



ASPIRE BOARD MEETING
January 9, 2026
Virtual

Executive Board

President
Samantha Hill
President-Elect
Rafael Orozco
Past-President
Dariana Roybal
Treasurer
Lori Larson
Secretary
Susana Ruvalcaba

State Presidents

Colorado
Adrienne Shabandarian
Montana
Kelsey Anderson
North Dakota
Andrew Larson
South Dakota
Carol Voss-Ward
Utah
Jennie Hall
Wyoming
Morgen Patrick

Draft/Unapproved Minutes

- I. Call to Order 12:36pm MST/1:36pm CT**
- II. Appoint Parliamentarian**
 - a. Andrew Larson
- III. Roll Call/Establish Quorum**
 - a. All in attendance
 - b. Quorum established
- IV. Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Motion: Kelsey Anderson
 - b. Second: Andrew Larson
 - c. Voting: Motion Carries
- V. Approval of Minutes 10.2.25**
 - a. Motion: Andrew Larson
 - b. Second: Adrienne Shabandarian
 - c. Voting: Motion Carries
- VI. Old Business**
 - a. Colorado Region ASPIRE Conference report (2025)
 1. 4 Pending Registrations of \$2,046
 2. We will be receiving a \$7,131.48 (Lori received check on 1/9)
 3. Profit Estimated at \$15-20k
 - b. South Dakota Region ASPIRE Conference (2027)
 1. Hotel in Spearfish has been selected - Holiday Inn Spearfish
 2. New contract was generated and will be signed
 3. No food and beverage minimum
 4. Can Cancel conference 6 months in advance with no penalty

5. May board meeting will be in Spearfish at the Hotel
 6. Carol has staff in mind for Co-Chairs
- c. Wyoming Region ASPIRE Conference (2028)
 1. Morgen Patrick did research on locations
 - a) Laramie has no capacity
 - b) Casper has the Ram Cota, but not appearance or destination friendly
 - c) Cheyenne - Little America
 - d) Jackson - Snow King
 2. As of right now, Jackson seems like the best option

VII. Officer Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report
 1. Brenda is no longer a processor, moving forward we won't work directly with her.
 2. Mark will be the new processor for us. He has been updated with access to ASPIRE information
 3. Update of finances/audit will happen soon through the same company we've used
 4. Incorporation reports are due in February and has been taken care of
 5. Budget should be close to up to date, pending items are insurance and deposit conference refund
 6. Rafael Orozco and Kelley Kennedy have been issued credit cards
 7. President Samantha Hill had questions about creating her budget and line items
- b. Secretary's Report
 1. Uploading new approved minutes
 2. Updated Wyoming website board members
 3. State conferences registrations and websites
 - a) North Dakota Registration is done
 - (1) Big thank you to Susana for getting it set up
 - b) Wyoming
- c. President's Report
 1. Fair Share - All states met it
 2. Everyone met 10 for 10 as well and received Policy Seminar waivers
 3. MT and WY received spraggins grant this round, next one opens May 1st
 4. In November had 1:1 with state presidents to talk about events happening
 5. Adrienne's UB students participated in COE STEAM Symposium - represented ASPIRE: <https://vimeo.com/1145704031/86dc3c365d?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>
 6. Wants to establish community times moving forward to give updates and provide space together
 7. Ensure key districts are covered at Policy Seminar

VIII. Committees Reports

- a. Membership Update
 1. As of 1/9 we have 227 total ASPIRE Members
 - a) CO 76
 - b) MT 68
 - c) ND 24
 - d) SD 19
 - e) UT 25
 - f) WY 15
 2. 74 Emeritus Members
 3. Worked with ASPIRE accountant, in 2025 took in \$17,395 for personal

membership

- a) 25% rebate going back
 - (1) CO - 1286.25
 - (2) MT - 1163.75
 - (3) ND - 420
 - (4) SD - 472.50
 - (5) UT - 735
 - (6) WY - 271.25
4. Years of Service
 - a) 37 new members will receive pins
 - b) 11 receiving 5 year, 6 more can be added if pay membership
 - c) 5 with 10 years 2 more
 - d) 2 for 15 years, 2 more possible
 - e) 2 for 20 years, 1 possible
 - f) 4 at 25 years
 - g) Nobody currently at 30 but 1 possible
 - h) 1 person at 35 years
5. Dawn asked what budget would be for awards for this year and President Samantha Hill will review it in her budget and get back to her
6. Had challenges with memberships due to out of date operating guidelines online
 - a) Section 5.3 Benefits needs updated
 - b) Section 5.4 Membership information should be updated as well
 - c) Section 5.5 states membership chair is responsible for reports of personal and project membership but is two different people
7. Recommends adding roster of emeritus members on the website
- b. [Resource Development Update](#)
 1. Project Membership for ASPIRE - Each state tab has updated director contact information - let Jami Bayles know if your state needs updating
 - a) CO - 29%
 - b) MT - 54%
 - c) ND - 33%
 - d) SD - 33%
 - e) UT - 71%
 - f) WY - 58%
 2. Working on updating Personal Donations section for each state
 3. Fair Share
 - a) ASPIRE only has 2 expired programs, but has been for a while
 - b) ASPIRE institutions who have paid, have all paid
 - c) On each state tab is a report of institutional membership with expiration
 - d) All states met 10 for 10
 4. COE Communication
 - a) Wants a spreadsheet filled out with information needed regarding PR award numbers for SSS
 - b) They would have sent spreadsheet to all presidents, if you did not receive it, let President Samantha know
 5. Reminder: If you are a board member, we encourage donations
- c. ASPIRE Conference 2026 Update
 1. Lori has been working on a conference budget and will be done to be approved on Board Meeting January 30
 2. Committees are in the works and reaching out to staff in North Dakota
 3. Communicating with hotel to see if there are price changes from last year

