

2005 -2006 Annual Report



Submitted to Membership
October 8, 2006



2005-2006 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:

www.aspire-online.org

www.coenet.us

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html



President's Summary of Accomplishments

Submitted By: Amy L. Verlanic

October 7, 2006

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 last year compiles to quite a list of accomplishments toward that two fold mission.

Professional Development Accomplishments for 2005- 2006

- 25% of regional membership revenue was granted back to the states to fund professional development at the state level (or other purposes as approved by the state associations).
- Six state meeting were held in the spring, with regional presence and contributions at each.
- ASPIRE had numerous participants attend the Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. prior to Policy Seminar.
- A Financial Aid presentation was provided as a pre-conference event to the annual conference.
- ASPIRE actively promoted COE's study abroad and National Student Leadership Congress opportunities for TRIO students.
- Leadership Development Institute with three separate tracks will be held October 7 & 8, 2006.
- A technology pre-conference workshop is offered October 7 & 8, 2006.
- Regional Conference will be held October 8 – 11, 2006 in Missoula, MT, with representatives from COE and Department of Education on the agenda as well as 18 concurrent sessions.
- Regional Student Leadership Congress will be held November 9-11, 2006 in Riverton, WY.
- The ASPIRE Training Institute hosted three trainings nation-wide and served 200 TRIO professionals.

Legislative Advocacy Accomplishments for 2005-2006

- Provided matching grants to all six states to host state initiative events.
- Promoted TRIO day activities within the region and encouraged the incorporation of community-service/service-learning into TRIO days activities and projects.
- Granted portion travel stipends to state presidents and board members to attend Policy seminar, making 26 congressional visits.
- Secured signatures from national legislators on the Cole/Payne and Collins/Lincoln letters requesting reinstatement of TRIO funds.
- Secured signatures from national legislators requesting a 10% increase.



- ASPIRE remained a valued and supportive region to COE by:
 - Meeting 110% (\$125,937 of \$124,597 goal) of COE Fairshare.
 - CO 88%, MT 111%, ND 118%, SD 93%, UT 88%, and WY 132%
 - Curtis Sandberg elected as COE Treasurer.
 - Curtis Sandberg served on the Budget/Finance, Personnel, and Strategic Planning committees.
 - Amy Verlanic served on the By-laws, State Initiative, Leadership Development, Technology & Education, and Resource Development committees.
 - Allyn Kostecki served on the Conference Evaluation, Professional Standards, International Access, and TRIO Achievers' committees.



ASPIRE Membership Benefits and Numbers

In support of ASPIRE, Inc.'s mission and as defined by the strategic plan, each state had a goal to have at least 50% of the professional TRiO employees in their state join ASPIRE by paying the professional membership fee. If the state had previously met 50%, they were asked to achieve a 5% increase over last year's membership's numbers. Each state was also asked to recruit a minimum of 40 student/volunteer memberships.

2005 – 2006 Membership Statistics by State							
State Name	Number of TRiO Programs	Number of GEAR UP and other EOPs	Number of Employees	Number of Professional Members		Percentage of Professional Memberships (Professional & Associate)	Number of Student Memberships
				Professional	Associate		
Colorado	39	5	225	94	5	44%	3
Montana	26	3	168	81	7	52%	4
North Dakota	17	0	88	40	1	47%	0
South Dakota	12	1	102	34	0	33%	15
Utah	26	4	150	76	3	53%	0
Wyoming	12	1	78	35	5	51%	0

Data sources:

- *Number of Programs: COE Directory of TRiO and GEAR UP Programs.*
- *Number of Employees: ASPIRE employee directory information (unpublished) gathered in December 2005.*
- *Number of Members: Membership applications processed for 2005-2006.*

Membership benefits ASPIRE, Inc. by providing; an operating budget, and a cadre of competent professionals to serve as leaders on the board and committees, and a team to implement grassroots responses to COE's action alerts.

