

ASPIRE, Inc.
Annual Report



Submitted to ASPIRE Members
October 15-18, 2017
Sheraton Salt Lake City, Downtown
Salt Lake City, Utah

Kyle K. Ethelbah, MPH
President

2010-2011 Annual Report
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ASPIRE Inc. Mission Statement & Purpose

ASPIRE, Inc.'s mission is to "increase the educational and success opportunities for low-income and first-generation college students through professional development and legislative advocacy." ASPIRE is a professional organization of persons engaged in the administration, recruitment, mentoring, instruction, tutoring or other support services for eligible students. ASPIRE serves as a vehicle, which provides professional development and technical assistance to increase the expertise of individuals who are involved in services to TRiO students. ASPIRE strives to organize program personnel into a cohesive unit, to facilitate open communication between program personnel, and to disseminate legislative and Department of Education information to ensure that program personnel are well informed on current issues.

ASPIRE, Inc. is one of ten regional associations that form the Council for Opportunity in Education, a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of educational opportunities throughout the United States. Through its numerous membership services, the Council works in conjunction with colleges, universities, and agencies that host TRIO Programs to specifically help low-income Americans enter college and graduate.

The mission of the Council is to advance and defend the ideal of equal educational opportunity in postsecondary education. As such, the focus of the Council is assuring that the least advantaged segments of the American population have a realistic chance to enter and graduate from a postsecondary institution. A secondary purpose of the Council is to provide a voice and a political vehicle for administrators, counselors and teachers who are employed in institutionally-, state- and federally-funded opportunity programs, especially those professionals with TRIO programs.

For more information regarding ASPIRE, the Council or the Department of Education's TRIO programs visit the following web sites:

<http://aspireonline.org>

<http://www.coenet.org>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>

President's Summary of Accomplishments

Submitted by Kyle Ethelbah

October 16, 2017

ASPIRE Inc's mission is to increase the educational and success opportunities for low-income and first-generation college students through professional development and legislative advocacy. The work of ASPIRE's membership, committee chairs, state presidents, and executive board over the 2016-2017 board year are extensive.

Professional Development Accomplishments for 2016-2017:

Goal 1: Expand the availability and enhance the quality of college access and support services through rigorous advocacy.

1. Montana institutions advocated for programs whose Upward Bound applications were not read due to technical errors. Senator Jon Tester of Montana served as a primary advocate for Montana's TRIO Programs. Special thanks to Montana TRIO for all their work on this important issue.
2. ASPIRE had a large delegation attend the annual policy seminar held in Washington DC in March 19-22, 2017. Overall conversations with representatives were well received. Primary questions asked of ASPIRE delegation were whether representative would support the omnibus appropriations to fund the remainder of FY 2017.
 - a. 27% of ASPIRE Congressional delegation were willing to support the omnibus appropriations bill [Increase to TRIO]. 36% were likely to support.
 - b. 14% indicated they would sign the FY 2018 TRIO appropriations request letter. 38% indicated they were likely to sign.
 - c. 55% of representatives have visited a TRIO program. 82% were willing to visit in the future.
 - d. 24% of representatives were willing to join the TRIO Caucus.
3. ASPIRE assisted with the call to release the Upward Bound slate in June 2017. ASPIRE sent a letter to Secretary Devos to release the slate in a timely manner (see appendix).
4. During TRIO Competitions held in 2016-2017, ASPIRE gained/lost the following numbers:

UB	33	UBMS	5
Lost	1	Lost	1
Gain	3	Gain	3
VUB	3	McNair	6
Lost	1	Lost	1
Gain	0	Gain	1

Goal 2: Provide high-quality services and opportunities to member institutions and agencies.

1. Six state meetings were held in the spring.
 - a. Colorado, April 11-12, 2017, Pueblo, CO
 - b. Montana, March 27-29, 2017, Helena, MT
 - c. North Dakota/South Dakota, April 2-4, 2017, Bismarck, ND
 - d. Wyoming, April 19-21, 2017, Casper, WY
 - e. Utah, March 19, 2017, Bryce Canyon, UT

The regional president personally attended and presented at the meetings held in Montana, North Dakota/South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. The president was scheduled to represent at the Utah state conference but a snowstorm prevented this.

