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# ASPIRE UPDATES



## Greetings From the President

We're well into 2017 and it's looking like it's going to be a very interesting year indeed. As an association we are intent on moving forward with professional development opportunities that will keep our TRIO professionals in step with national conversations around educational access for low income and first generation college students. Additionally, we are exploring ways to better collaborate with communities and organizations that provide services to

[Participants in the ASPIRE's Got Talent, Talent Show at the Regional Conference in Jackson, Wyoming](#)

students whom we share. This includes partnering with organizations like SALT and Internet Essentials, both companies whose values align with our ASPIRE organization. These efforts are moving forward to make sure that you, as a professional, receive opportunities that will help you enhance your skills to support our student population, but also to ensure that your own growth as a higher education professional continues to increase.

That said, we can't avoid the current concerns playing out on the national level. Although we have been on the forefront of educational advocacy for decades, we are faced with issues that may impact our student population on a much broader level. Issues like immigration and access to health care are most definitely on the minds of our students. These concerns should not be overlooked, yet we must balance these concerns with our continued support of educational access. So, how does one support advocacy at the campus or institutional level? This question will be addressed as part of the Leadership Summit that precedes the National Policy Seminar in March. Attending Policy Seminar and the Leadership Summit will give you skills necessary to navigate the challenges occurring within higher education, and national policy.

Above all, we should be reminded that we are here for the students. Their concerns, if not shared by us, should at least be acknowledged. We are in the business of educating our future leaders, and helping these individuals to move out of poverty. This is no small task, and TRIO, as it always has, will emerge from this, perhaps a little bumpy and bruised, but undaunted.

Kyle Ethelbah, MPH  
ASPIRE President

## Government Relations

As you might have guessed, there are quite a few things going on as they relate to government relations. This being the case, the ASPIRE Board is pleased to share with you that Allyson Garcia, SSS - Metropolitan State University of Denver, is chairing the Government Relations Committee for the ASPIRE region. She's already been active with collaborating with COE about getting representation at the TRIO Caucus Reception held on January 31, 2017 in Washington, DC. In addition, she is leading the charge for ASPIRE at the annual Policy Seminar. To help prepare folks for the events and ASPIRE's involvement, Ally has created a Youtube

### *ASPIRE is Family*

Photos from the Regional Conference in Jackson, Wyoming held October 2-5, 2016.



channel to help you figure out how to navigate policy. Visit her on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/VmTJ88JEYRk> on the dates listed on the sidebar (“Ally’s Updates”).

If you haven’t registered for Policy Seminar please visit: [http://www.coenet.org/policy\\_seminar.shtml](http://www.coenet.org/policy_seminar.shtml).

While at Policy, be sure to connect with your ASPIRE colleagues at the ASPIRE “Pep Dinner.” Details as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday March 21st, 2017

**Time:** 7:30pm

Meeting in hotel Lobby @7:15pm

**Where:** Tony Chengs

619 H. St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

**RSVP By March 13 at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HZ6J2KS>

For more information, Contact Allyson Garcia at [agarc112@msudenver.edu](mailto:agarc112@msudenver.edu).

## Alumni Relations

The Alumni Committee, under Morgen Patrick, EOC - University of Wyoming, has created a Regional Alumni Registration Form (available online and in paper format). The alumni committee asks that you use this form when engaging in alumni activities. This centralized form will help the region to better collect this data to support our on going efforts to engage and keep up with our students. All materials can be found on the ASPIRE website at: <http://aspireonline.org/alumni-registration/>. For more information contact Morgen Patrick at [mpatricz@uwyo.edu](mailto:mpatricz@uwyo.edu).

## SALT®

SALT® is a comprehensive financial education program that helps students build money skills for life. SALT teamed up with the Council for Opportunity in Education to provide you with resources to raise the financial competencies of your students before, during and after college. Under this two-year pilot program, SALT’s web-based curriculum will be made available to three of COE’s ten regions: ASPIRE, SAEOPP and NEOA. This means that all TRIO programs in these regions have full access to SALT’s online resources at absolutely no cost.