Membership benefits the TRiO professional by;

- A subscription to the professional journal, ASPIRATIONS.
- A program and personnel directory including the names, addresses, phone and e-mail for the entire region.
- An annual conference that provides professional development.
- State meetings and workshops provide the opportunity to develop working relationships.
- Leadership development training for individuals' interested in serving their TRiO students in a larger role.
- Newcomers training and mentoring, provides technical assistance and support.
- Student Leadership Development at the national and regional level expands the amount and scope of support your program can provide your pre-college students.
- International Access program at the national level expands the amount and scope of opportunities you can provide your college students.
- Grant writing support is scheduled at annual conference and other times as needed.



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ASPIRE, INC. 2005-2006 Committee Chairs

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Committee Chair</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>
Archivist	Pam Richardson	richards@uwyo.edu
Awards	Juli Larson	Juliannal Larson@bhsu.edu
By-Laws/Operating Guidelines	Curtis Sandberg	ctsandb@uwyo.edu
Conference – 2007	Paulette McIntosh	mcintosp@mscd.edu
Conference -- 2006	Lynn Farris	lfarris@fvcc.edu
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Development	Carol Gritts	carolgritts@bhsu.edu
Elections	Brian Pilcher & John Kelley	bpilcher@umwestern.edu john.m.kelley@colostate.edu
Finance	Krisan Crow	Krisan.Crow@colostate.edu
Financial Aid	Cody McMichael	CodyMcMichael@bhsu.edu
Governmental Relations	Cheryl Kingsbury	cherylkingsbury@und.nodak.edu
International Access	Oscar Felix	oscar.felix@colostate.edu
Membership	Dawn Eckhardt	dawneckhardt@mail.und.nodak.edu
Multi-Ethnic Advocacy	Aaron Poor Bear	apoorbea@usd.edu
National TRiO Day		
Personnel	Amy Verlanic	averlanic@mtech.edu
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TRiO Alumni	Billie James	bjames@usd.edu



ASPIRE Strategic Plan

*Drafted January 2005
Adopted May 11, 2005*

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”. In order to achieve this mission, the board has established seven (7) strategic goals for 2005-2007.

Strategic Goal #1

Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP, and other Educational Opportunity Programs.

Objective(s):

- Increase membership communication of issues related to activities that ensure continued existence (support dissemination at state level through ASPIRATIONS, state newsletter, web pages, state conferences)
- Facilitate communication and awareness of current issues (legislation, regulations, DOE)
- Train membership and leadership to best advocate for students, programs, opportunities (policy preparation and training, regional/state conference)
- Ensure support at each state/regional meeting

Responsible Parties:

State Chapters	Executive Board
Governmental Relations	Membership
Conference	Publication
Public Relations	State Initiative

Strategic Goal #2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Objective(s):

- Look for opportunities of partnership (training, networking)
- Disseminate information regarding benefits of membership and how the funds are being utilized (professional development, services to students, etc.)
- Solicit individual private donations
- Solicit corporate sponsorships at a minimum of \$500 per state and provide advertising for these sponsors
- Advertise regional conference nationally and encourage out of region conference attendance



- Achieve the following membership goals; 50% of eligible professional memberships or a 10% increase from prior year per state, 40 student memberships per state, and 83% of projects will purchase project memberships per state.
- Provide tools and resources for states to increase membership
- Increase communication on a personal level with state membership committee chairs
- Maintain a presence with seasoned professionals as well as new comers
- Develop a multi-year fund development plan that identifies specific responsibilities for all committees

Responsible Parties:

State Chapters	Executive Board
Corporate Development	Development
Conference	Student Leadership Congress
Membership	Finance
National TRiO Day	Publications
Training and Professional Development	TRiO Alumni

Strategic Goal #3:

Provide professional development opportunities to the members of ASPIRE.

Objective(s):

- Develop and disseminate a needs assessment for training at regional/state conferences
- Identify other models training for professional development
- Encourage membership to participate in training grant and national opportunities
- Encourage membership to attend other state meetings as a means for professional development
- Schedule ATI trainings to be pre-conference event with regional
- Increase non-regional conferences and other model opportunities
- Conduct state and locally based training

Responsible Parties:

State Chapters	Executive Board
Conference	Staff Training/Professional Development
Personnel	Student Leadership Congress
Publications	Public Relations

Strategic Goal #4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Objective(s):

- Provide information to membership regarding current issues
- Distribute ASPIRATIONS to policy makers



- Provide training on how to be more effective when meeting policy makers
- Facilitate collection of information for professionals in states within the region
- Provide a forum where educational access issues can be addressed and invite law makers to attend
- Provide a forum to research issues by state and region (links to state web sites, legislative home pages, etc.)

