ASPIRE, INC.

**ANNUAL REPORT** 

2017-2018



# **Submitted to ASPIRE Members**

**ASPIRE Conference** 

September 29-October 3, 2018

Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula, MT

**Darlene Samson** 

**President** 

#### **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** 

#### RELATED TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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's membership, Board committee chairs, State Presidents during the year have been extensive

The ASPIRE Strategic Plan over the past two years include five goals.

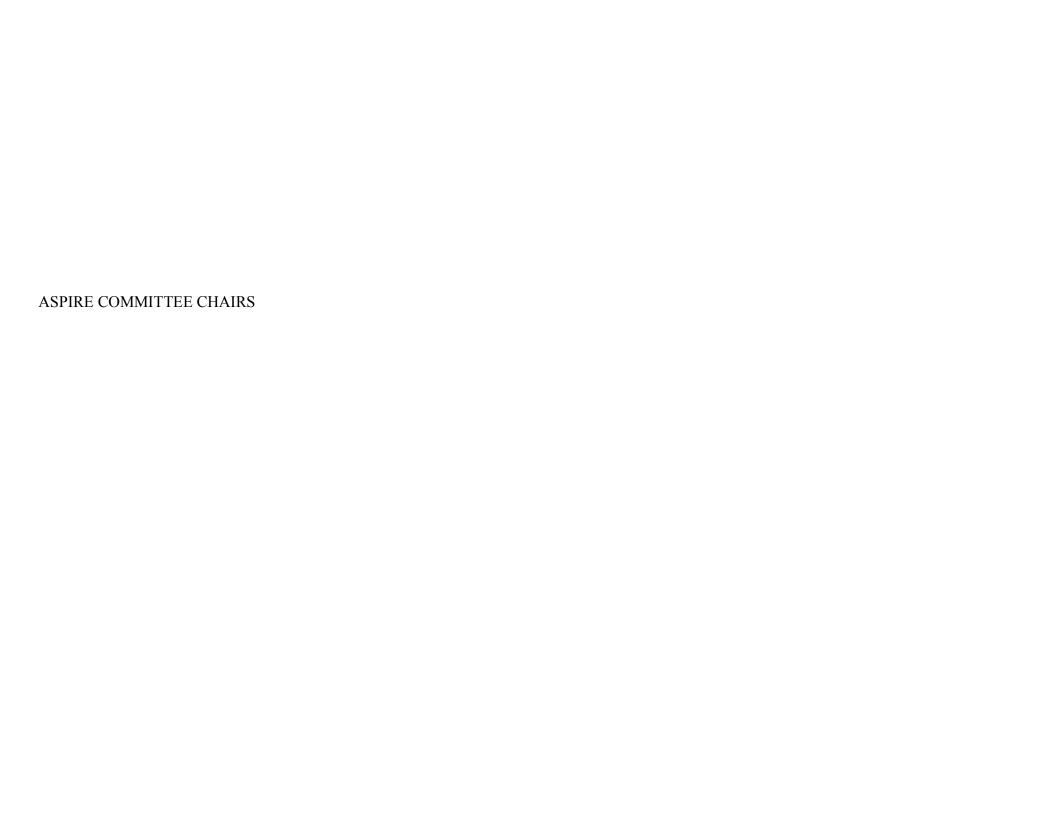
- **■** GOAL 1: Provide high quality services to member's institutions and agencies
- GOAL 2: Position ASPIRE as a leader in the field of Professional Development in the areas of college access and success
- **■** Goal 3: Strengthen ASPIRE economic and organizational sustainability

- GOAL 4: Strengthen the TRIO Alumni network
- ♣ GOAL 5: Expand the availability and enhance the quality of college access and support services through rigorous advocacy

#### GOAL 1: Provide high quality services to member institutions and agencies

- 1. Four state meetings were held in the region, with the states of Wyoming & Coloroado combining their conference and North & South Dakota partnered to combine their conferences. The President attended North/South Dakota and Montana conferences presenting at both. Conflicts in dates conferred the President-Elect to represent ASPIRE at the Colorado and Wyoming Conference; Past President elected to represent at Utah state conference.
  - a. Colorado & Wyoming held
  - b. Montana
  - c. North/South Dakota
  - d. Utah
- 2. Annual Policy Seminar held in Washinton, DC included a large
- 3. Regional Conference
- 4. ASPIRE Workplace
- 5. ASPIRE provided mathicing fund to
- GOAL 2: Position ASPIRE as a leader in the field of Professional Development in the areas of college access and success
- GOAL 3: Strengthen ASPIRE economic and organization sustainability
- GOAL 4: Strengthen the TRIO Alumni network
- GOAL %: Expand the availability and ehhance the quality of college access and support services through rigorous advocacy

APIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# ASPIRE STATE REPORTS – Ending August 31, 2018

	Colorado		
State			
	Brandi Scott, President		
Officers			
	7/30/2018		
Date			
State News (include new initiatives, ongoing activities, meetings, change in officers, fundraising, professional development)	<ul> <li>Colorado hosted a first annual CCA Board transition meeting for incoming and outgoing board members on 7/30 2018</li> <li>Colorado hosted a CCA Board meeting on 7/30 2018</li> <li>Colorado is planning an SSS Grant writing workshop for CCA in September 2019</li> <li>Colorado is reinstituting a Collaborative Day forum with CDHE and CDE for November 2019</li> <li>Colorado held elections in April 2019 and will have four new Reps at Large, new president-elect, and secretary for 2018-2019</li> </ul>		
Related Activities to COE	No report		

# Goals Accomplished/Unmet for 2018

- CCA had a goal to host a board transition meeting and we accomplished that in July 2018
- CCA has a goal of reinstating our previously annual Collaborative Forum with CDHE and CDE and plans are in place for this to be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> 2018.

	Montana
State	
Officers	President – Theresa Rader President Elect – Allen Addison Secretary/Treasurer – Jeanie Origbo August 23, 2018
Date	
State News (include new initiatives, ongoing activities, meetings, change in officers, fundraising, professional development)	<ul> <li>Montana is hosting the ASPIRE Regional Conference on Sept 30 – October 3, 2018 in Missoula, MT. With an SSS Grant writing pre-con session. ASPIRE is also launching a new ASPIRE Leadership Institute during this conference.</li> <li>Newest state initiative is called "All for One". This will be an effort to have ALL (2 year, 4 Year and Tribal) Montana colleges submit an SSS proposal. Three grant writing workshop sites across the state have been identified to host writing seminars for SSS Proposals.</li> <li>State President participated in Tribal College Fair to 6 of the 7 Tribal Colleges in Montana. I met with all existing TRIO Programs at those Tribal Colleges or College Deans/Presidents/Vice Presidents at the schools where TRIO programs no longer exist. The goal of the visit was to make sure the current programs are being supported by the state organization to discuss their needs. For colleges where TRIO programs no longer exist I met with school officials to roll out the All for One initiative.</li> <li>MCAN State Conference is planned for March 11 – 13<sup>th</sup> Helena, MT with a TRIO SSS Student Leadership Conference scheduled for March 9 and 10.</li> <li>Have new representation from Montana on Regional Committees. Alumni – Alyssa Arrowtop from UMUB and Social Justice – Bernie Phelps from Montana Tech</li> <li>Montana State University – Northern has a new TRIO SSS Director – Brad Moore</li> </ul>

Related	Activities	to	COE
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Montana Senator Jon Tester coauthored the Senate support letter for FY19 TRIO funding. 38 Senators signed on. I have attached the letter for your convenience. Senator Tester has also requested clarification from DoED regarding the verification of financial status for TRIO SSS students since the prior, prior year FAFSA changes.

Several Montana ASPIRE members attended COE's Tribal College SSS Proposal Writing Workshop.

**STATE** 

State	North Dakota
Officers	Dennis Stangl, UND – President Benjamin Shapiro, NDSU – President Elect Christiana Pond, DSU – Secretary Cathleen Ruch, LRSC – Treasurer
Date	August 2018
State News (include new initiatives, ongoing activities, meetings, change in officers, fundraising, professional development)	<ul> <li>North Dakota and South Dakota Co-State Conference held March 25 – 27<sup>th</sup> in Sioux Falls, SD.</li> <li>Ben Shapiro elected as President-Elect for North Dakota ASPIRE.</li> <li>Cathleen Ruch was re-elected as Treasurer.</li> <li>Senator Heidi Heitkamp and Sen. Snow letter to Department of Education re: Student Support Services eligibility to Pell Grant eligible.</li> <li><a href="https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=EC54960E-AF04-4750-9EA1-88CB931FC3BF">https://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b2ec15cc-f732-4df3-b810-c6be414db41d/6.25.18-letter-to-secretary-devos-re-fy18-trio-funding-allocation.pdf</a></li> </ul>