With SALT, you and your students have access to:

- A scholarship search tool that includes a database with over \$14 billion in scholarships
- Resources to help with the college enrollment planning including the admissions, financial aid and transfer process
- One central place to monitor and manage student loans and other debt

### **Ally’s Updates (Youtube)**

**Feb 3, 4pm**

*Attending Policy for the  
First Time - What to  
Expect*

**Feb 15, 1pm**

*Learn About Your  
Legislative Term*

**Feb 27, 10am**

*How to Connect to Your  
Legislator with TRIO*

**Mar 7, 1pm**

*Last Minute Preps for  
Policy*



Sunday — Wednesday • March  
19-22, 2017 • Hyatt Regency  
Washington on Capitol Hill •



- Job and internship search tools and resume and career tips to prepare for finding a job
- Access to SALT Courses, a financial education curriculum with 12 interactive money management lessons
- Easy-to-use tools and calculators that help students take charge of their finances

SALT Data indicates that there are currently 337 registered users from the ASPIRE region. Our region serves thousands of students annually, and this tool is an affordable way to bring financial literacy services to all our students within the region. If you're not already using this software, don't hesitate to start using the program today by encouraging your students to visit [saltmoney.org/coeaspire](http://saltmoney.org/coeaspire). Create a free account, and under the "affiliations" question, make sure it lists, "Council for Opportunity in Education Aspire." For more information contact Kyle Ethelbah at [kethelbah@sa.utah.edu](mailto:kethelbah@sa.utah.edu).

SALT is a free and unbiased nonprofit-backed financial education program dedicated to giving students, alumni, and families the money knowledge they need for college and beyond. With a combination of helpful tools, tailored information, and unbiased expertise, SALT helps young people successfully pay for, and repay, college costs. SALT was created by American Student Assistance, a nonprofit organization with 50+ years' experience helping people make better decisions about financing their education and repaying student loans. Visit [www.saltmoney.org](http://www.saltmoney.org) or [www.asa.org](http://www.asa.org) for more information.

## Internet Essentials

One of the most recent ASPIRE Partners is Internet Essentials, from Comcast, and is intended to help our TRIO students who may not have direct access to the internet. In this increasingly technologically dependent age, we are seeing our low income students lag behind as access to affordable internet at home is limited. The Internet Essentials program provides low income families (must be eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch) with affordable internet, eliminating the need to find wifi in public places or going to your institution or community agency to complete homework assignments, file a FAFSA or apply to college. The Internet Essentials program is currently available in the states of Utah and Colorado, with conversations about potential expansion to the entire ASPIRE region. More information can be found on their website at: <https://www.internetessentials.com/>. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Trinity Thorpe-Lubneuski at [Trinity\\_Thorpe-Lubneuski@comcast.com](mailto:Trinity_Thorpe-Lubneuski@comcast.com).

## Development

COE is the midst of their annual development campaign that includes the Institutional Membership and the 10 for 10 campaigns (Personal Contributions). Your contributions as an institution or community agency, as well as an individual, help to ensure that advocacy efforts for low income and first generation students continue. The following details the current efforts underway:

### **Institutional Memberships:**

**Winter Campaign:** Institutions that Expire Between January 1-June 30 Get a \$300 Discount If membership is renewed by February 15, 2017.

**Spring Campaign:** Institutions that Expire Between July 1<sup>st</sup> -December 31<sup>st</sup> Get a \$300 Discount If membership is renewed by May 31, 2017.

**Personal Contributions:**

The 10 for 10 campaign is an opportunity for an individual, or group of individuals, to raise \$100 prior to the end of the COE Fiscal Year (June 30). This can be broken into monthly payments - initially conceived of \$10 for 10 months (hence the name). If you reach your 10 for 10 goal, your state will receive a free registration for your state president to attend the Policy Seminar in March. The deadline to make a commitment to donate \$100 by the end of the COE fiscal year is February 15, 2017. Congratulations to Montana and South Dakota for meeting their 10 for 10 commitment!

To make a personal donation, visit COE's website at <https://tinyurl.com/zbex3ub>. For more information contact Jami Bayles at [jami.bayles@usu.edu](mailto:jami.bayles@usu.edu).