Responsible Parties:

State Chapters	Executive Board
Publications	Governmental Relations
State Initiative	Conference
Public Relations	

Strategic Goal #5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities.

Objective(s):

- Promote utilization of ASPIRE listserv
- Publish ASPIRATIONS tri-annually
- Update ASPIRE website, quarterly at a minimum
- Host annual conference (to include pre-conference offerings)
- Continue providing networking and training opportunities for newcomers
- Encourage state associations to incorporate networking with outside entities (COE, ATI, Department of Ed TRiO training, state initiatives, corporate development)

Responsible Parties:

State Chapters	Executive Board
Public Relations	Training and Professional Dev.
Publications	State Initiative
Conference	Corporate Development
Multi Ethnic Advocacy	

Strategic Goal #6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Objective(s):

- Promote student leadership congress participation at the COE, regional and state level
- Increase student participation in TRiO Day activities and understanding the purpose of TRiO
- Enable students to pursue and participate in study abroad
- Empower students to advocate for their needs at Policy Seminar
- Encourage student membership in regional association
- Introduce student track at regional conference



Responsible Parties:

State Chapters	Executive Board
Student Leadership Congress	Public Relations
TRiO Day	International Access
Governmental Relations	Conference
Membership	TRiO Achievers
Awards	Financial Aid

Strategic Goal #7:

Strengthen linkage relationship to state associations.

Objective(s):

- Support state presidents to attend Policy Seminar
- Provide resources for state presidents to attend ASPIRE board meeting
- Provide training on leadership skills to membership
- Commit ASPIRE leaders to attend state meetings
- Offer grant opportunities for state initiatives
- Schedule state meetings at the regional conference
- Rely on state association support for development initiatives

Responsible Parties:

State Chapters	Executive Board
Governmental Relations	Membership
State Initiative	Public Relations
Training/Professional Development	Elections



Strategic Goals Responsible Party	1. Advocate for programs and activities that ensure the continued existence of TRiO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP, and other Educational Opportunity Programs.	2. Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.	3. Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.	4. Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.	5. Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.	6. Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.	7. Strengthen state associations.
State Associations	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ATI		√	√				√
Archivist	√						
Awards						√	
By-Laws/Op. Guidelines	√						
Conference	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Corporate Development		√			√		
Development		√					
Elections							√
Executive Board	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Finance		√					
Financial Aid						√	
Governmental Relations	√			√		√	√
International Access						√	
Membership	√	√				√	√
Multi-Ethnic Advocacy					√		
National TRiO Day		√				√	
Personnel							
Professional Standards							
Public Relations	√			√	√	√	√
Publications	√	√	√	√	√		
State Initiative	√			√	√		√
Strategic Plan							
Student Leadership Congress		√				√	
Training/Professional Development		√	√		√		√
TRiO Achievers						√	
TRiO Alumni		√					



MONTANA CHAPTER OF ASPIRE ANNUAL REPORT to BOARD

President: Angelina M. Levandowski

Board Members: Jamie Schell – President -Elect
Annette Kankelborg – Secretary/Treasurer

Date: October 4, 2006

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:

- Dan Benge, Michele Watson, Amy Verlanic, Rene Dubay, and Angelina Levandowski all attended the Policy Seminar Conference sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education in March, 2006. We met with the aides of both of our senators and we had the honor of meeting with Representative Denny Rehberg. Both Sen. Conrad Burns and Sen. Max Baucus have signed on to the letter supporting a \$100 M dollar increase for TRIO programs and Rep. Rehberg has given a verbal commitment of support. Dan Benge continues to nurture relationships with the three Montana congressional offices. His work is to be commended.
- The Montana Chapter of ASPIRE printed the 2006 version of the MT TRIO Fact Book highlighting TRIO achievers from each of the different TRIO programs in our state. The book contains a picture of the student, a narrative of their personal story, statistics on each program, and then statistics on all TRIO programs in Montana. 500 copies of the fact book were passed out at our state meeting to be distributed by TRIO professionals throughout Montana.
- We are currently working with Senator Burns' educational aide, Chris Eyler, to convince the Senator to write a letter to Secretary Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education, opposing the absolute priority released in the federal register for Upward Bound proposals. Mr. Eyler has received approximately 10 phone calls and 5 emails from Montana TRIO professionals educating him on the issue. He has also participated in a conference call with the US Department of Education regarding the issue.
- The governmental relations committee is also working with Representative Dennis Rehberg's office providing information on the impact TRIO programs have in Montana tribal colleges and with Native American students.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Below is the most current information regarding the involvement of Montana TRIO professionals in the state and region that includes Institutional Memberships, Project Memberships, personal contributions and COE Subscriptions.