2. The University of Utah and ASPIRE completed a salary survey for TRIO program personnel within the region. Final Report to be release in October 2017.
3. ASPIRE partnered with COE the ECMC Group to provide extensive professional development opportunities, including:
 - a. Director on-boarding, October 14, 2017; Salt Lake City, Utah. Held in conjunction with the ASPIRE regional conference, but maintained by COE due to the costs of this programming.
 - b. PERSIST Advisor Training, October 15, 2017; Salt Lake City, Utah. Held as an ASPIRE pre-conference session. Fee's for this professional development opportunity were waived to individuals whose programs had a current ASPIRE Program Membership. <https://www.ecmc.org/students/persist.html>.
 - c. US Department of Education Priority IV training for TRIO Professionals, October 18-19, 2017. Held in conjunction with the ASPIRE Regional conference, but maintained by COE. http://www.coenet.org/professional_development.shtml.
4. Regional conference will be held October 15-18, 2017 in Salt Lake City, UT, with representatives from COE and Department of Education on the agenda.
5. ASPIRE adopted the use of Facebook Workplace to improve communication for professional members. This technology allows for members to communicate internally for technical assistance with regards to program management, communication related to advocacy and general information sharing.
6. ASPIRE offered matching funds to five states to conduct state initiative activities, through the Paul Spraggins Grant Opportunity sponsored by COE.
7. ASPIRE supports state travel to COE Annual Policy Seminar by contributing \$1000 to each state in the region.

Goal 3: Position COE as a thought leader in the field of college access and success.

1. ASPIRE has begun the initial conversations with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), regions 4E and 5. The primary deliverable for the AY 17-18 will be the development of informational webinars intended to share information between ASPIRE and NASPA Regions 4E and 5. Additionally, NASPA Regional leadership has committed to supporting the "First Generation" campaign on institutional campuses within these two regions.
2. ASPIRE has formally partnered with the North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges to begin the development of a Native American Professional Institute. First formal professional development series to take place in October 2018, in conjunction with the regional conference. The primary intention of this partnership is to help Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU's), and Native American Serving Institutions (NASI's) to develop technical skills needed to develop TRIO grant submissions in support of their communities.

Goal 4: Strengthen COE's economic and organizational sustainability.

1. ASPIRE proudly exceeded its fair share goal, coming in at 117% of the total committed amount established to raise for our region. Thank you for your generosity ASPIRE colleagues.

Goal 5: Strengthen the TRIO alumni network.

2. The first ASPIRE Alumni social will be held in conjunction with the ASPIRE Regional Conference in Salt Lake City. In place of the President's reception, ASPIRE will acknowledge the contributions of alumni from the region.

ASPIRE, Inc.
Board of Directors

ASPIRE President

Kyle Ethelbah, Director
Federal TRIO Programs
University of Utah
Phone: 801/581.7188
Email: kethelbah@sa.utah.edu

ASPIRE President Elect

Darlene Samson, Director
Student Support Services
Laramie County Community College
Phone: 406/243.4199
Email: Darlene.samson@mso.umt.edu

ASPIRE Past President

Joseph Aguirre, Director
Student Support Services
Wyoming Community College District
Phone: 307/674.6446
Email: jaguirre@sheridan.edu

ASPIRE Treasurer

John Shafer, Academic Support Coordinator
(retired)
Student Support Services
Southern Utah University
Phone: 435-586-7848
Email: shafer@suu.edu

ASPIRE Secretary

Jami Bayles, Director
Talent Search
Utah State University, Eastern – Blanding
Campus
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Colorado State President

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College Access
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Phone: 970/491.3551
Email: Lucia.Delgado@colostate.edu

Montana State President

Theresa Rader, Director
Student Support Services
Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Phone: 406/491.1907
Email: trader@mtech.edu

North Dakota State President

Dennis Stangl, Information Tech Specialist
TRIO Programs
University of North Dakota
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Email: dennis.stangl@und.edu

South Dakota State President

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Student Support Services
Black Hills State University
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Email: peggy.madrid@bhsu.edu

Utah State President

Rebecca Tierney, Director
Talent Search
Weber State University
Phone: 801/626.7369
Email: rebeccatierney@weber.edu

Wyoming State President

Sandy Straley, Project Director
Student Support Services
University of Wyoming
Phone: 307-766-4896
Email: sstrale2@uwyo.edu

ASPIRE Committee Chairs

Committee	Chair	Institution
Archivist	Paul Hesco	University of Wyoming
Awards	Jami Bayles	Utah State University – Eastern
By-Laws/Operating Guidelines	Darlene Samson	Montana State University
Conference – 2017	Rebecca Tierney	Weber State University
Corporate Development	Rebecca Tierney	Weber State University
Development	Jami Bayles	Utah State University – Eastern
Elections	Ben Hammon	Montana Sate University
Finance	John Shafer	Southern Utah University
Governmental Relations	Ally Garcia	MSU Denver
Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)	Marilyn Thayer	Colorado State University
Membership	Cara Davis	University of North Dakota
Technology	Dennis Stangl	University of North Dakota
Professional Standards	Andrea Reeve	970.491.6129
Publications	Russ Lamson	406.756.3885
State Initiative	Lucia Delgado	Colorado State University
Strategic Plan	Theresa Rader	Montana Tech
Alumni	Morgen Patrick	University of Wyoming
Native American	Joseph Aguirre	Wyoming Community College District
Social Justice	Herman Shelton	Colorado State University