	➤ The next North Dakota and South Dakota Co-State Conference will be held March 31 – April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019 in Fargo, ND.
Related Activities to COE	<ul> <li>Working on developing our Alumni network by encouraging Alumni to register on the ASPIRE Alumni database and the COE Alumni website.</li> <li>Met the 10 for 10 goal set by COE for Fair Share.</li> <li>11 people from North Dakota attended the COE Policy Seminar. Including the following, Dennis Stangl, Derek Sporbert, Phillip Coghlan and Pat Queen Jordheim (alumni and UND professor) from UND; Christiana Pond and two students from Dickinson State; Ben Shapiro and Kenard Booker and a student from NDSU.</li> </ul>

State	Utah

Officers	Rachel Lund – President Rebecca Tierney – Past President Jose Molinar – Secretary Jason Gibson - Treasurer
Date	August 2018
State News (include new initiatives, ongoing activities, meetings, change in officers, fundraising, professional development)	<ul> <li>Utah held a leadership conference for all High School aged TRIO participants. Southern Utah University hosted the event.</li> <li>101 students from across the state participated along with 18 staff. The event cost \$40 per participant for a total of \$4,760. The total cost of the event was \$4,166.</li> <li>SUU planned a wonderful conference and, by all accounts, it was a very successful event.</li> <li>Utah has confirmed a four-year rotation for office of the President with the President serving for 2 years.</li> <li>Elections for President Elect, Treasurer and Secretary will be held at the Regional conference in MT.</li> </ul>
Related Activities to COE	<ul> <li>We are working on developing our Alumni network by encouraging Alumni to join our Facebook group and creating an alumni video with Spraggins money.</li> <li>Utah met the 10 for 10 goal set by COE for Fair Share. Our President will be attending the Fair Share reception at the National COE conference in order to keep the momentum going.</li> </ul>
	STATE DEDODT

	Wyoming
State	

	п		
	Alison Grendahl, President-Elect/Treasurer		
Officers	Paul Hesco, Past President		
	Teffany Fegler, Secretary		
	Terri Meyers, Member At Large		
	August 2018		
Date			
	- In February, TRIO professionals in Wyoming celebrated Educational Access Day in the Wyoming capitol. TRIO		
State News (include new	Students from around the state traveled to Cheyenne, WY. Participants were from Upward Bound, Upward Bound		
	Math Science, McNair Scholars, and SSS programs. Activities included a dinner on February 12 <sup>th</sup> where students met		
initiatives, ongoing	with representatives from the three legislative offices in Wyoming (Senators Enzi and Barrasso, and House		
activities, meetings,	Representative Cheney) where a panel was held with representatives answering great questions about what they do.		
change in officers,	On February 13 <sup>th</sup> , students were introduced in the House and the Senate. Governor Mead then met with students and		
fundraising, professional	signed the Educational Access Day Proclamation. We had lunch with the Wyoming School superintendent, followed by a meeting with the Cheyenne Mayor (as she signed the Educational Access Day proclamation) and participated in a		
development)	mock trial in the Wyoming State Supreme Court. WY ASPIRE sponsored the dinner on 12 <sup>th</sup> , as well as lunch on the 13 <sup>th</sup> .		
• ,	Overall, it was a very successful event. Photos may be found on the Wyoming ASPIRE website.		
	Wyoming joined forces with Colorado for our spring State meeting the first week of April which we deemed WYCO.		
	This was a wonderful event, and the two states hope to combine events every other year. The Wyoming state meeting		
	is scheduled for Gillette, WY in 2019 and in Laramie (or Cheyenne) in 2020; at which time, we hope to have CO join us		
	once again.		
	-President Lori Brown-Wirth retired the end of May, 2018. At our Wyoming business meeting in April, Alison Grendahl,		
	who is finishing up her 2 year term as Treasurer, was elected to replace Lori. Alison is the Assistant Director for		
	Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science at the University of Wyoming. A new Treasurer was elected to		
	replace Alison. Paul Hesco agreed to stay on as Past President for another year.		
	Wyoming is at 54% of Fair Share as of this report. All Wyoming Institutional memberships are current. We did not		
	make the 10 for 10 by Feb. 15, 2018 so did not receive a Policy Seminar fee waiver. We still hope to achieve the 10 for		
	10 for 2018.		
	In December Wassiss what for the Book Supersise speaks halo with speaking a Wassis Seek Book Wasses and		
	In December, Wyoming wrote for the Paul Spraggins grant to help with creating a Wyoming Fact Book. We received		
	the Spraggins grant and plan to create an online and paper fact book.  Wyoming State President Lori Brown-Wirth and SEO Assistant Director at the University of Wyoming Michael Wade,		
	both attended Policy Seminar in Washington DC. They were joined by Dr. Carol Cheatham, a University of Wyoming		
Related Activities to COE	McNair Scholar alumnus. Dr. Cheatham is an Associate Professor and scientist in the Department of Psychology and		
	Neuroscience at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Cheatham shared a great story with Senators Enzi		
	and Barrasso, and House Representative Cheney on how TRIO and the McNair Scholars program helped her achieve		
	her academic goals.		