4. Kelly is tech savvy and is working on that, Lori is working on logistics
5. Any and all feedback and ideas are welcome!
6. Kelly getting access to social media for a 50th anniversary countdown

IX. State Reports

a. Colorado

1. Highlights
 - a) TRIO Day coming up February 20th, at the Capitol in Denver (back up date February 27th)
 - b) Fundraiser is going on right now with Denver Nuggets, 25th of February game -\$10 of each ticket sold goes to CO ASPIRE
2. State Conference
 - a) April 27-29 in Alamosa, CO - Adams State University
 - b) TRIO on the Rio

b. Montana

1. Highlights
 - a) Student Leadership Conference for SSS Students April 10-12 in Missoula
 - b) Unfortunate turnover within the board
2. State Conference
 - a) February 22-24 in Pulsan, MT
 - b) From Spark to Flame

c. North Dakota

1. Highlights
 - a) In December, had turnover in Secretary position but has interim
 - b) TRIO Day efforts have been planned around the state, Valentines Weekend
2. State Conference
 - a) Co-State with SD - Golden Prairies Golden Opportunities
 - b) March 30-April 1 in Bismarck, ND

d. South Dakota

1. Highlights
 - a) Nathan Bylander is President-Elect and is excited for his leadership
 - b) TRIO Day will be highlighted at rival basketball game
2. State Conference
 - a) Co-State with ND

e. Utah

1. Highlights
 - a) Alumni Dinner at UVU
 - b) Newsletter going out to get information to create Utah ASPIRE video
 - c) TRIO Day activities are in the works
2. State Conference
 - a) Blanding, UT
 - b) April 16-17

f. Wyoming

1. Highlights
 - a) Christina Millemon is working on the factbook for Policy Seminar
 - b) Have 2 registered to attend Policy Seminar
 - c) TRIO Day plans are in the works - February 25
2. State Conference
 - a) April 15-17 - Sheridan, WY
 - b) Facing the Future

X. New Business

- a. 2026 Committees & Charges
 1. Bylaws
 - a) Post updated on the website
 - b) Add Statements in Operating Guidelines regarding conference funds used for Policy Seminar
 2. Conference
 - a) Lori Larson and Kelly Kennedy Co-Chairs
 3. Finance
 - a) Samantha Hill and Lori Larson Co-Chairing
 - b) Members Rafael Orozco and Andrew Larson
 4. Government Relations
 - a) Mike Wade and Rafael Orozco Co-Chair
 - b) Members: Adrienne, Kelsey, Theresa, Andy, Nathan, Jennie, Christina
 5. ASPIRE Membership
 - a) Dawn Eckhardt and Susana Ruvalcaba Co-Chairs
 6. Resource Development
 - a) Jami Bayles and Christina Millemon Co-Chair
 - b) Members are current presidents
 - c) Monthly meetings with COE
 7. TRIO Alumni
 - a) Adrienne Shabandarian and Rafael Orozco Co-Chair
 - b) Members: Edith Gonzalez, Ann Willcockson, Andrew Larson, Carol Voss-Ward, Michael Campbell, Christina Millemon
 - c) Alumni Event at 50th Anniversary
 - d) Align with COE alumni outreach
 8. Native American
 - a) Carol Voss-Ward Chair
 - b) Members: Kelsey Anderson, Sunshine Gaither, Adrienne Shabandarian, potentially staff from CU Boulder
 - c) Explore reactivating this committee
 - d) Reach out to tribal colleges, talk about ASPIRE support
 9. ASPIRE Leadership Development
 - a) Lori Larson and Andrew Larson Co-Chair
 - b) Would like to see something related to this at the 2026 Conference
 - c) Getting materials from Paul and Marilyn Thayer
 10. State Initiatives
 - a) Samantha Hill and Rafael Orozco Co-Chair
 - b) Members: State Presidents
 - c) Spraggins Grant
 11. Public Relations
 - a) Susana Ruvalcaba Chair
 - b) Supervise created of new email accounts
 - c) New way to communicate with region
 12. Scholarship
 - a) Andrew Larson Chair
 - b) In charge of distributing Andrea Reeve Scholarship
 13. Community Advancement
 - a) Jennie Hall Chair
 - b) Support regional trainings and service project
 14. President's Legacy Council

a) Dariana Roybal Chair
Motion to accept committees and charge Andy, Kelsey, Motion Carries

- b. 2026 ASPIRE Budget
 - 1. Expensive to balance revenue and assets
 - 2. President Samantha Hill reviewed her budget with the Board to be approved January 30th
 - 3. Keep in mind Presidents Legacy is in both President and Conference Budget
 - 4. Adrienne Shabandarian suggests budget for alumni event at 50th anniversary event
- c. ASPIRE Board Hub
 - 1. Will create regional emails to house ASPIRE documentation
 - 2. Email ownership will change in leadership change

XI. Good of the Order

- a. Thank you to Rafael and CU Denver for covering expenses for COE Board travel, has helped with ASPIRE saving funds
- b. ASPIRE Zoom Links - ASPIRE Pays \$40 a month, and in April contract is renewed
- c. This year is 40th Anniversary of TRIO Day - States send in information for communication, social media
- d. Spraggins Grant - Samantha Hill will set up 1:1 meetings with those who received it in December

XII. Adjourn 2:51 MST

- a. Motion: Carol Voss-Ward
- b. Second: Jennie Hall
- c. Voting: Motion Carries