## Important Dates

**Colorado**

April 10-11th, 2017, Financial Literacy Training, Pueblo, Colorado

April 11-12th, 2017, Colorado State Conference, Pueblo, Colorado

[aspireonline.org/colorado](http://aspireonline.org/colorado)

**Montana**

March 27-29, 2017, State Conference, Helena, Montana

[aspireonline.org/montana](http://aspireonline.org/montana)

**North Dakota**

April 2-4, 2017, Joint North Dakota/South Dakota State Conference, Bismarck, North Dakota

[aspireonline.org/northdakota](http://aspireonline.org/northdakota)

**South Dakota**

April 2-4, 2017, Joint North Dakota/South Dakota State Conference, Bismarck, North Dakota

[aspireonline.org/southdakota](http://aspireonline.org/southdakota)

**Wyoming**

April 19-21, 2017, Wyoming State Conference, Casper, Wyoming

[aspireonline.org/wyoming](http://aspireonline.org/wyoming)

**Utah**

March 29-31, 2017, Utah State Conference, Bryce Canyon, Utah

[aspireonline.org/utah](http://aspireonline.org/utah)

**COE**

March 19, 2017, National College Opportunities Leadership Summit, Washington, DC

March 19, 2017, TRIO Alumni Leadership Forum, Washington, DC

March 20, 2017, 33rd Annual Seminar with US Department of Education, Washington, DC

March 20-22, 2017, Policy Seminar, Washington, DC

[http://www.coenet.org/policy\\_seminar.shtml](http://www.coenet.org/policy_seminar.shtml)

## Announcements

### **Social Justice Committee**

The Social Justice Committee meets regularly and has been active with the regional and state conferences. Be on the lookout for information from this committee regarding information about supporting our students and upcoming state conference updates.

For more information contact Brandi Scott at [bmccl5@msudenver.edu](mailto:bmccl5@msudenver.edu).

### **Indian University of North America**

The Indian University of North America is looking to recruit 32 motivated college-bound Native high school seniors (Class of 2017) for its 2017 Summer Program at Crazy Horse. Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation covers the majority of summer costs including tuition, fees, books and a significant portion of room & board. At the conclusion of the summer, successful participants who earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and do not have any conduct issues will receive an incentive award of \$400. **The application postmark deadline is April 14, 2017.** Please visit <http://www.usd.edu/summer-school/crazy-horse> for more details, or contact Aaron PoorBear at [aaron.poorbear@crazyhorse.org](mailto:aaron.poorbear@crazyhorse.org).

### **ASPIRE Treasurer Needed**

If you, or someone you know, has experience in accounting/book keeping, or have a general love of numbers, we need your help. Please consider assuming treasurer duties for the region.

For more information contact Joseph Aguirre at [jaguirre@sheridan.edu](mailto:jaguirre@sheridan.edu).

### **ASPIRE Salary Survey**

The ASPIRE Salary Survey conducted in 2016 is undergoing its final review and approval process from the board. The completed document will be available after approval in 2017.

For more information contact Kyle Ethelbah at [KEthelbah@sa.utah.edu](mailto:KEthelbah@sa.utah.edu).

### **2017 Conference**

The Conference Committee is busy planning this year's conference which will be held in Salt Lake City, UT. Be on the lookout for specific updates, and requests for assistance.

For more information contact Rebecca Tierney at [rebecca.tierney@weber.edu](mailto:rebecca.tierney@weber.edu).

### **Upward Bound Math Science**

The Upward Bound Math/Science competition was announced in the Federal Register on February 10, 2017 (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-10/pdf/2017-02767.pdf>). It is due Wednesday, March 22. Final RFP is available in [grants.gov](http://grants.gov).

### **Submit Your News - ASPIRE Online**

Have a story you want to share? Submit this online to the ASPIRATIONS Online Newsletter. <http://aspireonline.org/submit-your-news/>.



## Mission

ASPIRE, Inc.'s mission is to increase the educational and success opportunities for low-income and first-generation college students through advocacy, professional development, and legislative awareness.

## Vision

It is the vision of the ASPIRE Region to act with integrity, respect, ethics, and due diligence in working towards the completion of the established goals for 2015-2016 while keeping center the mission of ASPIRE. The ASPIRE region strives to collaborate with other like-minded organizations while standing as a national model for quality in professional development and support to its membership. We seek to integrate and support all TRIO and EOP personnel at the State, Regional, and National level for the advocacy of our students.

## ASPIRE BOARD

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See you in Salt Lake City!!!