Goals for 2018	- A major goal for 2018 was met with the successful spring conference with Colorado. Future goals for 2018 include: - meeting Fair Share -meeting 10 for 10 next year - completion of Wyoming Fact Book – to be partially funded by the Paul Spraggins Grant

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE CHARGES	COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED AND PLANNED
Chair-Co Chair and Members	* Development regional marketing material in	Encourage use of ASPIRE Workplace
Dennis Stangl	conjunction with technology committee.	Invite COE members to use Workplace
Cynthia Ayala	* Use the ASPIRE webpage to list, sync, and	Encourage ASPIRE members to post to ASPIRE news
	distribute successful media relations to other regions, agencies, and COE	Encourage overall use of social media, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

# Narrative of Charges, activities or outcomes:

Using Sendgrid (e-mail marketing website) to send e-mail messages to members. This is also the same system that is used to send emails to people when they purchase items on our website or for any automatic communication via the website.

Update on ASPIRE Workplace, 180 users, 282 accounts. Currently there are 360 ASPIRE members.

Currently there were 26 people active using ASPIRE Workplace. The most active was 73 users on March 27.

See attached charts

18% of the use is Mobile. (17 mobile users)

3 active groups

Plan/discussed to invite COE members to use this system.

Encourage more members to submit news items to ASPIRE news also published on the front page.

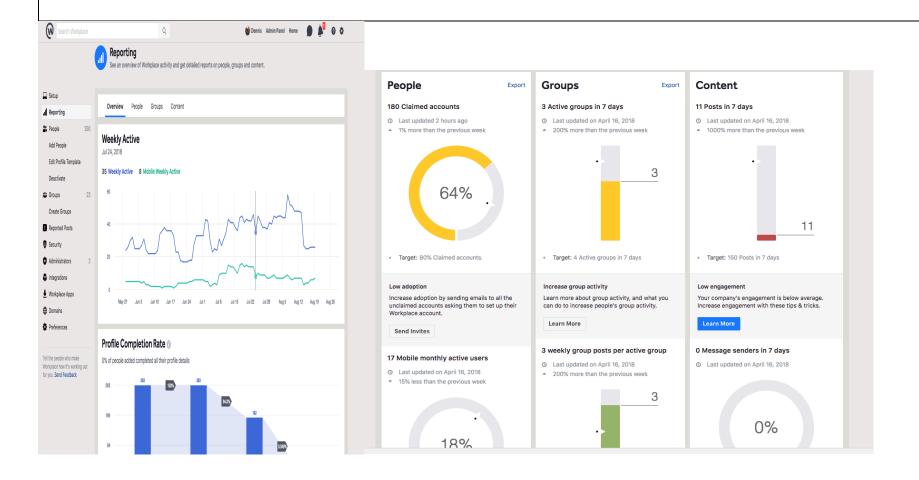
http://aspireonline.org/news/

Reminder this is what ASPIRE replaced the newsletter (ASPIRATIONS) with about five years ago.

ASPIRE does have the following social media accounts: Facebook, Workplace (only for ASPIRE members), Twitter, Instagram and Youtube.

Submitted by: Dennis Stangl

Date: 08/21/18



#### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE CHARGES	COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED AND PLANNED
Chair-Co Chair and Members  Rachel Lund  We have decided to start this committee over from scratch and will be recruiting members (past and any new) from each state that want to get involved or continue to be involved. We will hold our first meeting at the regional conference in MT.	<ul> <li>Assist with volunteer project at regional annual conference.</li> <li>Inspire help from membership for our regional conference service project</li> <li>Develop social justice program as part of established curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Planning a volunteer project for Regional conference.</li> <li>Researching what the established curriculum actually is so that we can establish it more fully in our region.</li> </ul>

# Narrative of Charges, activities or outcomes:

The University of Montana is starting a food pantry for students in need this fall. They would really love some help and support in getting the pantry up and running. We are asking attendees to bring canned goods. This may be somewhat of a challenge for those who are flying, but one can should not make or break their carryon.

