachel attended the Wyoming conference in lieu of Dawn. She attended the Colorado conference via
90 Skype.

91
92 Dawn encouraged everyone to continue to support ASPIRE with their memberships, reminding them
93 that 25% of membership fees go back to the state. Regional ASPIRE also gives a stipend to state
94 presidents to attend Policy Seminar in Washington DC in March. She encouraged the states to

95 continue to apply for State Initiative funds wherein COE and/or ASPIRE matches funds for
96 educational projects.

97
98 Dawn noted that the May Board meeting minutes were approved on October 8, 2011 and will be posted
99 on the ASPIRE website.

100

101 **Development Report**

102 Carol Gritts was unable to attend this conference, but her report is available on-line. The Development
103 Report includes the number of projects within each state and the ASPIRE project memberships by
104 year. The number of project memberships for 2010 are listed on page 35 of the regional conference
105 binder. This shows the support of our region and benefits to the projects.

106

107 **Annual Report**

108 The ASPIRE Annual Report is on-line. Dawn encouraged all members to review this valuable report.

109

110 **10 for 10 Campaign**

111 The 10 for 10 Campaign, which supports COE, is continuing this year. There is great incentive for
112 meeting the goals for individual states, as each state will receive a \$500 registration fee waiver for
113 Policy Seminar in the spring, to be used by their State president. The form is simple to complete and
114 donations are tax deductible. Dawn briefly went through the donation levels.

115

116 **Membership**

117 Lori Larson chairs this committee. ASPIRE membership is 378. This number is down 29 members
118 from last year. The decrease was mostly due to loss of student memberships. Colorado has 92
119 members, Montana has 112 members, North Dakota has 42 members, South Dakota has 37 members,
120 Utah has 59 members and Wyoming has 33 members. Three memberships did not fall under a specific
121 state.

122

123 **State Reports**

124

125 **Wyoming**

126 State President Sandy Straley reported that Wyoming met 166% of their fair share. Although they are
127 a small state, with only 33 members, Wyoming met the 10 for 10 goal. Wyoming utilized the ASPIRE
128 State Initiative grant to upgrade their web site and revise their state brochure. They utilized the COE
129 State Initiative grant for alumni development activities. Wyoming hosted an alumni dinner at their
130 state conference and held another alumni dinner at the University of Wyoming last month. They now
131 have 66 alumni members and a Wyoming TRiO Alumni Facebook page. Wyoming continues to build
132 their alumni. Wyoming is voting this week to have a two year President term. The complete Wyoming
133 report is available in the Annual Report.

134

135 **South Dakota**

136 Cody McMichael reported that South Dakota has a total of 37 members. He commended Carol Gritts
137 for her efforts. Cody shared the accomplishment of Aaron PoorBear when he spoke with Secretary of
138 Education Arnie Duncan. The South Dakota website is up and running. South Dakota ASPIRE
139 members spent a day at the capitol speaking with state legislators about TRiO. Last year, South
140 Dakota went with the two year presidency term. Due to stepping in early his first year, Cody has
141 served 27 months as South Dakota State President. Tina Ludens is stepping up this year to begin her
142 two year term. The complete South Dakota report is available in the Annual Report.

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North Dakota

North Dakota State President Lori Larson reported that all EOC and Talent Search projects in North Dakota were refunded. They continue to meet with legislators to get the word out about TRiO. North Dakota is working on amending their Operating guidelines. They continue to develop and improve their website. Lori related leadership successes in services and committees with the state. They are continuing to work together as a state to develop their alumni association. The complete North Dakota report is available in the Annual Report.

Montana

Zach Hawkins reported that Montana ASPIRE is 112 members strong. All Talent Search and EOC projects were refunded. He congratulated all who wrote. Zack welcomed the newcomers to Montana projects and to ASPIRE. Zach shared that the first day in his current job was to attend an ASPIRE conference and he shared how much it impressed him. Montana continues to keep pressure on their congressmen with much letter writing by Upward Bound students. He successfully published an OP Ed in Montana newspapers which can be found in ASPIRATIONS. Montana has two senators who are steadfast in their support of TRiO. The Montana State Meeting went well in Helena, Montana and Montana TRiO professionals were recognized in the House during legislative session. Montana held a Best Practices Conference which helped people understand the impact of TRiO. Zach reported that Montana was successful with their first statewide College Access program in improving educational access. Zack acknowledged the incoming Montana State President and Secretary. The complete Montana report is available in the Annual Report.

Colorado

Nickie Archibeque reported that Colorado has 92 members. With 250 TRiO staff, they have much work to do to increase the number of ASPIRE members in the state. All three Colorado EOC programs were refunded. Colorado lost one and gained one Talent Search program. They had 87 participants at their state conference. On September 30th CSU hosted a BBQ for alumni throughout the state. Over 80 people attended. Nickie gave brief updates on changes to their TRiO Day, Professional Development, State Initiative Grants and access to scholarships. The complete Colorado report is available in the Annual Report.

Utah

Lindsay Beddes gave thanks to the Utah Board for their support. She reported that all Talent Search projects were successfully refunded. Utah exceeded Fair Share at 150%. Utah held their State Policy Seminar in conjunction with TRiO day. They held workshops on the history and advocacy of TRiO around the state. Utah used a State Initiative Grant to expand their website, using the expertise of a prior TRiO student. Their Scholarship Committee awarded six scholarships. Their state meeting was held in Springdale thanks to Snow College. Their next state meeting will be held in Provo. Lindsay introduced the new board for Utah. The complete Utah report is available in the Annual Report.