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

PRESIDENT LUCIA DELGADO	SECRETARY CAROLINA BAÑUELOS	
PRESIDENT-ELECT BRANDI SCOTT	TREASURER MARILYN THAYER	REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE ALLY GARCIA
	SUPPORT STAFF Vacant	REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE MARYA CORRIGAN

Colorado President Report (ASPIRE, Salt Lake City, UT)

- I. Colorado Presidency Model approved and updated:
 - i. updated Constitution
 - ii. online nomination and voting process
 - o Committees updated for better efficiency:
 - Government Relations, Fairshare, Elections, Representative-at-large duties
- II. Funding of new programs in the State:

o UB number funded:	14
o UB number de-funded:	01
o UB number NEW:	03
o UBMS number funded:	04
o UBMS number de-funded:	00
o UBMS number NEW:	02
o VUB number funded:	01
o VUB number de-funded:	01
o VUB number New:	00
o McNair (not confirmed):	
▪ McNair funded:	02
▪ McNair New:	01
- III. Financial Literacy training by DOE/ COE (70 registered participants)
 - o Colorado Dept. of Higher Education: Data Agreement
 - o Collaboration to assist in the FAFSA completion project for the State
- IV. Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE current conference
 - o Updated: Conference attendance (96 attendees registered, plus 5 VIP guests)
- V. ASPIRE 2019 Regional Conference: Keystone Conference Resort/ Summit, CO
 - o Site Visit scheduled for Oct. 30-31st,



ASPIRE Montana Report

October

Board Members

President: Theresa Rader

President-Elect: Allen Addison

Secretary/Treasurer: Jeananne Origbo

State News:

- Unveiled documentary trailer at MCAN Conference:
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1883499319/big-dreams-under-the-big-sky-a-documentary>. Unfortunately, the funding to complete the project was unsuccessful. Efforts continue to raise the amount necessary to finish
- Rewriting Operating Guidelines as they have not been updated since 2004
- Completed SWOT Analysis
- Partnered with ETS to provide 10 GRE fee reduction vouchers for SSS programs at UM, Montana State University Billings, Veterans UB at MSU, Billings; SSS at U of Great Falls and SSS at UM
- Theresa Rader and Allen Addison will both be attending the Princeton University Executive Leadership Institute for College Opportunity Professionals

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal #1: *Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRIO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP and other Educational Opportunity Programs.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- UM UB Program that was formerly DQ'd has been reinstated and will be read in the funding band. Many hours were spent working extensively with COE and Senator Tester's office to advocate for the continuation of the program. There was a series of articles in the Missoulian about it and a big thank you was sent to Senator Tester for his assistance from UM as well as, Montana ASPIRE

Montana ASPIRE Report

- We currently do not have an Upward Bound MS Program in our state so both MSU-Billings and Montana Tech submitted proposals. Neither were selected in the slate but Montana Tech was notified that they were in the funding band
- MSU-Billings Veteran's UB was funded

Strategic Goal #2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Recognized program shortfall for state MCAN Conference in the hope of not having that problem again
- Plans and preparations for 2018 ASPIRE Regional Conference in Missoula have already commenced. We are committed to having quality programming to attract a large number of participants from ASPIRE and other regions
- Working hard to identify a sponsor business to assist with costs for the conference and possibly be able to provide services to the TRIO participants and families in Montana. Similar to COMCAST

Strategic Goal #3: Provide professional development opportunities to members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Approved first "Mini-grant" for one member to attend the NCAN Conference in San Diego, 9/11-13
- Using ANYMEETING to share information with new Directors
- State MCAN Conference

Strategic Goal #4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Policy Seminar: delegation of 10 staff and one alumnus. Sen. Tester is already a member of TRIO Caucus, Sen. Daines did sign the TRIO letter. HUGE win for MT as it is the first time now Sen but formerly Rep. Daines has endorsed TRIO
- Continue to work closely with Sen Tester. Outreach to Sen. Daines is ongoing
- Special election for Representative was held 5/25 with Greg Gianforte winning. We have reached out numerous times to his office. They are receptive but have taken no action
- Working with Sen. Tester's aid Hanna Van Hoose and Ron Hammond, legislative aide to Congressman Warren Davidson of Ohio to draft an amendment to address the technical error issues with the grant competitions

Strategic Goal #5: *Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- State website
- Continue to encourage the state membership to subscribe to national list serves
- Use Any Meeting to communicate across the state