The committee will start sending out emails to the general population and to those registered for the conference. We will also start sending a call to those who might be interested in helping the social justice committee.

Submitted by: Rachel Lund

Date: 08/21/2018

Membership C	ommittee Report		
Membership Conditions: 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. Committee Charges: Ensure membership information is up to date and continually	Goal Impact: Goal III: Strengthen ASPIRE's economic and organizational sustainability	<ul> <li>Committee Updates</li> <li>ASPIRE Membership as of August 31st, 2018 was at 366.</li> <li>We saw an increase of 24 members from the 2016-17 Membership Year where we ended with 342 members.</li> <li>We had 94 new members for 2017-18, which made up 26% of the membership.</li> <li>319 or 87% of memberships were purchased online, 40 or 11% were purchased via cash or check and the remaining 7 or 2% were Emeritus members who did not pay.</li> <li>Membership directory is now password protected to ensure member information is kept safe.</li> <li>Below is a breakdown of the current ASPIRE Membership.</li> </ul>
	updated.	% for the	
	Committee Relationship		
	My committee met 3		
		_ electronically, _x by phone, in person.	
		t you have worked with. <u>Conference Committee,</u>	
	Development Committe	e, and Awards Committee	

### COMMITTEE: DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHARGES COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED AND PLANNED

Co-Chairs: Jami Bayles & Kyle Ethelbah

Members:

CO – Caro Banuelos

MT – Dan Benge, Russ Lamson, Anna San Diego

ND – Ben Shapiro

SD – Becky Jensen

UT – Tami Shugart

WY – Brandi Roesener

# **Committee Charges**

- Ensure membership information is up to date and continually updated.
- 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.

76%

• Increase personal contributions. Project Memberships May Current

### PROJECT MEMBERSHIPS

	May	Current
Colorado	51%	55%
Montana	88%	92%
North Dakota	41%	41%
South Dakota	40%	50%
Utah	100%	100%
Wyoming	77%	<u>77%</u>
Total	67%	70%
COE Fair Share May Current		
Colorado		
	71%	131%
131%		
Montana		

31%

#### North Dakota

Total	69%	112%
	53%	118%
Wyoming		
Ctan	108%	143%
Utah	26%	83%
South Dakota	07/0	113/0
	69%	115%

### Narrative of Charges, activities or outcomes:

#### Purpose:

The Membership and Development Committee is responsible for promoting and increasing the ASPIRE membership through distribution of membership materials and providing information to new ASPIRE TRIO personnel. This committee also organizes fund- raising activities for ASPIRE Development and COE Fair Share campaigns. My committee has been meeting monthly via COE Conference calls for updates to COE Fair Share. A Google doc has been shared with committee members, which is updated on a consistent basis. Additional meetings are held by phone and email when needed.

**Submitted by: Jami Bayles** 

Date: 8/15/2018

Co-Chairs:	Purpose:	Strategic Goals:	Narrative:		
Kyle Ethelbah	The Native American Committee	Goal I: Provide			
Joseph Aguirre	coordinates training and professional	high-quality	The Native American Committee has primarily		
	development needs for personnel who	services to	worked in tandem with COE to deliver training		
	work with American Indian programs,	member	opportunities for Tribal College Personnel.		
	advocates for Native Americans within	institutions and			
	TRIO, and encourages participation through	agencies.	The committee formally invited Dr. Cynthia		
	professional development & best practices		Lindquist, President of Cikana Candeska		
	of Tribal Colleges within ASPIRE.	Goal II: Position ASPIRE	Community College to the 2017 ASPIRE Annual		
	TRIO Alumni Societies.	as a thought leader in	Conference. Dr. Lindquist met with the Native		
		the field of college	American Committee, including COE President,		
		access and success	Maureen Hoyler to discuss next steps.		
	Committee Charges:	% Complete			
	Coordinate with COE Native		Since the Conference, the committee has not		
	American engagement		formally organized anything directly related to		
	conversation.	100%	ASPIRE specifically, but has worked in partnership		
	Conduct annual leadership luncheon to		with COE to deliver an introductory webinar on the upcoming SSS grant competition on July 24,		
	staff from Tribal Colleges and		2018. This was followed up with an in person		
	Universities.	100%	training in connection with the American Indian		
	Provide professional development		Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Conference		
	opportunities for members within TCU		held in Polson, Montana on July 29, 2018.		
	structure.	0%	Tield III I Olson, Wortana on July 23, 2018.		
	Committee Relationships:		Next steps:		
	My committee met <u>1</u> times this year.		Plans are underway to provide professional		
	Meetings were held electronically,	by phone, _1 in	development opportunities at the regional		
	person.		conference in Missoula, MT in October, 2019.		
	List the committees that you have worked with.		The committee will make recommendations to		
	NA		allow TCU SSS grant proposals (from the last		
			competition) to be read and scored by COE to		
			give insight into opportunities for adjustment.		