Number of TRIO personnel in MT	143
Number of Regional Members	85 (59%)
Number of State Members	3
Number of Student Members	1
Number of Regional non-TRIO	1
Number of Institutional Members	12/17

Number of Project Members 21/26

* Through the membership drive, 21 out of 26 projects have project memberships or have indicated that they are submitting project membership forms.

Number of Project Subscriptions 15/26

Number of people who personally contributed 4

COE Fair Share 111%

Regional membership dues

Institutional membership dues

Subscription fees

Annual Giving Campaign

(Report submitted by Dan Benge, Membership Chair of MT ASPIRE)

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- On April 2-4, 2006 we hosted our annual spring meeting at the Holiday Inn Parkside in Missoula, MT. We had almost 90 TRIO professionals in attendance and enjoyed listening to great keynote speakers and breakout presenters. Former Representative Pat Williams gave a keynote address entitled, "How to Effectively Communicate with Your Congressman". Julie Cajune, Tribal Histories Coordinator at Salish Kootenai College also gave a keynote address entitled, "Indian Education for All: Implications and Opportunities for TRIO Programs". Breakout presenters included Iris HeavyRunner-PrettyPaint (American Indian Retention), Peg Shea (MT Meth Project), Terri Gruba (Solving Unique Financial Aid Situations), Rene Dubay and Jamie Schell (Going Through a Site Visit from the U.S. Dept. of Ed) and Darlene Samson and Salena Hill (Developing a Mentor Program). The spring meeting was a great success.
- The regional ASPIRE conference will be held in Missoula, Montana on October 7-11, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Parkside. Lynn Farris, TRIO director from Flathead Valley Community College, has served as the conference chair. The conference will offer the Leadership Development Institute, a

pre-conference workshop on financial aid, and a technology workshop hosted by the University of Washington TRIO training grant. In addition, the conference boasts noteworthy keynote speakers and breakout presenters, organized by agenda co-chairs Ray Carlisle and Florence Garcia. Many other members of MT-ASPIRE also contributed in the organization of the regional conference. We hope it is worthwhile for all that attend and welcome all ASPIRE members to our state!

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We periodically call our congressional offices to see if they need any information or help from the Montana TRIO programs.
- We sent formal letters of thanks to both Senator Max Baucus and Senator Conrad Burns for signing on to the letter supporting a \$100M increase for TRIO programs.
- We encourage TRIO professionals to distribute the MT TRIO fact book to school administrators, teachers, parents, school board members, local legislators, and community members.
- Dr. Arnold Mitchem visited the University of Montana Upward Bound Career Day Seminar on July 19, 2006. Dr. Mitchem gave a keynote address to Upward Bound students and also attended a luncheon hosted by the President of UM, George Dennison. During his stay in Montana he met with former Montana Representative Pat Williams and traveled to Helena, MT to meet with the Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRIO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We continue to keep our website up to date at www.mtaspire.org
- We regularly forward messages from COE to the state membership using an email distribution list of paid members of ASPIRE or MT ASPIRE.
- Thanks to a mini-grant written by Amy Verlanic, we hosted our first ever MT TRIO Alumni reception in conjunction with our state meeting. We had approximately 15 alumni attend and learn about the importance of advocating for TRIO programs. It was very inspiring to sit around the table and hear everyone's stories. It was also the start of a MT TRIO Alumni Association.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- In June, 2006 all six MT Upward Bound programs gathered in Kalispell, MT at Flathead Valley Community College to attend the Upward Bound Olympics event.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- At the state meeting, the MT ASPIRE membership voted in favor of filing for recognition as a 501-C3 non-profit organization with the state of Montana. The fee will cost \$20.00. Once that is completed we will look further into finishing the process.



NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF ASPIRE ANNUAL REPORT to BOARD

President: Karen Grabanski

Board Members: Steve Schanandore, Treasurer
Dawn Eckhardt, Secretary and President Elect

Date: September 20, 2006

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:

- Networking activities: Schedule appointments with campus organizations and Educational departments to talk about TRiO services. Distribute PR material to community organizations that can share TRiO information with their clientele.
- Encourage attendance of ASPIRE state and regional conferences: The North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE held its spring meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota, on April 10 and 11, 2006. TRiO personnel and ASPIRE members were brought up-to-date on current issues, attended professional development activities, and took advantage of networking opportunities. The next meeting will take place during the fall regional conference in Missoula, Montana, October, 2006.
- Relay messages: to ND TRiO personnel from COE and ASPIRE/Governmental Relations Chairperson to keep them up-to-date on current issues.
- Encourage membership in ASPIRE: to take advantage of the professional development and networking opportunities.
- Advertise (network) TRiO Programs: to University audience through various venues (SSS and McNair information to housing resident assistants, window displays in prominent area on campus, table tents in several dining service areas.
- Publish TRiO accomplishments: in local newspapers.
- Develop and encourage participation in State Initiative activities: Possible state initiative activities were discussed and encouraged at the spring meeting in Bismarck, ND.
- Provide professional development activities at ASPIRE State meetings for TRiO personnel: Professional development activities for TRiO personnel took place at the North and South Dakota Co-State meeting held April 10 and 11, 2006, in Bismarck, ND.
- Improve communication with TRiO alumni: Each year, alumni are invited to travel to the COE Policy Seminar in Washington DC. Alumni will be personally contacted by TRiO

personnel with invitations to upcoming TRiO Day events. Efforts are being made to improve communication with current TRiO students about becoming TRiO alumni.

- Directors and Assistant Directors from across the state attended the National COE Conference in New York.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encourage membership in ASPIRE: Dawn Eckhardt (membership chair) is in the process of reminding and encouraging ASPIRE Membership.
- Continue to update PR publication to give to current and prospective supporters of TRiO.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provide professional development activities for TRiO personnel at ASPIRE State meetings.
- Several professional development activities were offered to participants attending the spring biennial co-state meeting of the North and South Dakota Chapters of ASPIRE.
- UND Conflict Resolution Center: “When Work Gets Stressful: Help Yourself and Others”
- Ann Dolence: Motivational Speaker: “Success! Easy as A, B, G?”
- Dakota Good House: Tribal History
- Charlie Luecke, Creating Portfolios
- Laura Teigen, Band of North Dakota: Update on Student Financial Aid

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Work closely with the Council for Opportunity in Education and the ASPIRE Governmental Relations Chairperson: Pass along messages and action alerts to TRiO personnel across the state.
- Distribute fact books about TRiO Programs to community organizations.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encourage attendance: ASPIRE state meeting and the regional ASPIRE conference, where TRiO personnel may take advantage of professional development and networking opportunities.
- Always working on networking: within various departments across local campuses.

- Networking within community: by working with various organizations such as the Adult Learning Center, Job Service, etc. Networking with community and campus organizations by asking them to participate in SSS student classroom service learning projects. Attending faculty meetings and resident halls across campus to inform them about TRiO services. Inviting various departments to present at noon “Lunch and Learn” meetings for student self-enhancement, i.e., Career Services – student strategies; Leadership – Attitude and Opportunities The Student Health Promotion Team presenting, “Strategies for managing stress,” Counseling Center presenting on self esteem.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provide professional development activities at ASPIRE state meeting: Several professional development activities were offered at the North and South Dakota Co-State meeting, which was held April 10 and 11, 2006, in Bismarck, ND. (See strategic goal number 3).

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encourage ASPIRE membership and attendance of state meetings: Encouragement through email messages via the ND. Chapter of ASPIRE listserv, registration packets containing a letter from the state president, an agenda for the meeting, including professional development activities, and ASPIRE membership forms were sent in advance of the meeting.
- Encourage attendance of the ASPIRE Regional Conference: Relay information and updates from Conference Chair to TRiO personnel via the state listserv.
- Relay messages from COE and ASPIRE Governmental Relations Chair to ND TRiO personnel.