Strategic Goal #6: *Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- State website now has link to Regional Alumni tab
- Programs have been asked to add registering alumni as part of their close out process yearly
- MCAN Documentary
- An alumni celebration was entirely organized and hosted by alumni from Lower Clark Fork Upward Bound and held in Bozeman in August with 26 attending

Strategic Goal #7: *Strengthen linkage relationship to state associations.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- AIHEC has joined MCAN
- Montana Tech TRIO Office engaged and participated in the PNW-COSMOS (The Pacific Northwest Circle of Success: Mentoring Opportunities in STEM) program with other graduate programs from around the state
- Partnered with GEAR UP to provide \$1500 scholarship to every TRIO graduating senior who applied and met the criteria: passed rigorous curriculum in hs, applied and was accepted into a Montana University, had an EFC of \$0. There were 104 scholarships awarded



North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE State Report

October 2017

Board Members

Dennis Stangl, UND – President

Christiana Pond, DSU – Secretary

Cathleen Ruch, LRSC - Treasurer

State News:

- The University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University applied for an Upward Bound grant and McNair grants.
- North Dakota was not awarded any UBMS or Veterans UB grants (still waiting on funding band).
- Still waiting to find out about the McNair grants.
- NDSU is celebrating 50 years in the Fall and Dickinson State University will be celebrating 20 years in fall.

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal #1: *Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRIO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP and other Educational Opportunity Programs.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The North Dakota and South Dakota Co-State meeting will be held this coming spring in Sioux Falls, SD. The date and hotel location have yet to be determined.

Strategic Goal #2: *Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

From the ND State Treasurer Report:

Deposits- \$3,453.75

Disbursements- \$1,875.94

Balance- \$ 13,822.55

- Talk with potential members to sign up for ASPIRE; discussing the benefits to becoming a member.

Strategic Goal #3: *Provide professional development opportunities to members of ASPIRE.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

Strategic Goal #4: *Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Stat Initiative Chair – Mary Fredricks continues to inform members about legislation in the state pertaining to education. Fredricks updates a newsfeed on the North Dakota ASPIRE website.

Strategic Goal #5: *Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Continue to e-mail members on a monthly basis about updates relating to North Dakota ASPIRE and the Region.

Strategic Goal #6: *Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Working on developing our Alumni network by encouraging Alumni to register on the ASPIRE Alumni database.

Strategic Goal #7: *Strengthen linkage relationship to state associations.*

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Will continue to work as partners with South Dakota for our co-state conferences. Alternating from state to state each year.



ASPIRE South Dakota

State Report

October 2017

Board Members

Peggy Madrid, President
Black Hills State University

Thomas Madut, President Elect
Dakota Wesleyan University

Laurie Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer
South Dakota State University

Susan Hupp, Past President
Black Hills State University

State News:

- South Dakota was represented by one TRIO Professional, and one TRIO SSS alum in Washington, DC as part of COE's Policy seminar. The South Dakota ASPIRE team effectively advocated for increasing TRIO funding and also asking our legislatures to join or support the TRIO bipartisan caucus.
- Thomas Madut, Advisor, Student Support Services, Dakota Wesleyan University, was elected as President-Elect for SD ASPIRE at the state meeting in April. He will finish the current term left vacant when Nora Leinen took a position outside of TRIO. His position as President of SD ASPIRE will begin in October.
- All three South Dakota Upward Bound programs were successful in renewing their grants.
- The 2016 ND/SD Co-state conference was held in Bismarck, ND.

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal # 1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP and other Educational Opportunity programs.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Elected Thomas Madut as new President-Elect. He replaces Nora Leinen who took another position outside of TRIO. Laurie Johnson will remain as Secretary/Treasurer
- State meeting and professional development was held with North Dakota in Bismarck, ND this year. The conference was attended by professionals in a majority of the TRIO programs in North and South Dakota
- Peggy Madrid, SD ASPIRE President, and Sonja Merrow, TRIO SSS Alum, attended the COE Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. They met with Legislative staff, 2 senators, and attended a South Dakota Sunrise Breakfast hosted by all three legislative offices to advocate for additional funding for TRIO programs.

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Continuing our work on SD ASPIRE fair share. Becky Jensen, SD Fair Share representative has attended phone meetings and keeps SD ASPIRE informed on updates, changes, and deadlines to assure that we meet our goals.
- Attended COE Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. and discussed continued funding for TRIO programs with all three of our state representatives.

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities to members of ASPIRE.

- South Dakota attended the co-state conference this year hosted by North Dakota. Maureen Hoyler of COE and Kyle Ethelbah, ASPIRE Regional President, were both in attendance.
- South Dakota honored Sarah, Dorich, from Northern State University, was awarded the 2017 SD Trio Achiever.
- South Dakota ASPIRE have volunteered their services and expertise on standing committees and leadership positions of South Dakota ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

Strategic Goal # 4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

South Dakota has decided to hold the 2018 co-state conference, March 25-27 in Sioux Falls at the Holiday Inn City Center.