## **2018 ASPIRE BOARD COMMITTEES AND UPDATES**

COMMITTEE: AWARDS	COMMITTEE CHARGES	COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED AND PLANNED
Chair: Jami Bayles Members: CO – Aaron Lucero MT – Cory Chenoweth ND – Dennis Stangl SD – Jeff Vostad UT – Tami Shugart WY – Jamie Manzanares	Establish timeline for awards process for 2018 ASPIRE Conference	Tasks Since May:  1.TRIO Achievers, Friend of ASPIRE, Rising Star, and Art Quinn awards have been selected, and individuals have been notified. 2. Most plaques have been ordered and will arrive next month.  3. Currently working with TRIO Achievers and arranging for transportation to the region conference. 4. Finalizing retiree list and will order plaques first of September. 5. Will send bios and pics of TRIO Achievers to conference chair to be included in conference program. 6. Confirmed Development awards and Membership awards.  Retirees: 4  New Members (1 year): 104  Five-year Member: 17  Ten-year Member: 6  Twenty, Twenty-five, and Thirty-year Member: 1 each  Thirty-five year Member: 2  OForty-year Member: 1

# Narrative of Charges, activities or outcomes:

# 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

Submitted by: Jami Bayles

Date: 8/15/2018

COMMI TTEE Professi onal Develo pment Emergi ng Leaders hip Institut e (ELI)	COMM ITTEE CHARG ES	COMM ITTEE ACTIVI TIES COMPL ETED AND PLANN ED	Committee Charges:  Conduct survey of membership to identify perceived professional development needs and preferred delivery mechanisms prior to each state meeting and the annual conference.  Investigate continued training opportunities open to other TRIO associations in areas like grant writing, legislation and regulation, budgeting, and best practices. Host trainings in an area that fosters attendance and cost saving measures for participants.  Establish a curriculum/faculty for the trainings and a create plan for advertisements.	
Chair- Co Chair and Membe rs Marilyn and Kyle	Cond uct surv ey of mem bers hip to identi fy perc eived profe ssion al devel opm ent	session during conferenc e (October		

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g, legisl ation and regul ation, budg eting, and best pract ices. Host trainings in an area that foste rs attendance and cost savin g mea sure s for participants.	
parti	
stablish a curriculum/ faculty for	
the trainings and a create plan for	

advertisem ents	

# Narrative of charges, activities or outcomes:

The Board approved to change the name of the leadership training to the ASPIRE Leadership Institute (ALI) for TRIO professionals in the region. Each state chapter has the opportunity to nominate a maximum of two TRIO members from their state to participate in this leadership development program. The current Executive Board and the incoming State Presidents have also been strongly encouraged to participate. The ALI faculty have been recruited and confirmed to include Oscar Felix, Andrea Reeve, Amy Verlanic, Paul Thayer, and Marilyn Thayer, who will be facilitating the first session this fall at the ASPIRE Regional Conference. The training curriculum has been developed and finalized.

Goals (Outcomes): Graduates of the ASPIRE Leadership Institute will

- Develop a greater understanding of the history and traditions of ASPIRE
- Develop skills and learn strategies for contributing to one's project, the state chapter, and the regional association
- Develop a plan for demonstrating newly acquired knowledge and competencies (run for office, chair a committee, or serve a mentor for new ASPIRE professionals
- Expand networking and building community within ASPIRE

**Submitted by:** Marilyn Thayer

and Kyle Ethelbah

**Date:** August 13, 2018