Committee Reports

Updates on all Committees can be found in the Annual Report which is posted on the ASPIRE website.

Government Relations

Cheryl Kingsbury shared a brief report on Government Relations. She stated that this is a serious time in Washington DC but she reminded everyone that we have been here before and we can do it again.

191 Cheryl stressed the importance of remembering the value of advocating via e-mails, phone calls,
192 letters, etc. She described the format of alerts and the importance of expanding the network through
193 friends, family and colleagues. She reminded us that an election year is coming and congressmen
194 want to be known as supportive of low income students. It is important to point out the investment of
195 successful students. Tell success stories and make an impact.
196

197 Cheryl gave a brief report of legislative activities throughout the last year. She gave an overview of
198 numbers and how TRiO has survived cuts due to thousands of daily hits. She gave a summary of
199 House and Senate debates and activities. COE advises us to continue to make thousands of hits per
200 day. Mike Wade suggested, and took the lead, to observe activities of other regions which proved
201 helpful. Cheryl gave a summary of the funds TRiO has received over the last few years. She shared a
202 list of the House Representatives on the TRiO Caucus.
203

204 Cheryl charged members to continue to respond to alerts from COE. She has 750 people on her
205 listserv. TRiO needs everyone to call with the messages you receive in e-mail alerts. Follow up your
206 calls with visits whenever possible. Cheryl thanked everyone for their accomplishments this year.
207

208 **New Business**

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210 **Elections**

211 Elaine Metcalfe, Elections Chair gave a summary of activities for the elections committee and opened
212 the floor for nominations.
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214

215 **For President**

216 Rachel Martinez was previously nominated for the position of Regional ASPIRE President and
217 accepted the nomination. A call for further nominations was made. With no further nominations, a
218 move to cease nominations was made and seconded.

219

220 **For President-Elect**

221 A call for nominations was made for the position of President-Elect. Derek Sporbert was nominated
222 and accepted. With no further nominations, a move to cease nominations was made and seconded.
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224

225 **For Treasurer**

226 A call for nominations for the position of Treasurer was made. Cody McMichael was nominated.
227 Cody stated that he had contingencies and reported that he needed to delay his acceptance. After a call
228 for further nominations, a call for cease of nominations was made and seconded.
229

230

231 **Motion to Elect**

232 A motion was made by John Shafer to elect Rachel Martinez as Regional ASPIRE President for 2011-
233 12 by acclamation. Lindsay Beddes seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
234

235

236 A motion was made by Lynne Brown to elect Derek Sportbert as Regional ASPIRE President Elect for
237 2011-12. Lori Larson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
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240 **Other Business**

241 The election of Treasurer was postponed until the next meeting. Cody McMichael gave a few words
242 explaining his contingencies and commended John Shafer for his work as Treasurer.
243

244

239 **Motion to recess**
240 A motion was made at 4:38 pm to recess the business meeting until Tuesday, October 11, 2011.
241

242 **Board Members Present**

243 President Dawn Eckhardt, President-Elect Rachel Martinez, Past President Lynne Brown, Treasurer
244 John Shafer, Secretary Lori Brown-Wirth, Colorado State President Nickie Archibeque, Montana
245 State President Zach Hawkins, North Dakota State President Lori Larson, South Dakota State
246 President Cody McMichael, Utah State President Lindsay Beddes, Wyoming State President Sandy
247 Straley.

248
249 **Reconvene the Business Meeting**

250 The ASPIRE Business meeting reconvened on October 11, 2011 at 9:11 am.
251

252 **Parliamentarian**

253 Kathy Felker was re-appointed as parliamentarian
254

255 **Quorum**

256 A quorum was established.
257

258 **Elections**

259 Elections were reconvened. President Dawn Eckhart asked if Cody McMichael was prepared to
260 accept the nomination for Treasurer nomination of Treasurer. Cody McMichael accepted the
261 nomination.
262

263 **Motion to Elect**

264 John Shafer made the motion to elect Cody McMichael to the position of Regional ASPIRE Treasurer
265 for the 2012-14 term. Lindsay Beddes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
266

267 **COE Government Relations Emergency Committee**

268 Ray Carlisle shared information and activities for the COE Government Relations committee, which
269 Michael Wade has agreed to chair. The committee goal is to help provide project outcome data to
270 prove results. Data request will be found in your project's Annual Performance Report. We need
271 more than prior experience points and must provide accurate data. Ray encouraged everyone to share
272 their information should they get a request from the committee. This is for a very good purpose. We
273 must use outcomes for demonstrating the big picture of what ASPIRE provides for TRiO. This will be
274 an ongoing task.
275

276 **2012 ASPIRE Conference**

277 Barb Waters, the chair of the 2012 ASPIRE Conference gave an overview of the conference, which
278 will be held in Billings, Montana October 7-11, 2012. The theme for this conference is "Unlocking
279 Potential." Barb reported that TRiO alumni will be asked to share their TRiO success stories
280 throughout the year, which will be shared at the conference.
281

282 **Motion to Adjourn**

283 With no further business, Dawn Eckhardt called for a motion to adjourn. Derek Sporbert so moved,
284 Zach Hawkins seconded, and the October, 2011 ASPIRE Business meeting was adjourned at 9:25 am.
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