South Dakota discussed the importance of having a student voice at Policy Seminar and voted to add a reimbursement cost to our yearly budget to cover costs for a student to attend. A draft of the wording will be worked on this summer and discussed at the next state meeting.

Strategic Goal # 5: Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- COE action alerts were acted upon and updated as necessary for SD ASPIRE and the Regional ASPIRE board.

- South Dakota ASPIRE email contact list was maintained by the state president.
- Communication has been maintained and a date, and place has been secured for the 2018 ND/SD co-state conference. The conference committee will meet at the Regional ASPIRE conference to move forward on conference planning.
- TRIO program specific as well as all TRIO program networking opportunities were provided at the 2017 SD/ND ASPIRE co-state conference.



ASPIRE Utah State Report October 2017 Board Members

Rebecca Tierney, President
Weber State University

Rachel Lund, President Elect
Southern Utah University

Vacant, Secretary

Jason Gibson, Treasurer
Utah State University, Price

Past President
Vacant

State News:

- Utah State ASPIRE Conference will be held at Weber State University, March 29 & 30, 2018. Chairs: Gregory Christiansen and Amanda Nielsen (SSS)
- The Utah State TRIO Youth Leadership location is TBD at the state meeting.

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal #1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRIO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP and other Educational Opportunity Programs.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Continued representation on CANU (College Access Network of Utah) at their retreat on 4/21/2017.
- Spraggins grant/video is continuing to be used with communication with state and federal representatives. New grant proposal will be determined by incoming President (Rachel Lund) and submitted in fall 2018.

Strategic Goal #2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Utah budget is very solvent at approximately \$28,480

Strategic Goal #3: Provide professional development opportunities to members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Utah is hosting the Regional ASPIRE Conference for 2017. Rebecca Tierney (current UT President is also Conference Chair), Rachel Lund also assisted greatly with the Agenda Subcommittee.

Strategic Goal #4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We had 9 attendees at the COE Policy Conference in March. Overall, our meetings with the congressional offices went well- the tone was more positive than in previous years.

Strategic Goal #5: Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

- Lt Governor invited and accepted to speak at regional conference.

Strategic Goal #6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.

Activities/Accomplishments

- Still promoting our Utah TRIO Alumni Facebook page at our state and regional conferences.
- Incorporating Alumni event at Regional Conference this month.

Strategic Goal #7: Strengthen linkage relationship to state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments

- A panel was proposed and accepted for the regional conference to discuss each state's College Access Network and state initiatives. The panel representatives and session are prepared for the conference.

Respectfully Submitted: *Rebecca Tierney*
October 11, 2017



ASPIRE Wyoming Report

Oct 2017

Board Members

President – Paul Hesco
President-Elect – Lori Brown-Wirth
Secretary – Melisa Valtierra
Treasurer – Alison Grendahl
Member At Large – Kenneth Stacy

State News:

- Included in the items below.

State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

Strategic Goal #1: Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRIO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP and other Educational Opportunity Programs.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Planning events to commemorate the anniversary of the HEA

Strategic Goal #2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- WY ASPIRE made a profit on its annual conference, even though the attendance was low.
- WY continues to maintain 2 years of operating expenses in its account.

Strategic Goal #3: Provide professional development opportunities to members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encouraging members to attend the additional training at ASPIRE Conference
- Initial planning for State meeting

Strategic Goal #4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Planning for HEA commemoration
- Completing fact book and fact card

Strategic Goal #5: Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Making greater use of the website, directing members there for information.
- Sending out updates to membership after significant activities.

Strategic Goal #6: Assist program participants and alumni to advocate for TRIO.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Will involve participants in HEA commemoration

Strategic Goal #7: Strengthen linkage relationship to state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- High number of state attendees at last Regional Conference
- Provide reports of Regional Activities to State membership

Awards Committee Report:

Awards Committee Report			
Chairs: Jami Bayles Members: CO-Aaron Lucero MT-Cory Chenoweth ND-Dennis Stangl SD-Deborah Liddick UT-Jonathan Morrell WY-Jamie Manzanares	Purpose: The Awards Committee is responsible for the selection of the recipients and purchases of all ASPIRE Awards including Membership, Retirees, Friend of ASPIRE, Rising Star, Art Quinn Memorial, Champion of TRIO, and any other awards identified in the Operating Guidelines.	Goal Impact: Goal I: Provide high-quality services to member institutions and agencies. Goal II: Position ASPIRE as a thought leader in the field of college access and success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed – Updated years of service (membership) in ASPIRE for all members and determined award recipients. Completed – Request that State Presidents identify individuals retiring in their states (suggested collecting info at spring state meetings). Completed – Selected recipients for the Friend of ASPIRE, Rising Star, Champion of TRIO, and ASPIRE TRIO Achievers Awards. Completed – All appropriate awards have been ordered, and travel arrangements have been made for TRIO Achievers.
	Committee Charges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish timeline for awards process for 2017 ASPIRE Conference. 	% Complete 100%	
	Committee Relationships: My committee met 1 time this year (via email) to determine TRIO Achievers, Rising Star, and Friend of ASPIRE award recipients. Contact with state presidents was ongoing to determine retiree awards. Meetings were held electronically and by phone. List the committees that you have worked with: Awards, Membership, Budget & Finance, Technology, Conference, Development, and Conference Advisory.		

Archive Committee Report:

Committee Report Structure			
Chairs: Paul Hesco Peggy Madrid Members:	Purpose: The Archive Committee is responsible for archiving historical documents and other items related to ASPIRE; maintaining storage space; reporting annually on archived materials; creating and maintaining retention schedules for documentation; and creating and maintaining an archival process in coordination with the University of Wyoming.	Goal Impact: Goal I: Provide high-quality services to member institutions and agencies. Goal II: Goal IV: Goal V:	Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed items in storage Developed a list of items for disposal Suggested language for updates to the Operating Guidelines
	Committee Charges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate alternative locations for current ASPIRE records, including physical and electronic documents. Clean up archives and dispose of old records Provide materials for the historical display at the Annual Conference 	% Complete _____ % for the	
	Committee Relationships: My committee met 2 times this year. Meetings were held _____ electronically, _____ by phone, _____ in person. List the committees that you have worked with.		

Development Committee Report:

Development Committee Report			
<p>Co-Chairs: Jami Bayles Joseph Aguirre</p> <p>Members: Dan Bengt Becky Jensen</p>	<p>Purpose: The Development Committee organizes fund-raising activities for ASPIRE Development and COE Fair Share campaigns.</p>	<p>Goal Impact: Goal III: Strengthen ASPIRE's economic and organizational sustainability</p>	<p><i>Colorado</i> – Met 35% of ASPIRE Project Membership and 114% of COE Fair Share.</p> <p><i>Montana</i> – Met 76% of ASPIRE Project Membership and 122% of COE Fair Share.</p>
	<p>Committee Charges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase institutional memberships and engagement. • Ensure each state has Fair Share coordinators who are directly connected to COE to assist with meeting Fair Share target. • Increase personal contributions. 	<p>% Complete</p>	<p><i>North Dakota</i> – Met 53% of ASPIRE Project Membership and 112% of COE Fair Share.</p> <p><i>South Dakota</i> – Met 60% of ASPIRE Project Membership and 108% of COE Fair Share.</p> <p><i>Utah</i> – Met 100% of ASPIRE Project Membership and 108% of COE Fair Share.</p>
	<p>Committee Relationships:</p> <p>My committee met monthly (via COE Conference call) for updates to ASPIRE Development and COE Fair Share. Additional meetings were held electronically as needed.</p> <p>List the committees that you have worked with: Awards, Membership, Budget & Finance, Technology, Conference, Development, and Conference Advisory.</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p><i>Wyoming</i> – Met 54% of ASPIRE Project Membership and 143% of COE Fair Share.</p> <p>ASPIRE Region – Met 60% of ASPIRE Project Membership and 117% of COE Fair Share.</p>

Conference Committee Report:

Conference Committee Report			
<p>Co-chairs: Jami Bayles Becky Jensen</p>	<p>Purpose: The ASPIRE Conference Advisory Committee will include former ASPIRE Region Conference Chairs to provide assistance to future Conference Chairs. The knowledge and experience from each conference will be shared.</p>	<p>Goal Impact: Goal III: Strengthen ASPIRE's economic and organizational sustainability</p>	<p>Completed – Served as a resource to the 2017 Conference chair.</p> <p>Ongoing – Assisting the 2018 Conference chair with planning and budgeting.</p>
	<p>Committee Charges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance to current and future conference chairs. 	<p>% Complete</p>	
	<p>Committee Relationships:</p> <p>My committee met as needed to assist the 2017 conference chair, and had regular contact with 2018 conference chair as a resource for planning. Meetings were held electronically, by phone, and in person.</p> <p>List the committees that you have worked with: Awards, Membership, Budget & Finance, Technology, Conference, Development, Elections, Professional Development, Corporate Development, and Conference Advisory.</p>	<p>100%</p>	

Social Justice Committee Report:

Committee Report Structure			
Chairs: Herman Shelton Members: Heather Webb Springer Peni Mouna Yesenia Arreola Brandi Scott	Purpose: In recognizing there are many barriers and struggles facing our students that keep them from enrolling and succeeding in postsecondary education, ASPIRE Inc. Established the <i>Social Justice Committee</i> . The Committee will be compiled of one executive board member and at least three representatives from different states within ASPIRE. Committee is tasked with acting as a resource and advisory committee on various social justice issues facing our students to ASPIRE members.	Goal Impact: Goal I: Provide high-quality services to member institutions and agencies. Goal II: Position ASPIRE as a thought leader in the field of college access and success.	Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peni Mouna lead a social justice focused conversation at the ASPIRE North/South Dakota state meeting in April 2017 • Kelly Buck lead a discussion at the ASPIRE Montana state meeting on social justice in April 2017 • Brandi Scott, Herman Shelton, and Yesenia Arreola presented at the Colorado Chapter of ASPIRE state meeting in April 2017 • Heather Webb presented on Enroll Wyoming @ the Shepard Symposium in April 2017 • The week of 5/3/17, committee met to discuss presentation proposals for the ASPIRE regional conference 2017 • The week of 7/12/17 committee chair Brandi Scott met with Herman Shelton to transition committee chair responsibilities to Herman • On 7/27/17 committee member Kelly Buck informed the committee that she accepted a position outside of TRiO, and as a result would be stepping down from the committee • 10/16/17 Brandi Scott, Yesenia Arreola, and Herman Shelton will present at ASPIRE regional conference on topics relating intersections of social justice/injustice and TRiO
	Committee Charges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with volunteer project at regional annual conference. • Develop social justice program as part of established curriculum 	% Complete __100__ % for the	
	Committee Relationships: My committee met __3__ times this year. Meetings were held __X__ electronically, __ by phone, __ in person. List the committees that you have worked with.		

Alumni Committee Report:

Alumni Committee					
Chairs: Morgen Patrick			Purpose: The TRIO Alumni Committee coordinates with Council for Opportunity in Education to promote the National TRIO Alumni Society, organize Alumni Societies in the ASPIRE Region, and publicize the purposes of creating Alumni Societies which include directing social media efforts; providing a network of social and professional support for former participants in TRIO programs; increasing public awareness of the needs of disadvantaged students enrolled in, or aspiring to attend postsecondary institutions; providing recognition of achievements to former TRIO participants; providing a mechanism for former TRIO participants to voice support for TRIO programs; and providing assistance with the initiation, organization, and implementation of individual chapter of TRIO Alumni Societies.	Strategic Goals: Goal I: Provide high-quality services to member institutions and agencies. Goal IV: Strengthen the TRIO alumni network Goal V: Expand the availability and enhance the quality of college access and support services through rigorous advocacy.	
Members:			Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 has been completed 100%, however the other objectives are on-going. Objective 2-We will be working at the State, Regional and National level to continue to secure a database system for alumni contact information for advocacy. Dennis has created one through the ASPIRE website. We also may investigate another option through https://www.alumnitoolkit.org/home/ Objective 3-Social media links have been created, however, we are deciding what content needs to be included to successfully engage and interest alumni as well as link to COE information. We will ask State ASPIRE presidents to identify Alumni events around their state to get a full picture of ASPIRE alumni events to ensure that Objective 4 has been met. It was suggested that we would determine this information at the May meeting. Committee is working to create a Google Doc and survey to send out for students to self-identify as Alumni and will answer the question as to what they would like as far as information regarding TRIO/ASPIRE. (This was the original plan, but I waiting for COE surveys, so we don't overlap requests.) Morgen resigned from this committee effective after October 18th. There hasn't been a lot of change since we are still waiting for information from COE, and they have a new person heading the Alumni committee. <p>(October 2017)</p>		
Committee Charges:			% Complete		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define alumni on a regional level, create a standardized alumni form to compile state data of alumni Unite regional alumni database and sync with COE's Alumni database. Provide alumni social media links on the website and link to each state and COE. Ensure that the region sponsors at least two alumni events annually 			<div style="text-align: right;">100 % for the</div>		
Committee Relationships:					
My committee met N/A times this year. Meetings were held ____ electronically, ____ by phone, ____ in person. List the committees that you have worked with. _____ Technology_____					

Membership Committee Report:

Membership Committee Report								
Chairs: Cara Davis Members: Representatives from each state	Purpose: The Membership Committee is responsible for promoting and increasing the ASPIRE membership through distribution of membership materials and providing information to new ASPIRE TRIO personnel.	Goal Impact: Goal III: Strengthen ASPIRE's economic and organizational sustainability			Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASPIRE Membership as of August 31st, 2017 was at 342 For the 2015-16 Membership Year we ended with 342 members, so we maintained our membership base this year. We had 73 new members for 2016-17, which made up 21% of the membership. The 2016-17 membership year was the first year implementing the new online database, renewal system, and membership year (September 1st start date). Since this process changed part way through the year, the 17-18 year will be our first full year operating this way. Dennis Stangl implemented a new benefit of ASPIRE membership, Facebook Workplace, which allows members to create an ASPIRE email address to use for advocacy efforts and also creates a platform for ASPIRE members to connect via social media throughout the year. Below is a breakdown of the current ASPIRE Membership. 			
	Committee Charges:	% Complete						
	Ensure membership information is up to date and continually updated.	_____ % for the						
	Committee Relationships: My committee met <u>3</u> times this year. Meetings were held _____ electronically, <u>x</u> by phone, _____ in person. List the committees that you have worked with. <u>Conference Committee, Development Committee, and Awards Committee</u>							

Year	Colorado	Montana	North Dakota	South Dakota	Utah	Wyoming	Other	Total
15-16	96	53	46	33	84	29	1	342
16-17	101	58	42	27	79	34	1	342

Year	Professional	Associate	TRIO Participant	Emeritus	Friend and Alumni	Other (Year Lapse)
15-16	327	9	0	3	3	0
16-17	317	7	0	7	Now recorded elsewhere.	0

Appendix:



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

2016-2017 BOARD

PRESIDENT
KYLE ETHELBAH

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DARLENE SAMSON

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PEGGY MADRID

UTAH
REBECCA TIERNEY

WYOMING
PAUL HESCO

May 22, 2017

Betsy DeVos, Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I am the President of ASPIRE Inc., a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase the educational and success opportunities for low-income and first-generation college students through advocacy, professional development, and legislative awareness within the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The primary constituents to our organization are the federally funded TRIO Programs. As such, I am writing to express concern over the delay of the release of the funding slate for the Upward Bound competition (Federal Register, 81 FR 71492) which was completed in November 2016.

ASPIRE requests the immediate release of the Upward Bound slate as there are approximately 200 programs in the US with May 31 end-dates – with approximately ten of those within the ASPIRE region. These ten programs provide services to approximately 900 students and it is imperative that these programs be informed of their status to ensure smooth continuity of services. Logistically speaking, even late notification will derail the summer programs. Contracts with University Housing and Dining services at these institutions will be voided, not to mention contracts with bus companies and other providers. This is particularly troublesome as the majority of these programs serve rural areas that lack alternative methods of transportation and other services.

We understand the logistics related to the oversight of the federal programs, however, we must also work within our established guidelines for effective program management. It is in the best interest of the students, their families, the funded institutions, and the federal government to release the Upward Bound slate immediately. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you please release the slate of funded programs.

Sincerely,

Kyle Ethelbah, MPH
ASPIRE President

Upward Bound grant restored for University of Montana

KEILA SZPALLER keila.szpaller@missoulian.com Aug 23, 2017



Twila Old Coyote, interim director of Upward Bound at UM, says the program enrolls students as early as their freshman year of high school. Students spend six weeks on campus in a residential academic program.

BUY NOW

TOM BAUER, [Missoulian](#)

MORE INFORMATION



Engen pulls in 54K in donations in mayoral race
This year's mayoral election is drawing unprecedented levels of fundraising as

The University of Montana will receive money to support first-generation college students and ones from low-income families through Upward Bound, after initially being denied a grant due to a clerical error, according to news releases.

U.S. Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines announced Wednesday that the U.S. Department of Education will grant UM \$356,313 for June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2018. UM had applied for \$1.7 million through 2022, and Tester's office confirmed the campus would receive the full amount over five years.

RECC



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OCT 12, 2017

TESTER DEFENDS MONTANA STUDENTS, DEMANDS INVESTIGATION INTO U.S. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senator Pushes Inspector General to Investigate
Timeliness of Critical TRiO Grants



(Big Sandy, Mont.)—U.S. Senator Jon Tester is defending Montana students by demanding an investigation into the actions of the U.S. Education Department and Secretary Betsy DeVos.

Tester is calling on the Education Department's Inspector General to investigate the administration and timeliness of TRiO grants after a series of grants repeatedly ran behind schedule and undermined the certainty of Montana's two dozen TRiO initiatives. Tester is specifically urging Inspector General Kathleen Tighe to identify what deficiencies within the Education Department have caused TRiO grants to be administered behind schedule and recommend solutions to ensure that grant awardees receive their funding without delay.

"The Department's repeated failure to conduct TRiO competitions in a timely and consistent manner has subjected TRiO programs and the students they serve to unnecessary uncertainty and disruption," Tester wrote. **"By investigating the causes of these administrative failures and recommending how they can be remedied, you will provide a valuable service to low-income, first generation college students who rely on TRiO for**