UTAH CHAPTER OF ASPIRE QUARTERLY REPORT

President: Barney Nye

Board Members: Kim Coon-Domacilio – President Elect
Jonathan Morrill – Past-President
Jami Bayles – Treasurer
Kristina Fox – Secretary

Date: May 15, 2006

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:

- State TRiO Day proclamation signing was held with Governor Huntsman and state legislators on February 23, 2006.
- Four (4) scholarships in the amount of \$500 each were given to TRiO students in Utah.
- The state TRiO Day celebration was held at Salt Lake Community College on February 17, 2006, staffers from Representative Bishop, Matheson and Cannon's office were in attendance.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Utah Chapter of ASPIRE has begun preliminary investigations into the requirements and procedures for becoming a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
- The Raffle and Silent Auction at the regional conference was organized by Jami Bayles (College of Eastern Utah) and generated thousands of dollars in revenue for the region.
- A raffle & silent auction was conducted at the Utah Chapter of ASPIRE Conference in March which generated \$1077.56.
- The Utah Chapter of ASPIRE Conference generated \$3272.69 in profits.
- The State President in concert with the State Treasurer are working on solidifying the role of the Treasurer position in Utah and ensuring that regular communication and reconciliation of budget information occurs with the Regional Treasurer and, if necessary, the ASPIRE Accountant.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Utah Chapter of ASPIRE Conference was organized by the Student Support Services staff at Utah State University and held March 29-31, 2006.

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- A state call in campaign initiated by COE was carried out throughout the state and nearly 150 TRiO personnel in Utah received information regarding how to contact their legislators to ensure that Utah's Congressional delegation was aware of the threats to TRiO.
- State Senators and Representatives will be invited to the Governor's TRiO Day proclamation signing in February.
- A governmental relations committee chaired by the state president will be formed by March to coordinate relations with the state and federal senators and representatives in all of Utah's districts.
- Representative Matheson (member of the TRiO Caucus) signed on to the Cole/Payne letter requesting an \$100 Million increase for TRiO.
- Representative Bishop also signed on to the Cole/Payne letter and now recognizes the importance of people.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We are in the process of selecting a representative from each college campus to act as an information liaison to the state secretary in publishing a monthly email to be sent to all TRiO personnel in the state detailing activities at every TRiO program.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Regional Student Leadership Congress was held in November, 2006, in Salt Lake City and included many Upward Bound & Talent Search students from throughout the region.
- State Student Leadership Congress was held January 13-14, 2006, at the Utah Valley State College campus in Orem and included Upward Bound and Talent Search student from throughout Utah
- A group of Student Support Services personnel has form a committee to examine a possible SSS version of the Student Leadership Congress. Donna Jordan-Allen of the University of Utah TRiO programs is leading the effort.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The addition of the state Student Leadership Congress has added to the Utah Chapter of ASPIRE Conference in helping build cohesive relationships throughout the state.
- The roles of each position of the State Executive Board will be further defined and clarified during the current president's administration to ease transition from year to year.
- The membership of standing committees in the state will be determined a minimum of one month prior to the Regional conference to allow the committee to meet and make a strategic plan at the regional conference.



WYOMING CHAPTER OF ASPIRE ANNUAL REPORT

President: Sher Warren

Board Members: Pam Richardson, President Elect
Michael Wade, Past President
Juliet Daniels, Treasurer
Dawn Kiesel, Secretary

Date: September 2006

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:

- President attended one statewide GEAR-UP meeting to provide information on the Wyoming Chapter of ASPIRE and to encourage membership
- President attended the 2006 COE Seminars on Leadership, Policy, and Relations with the Department of Education
- The chapter hosted the 2006 Wyoming Educational Access Day (TRiO Day) at the state capitol in February
- President responded to all COE and ASPIRE alerts for action.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- President encouraged membership from newly hired statewide GEAR-UP staff
- President challenged the Chapter membership to make personal donations to ASPIRE and COE.
- Past President made contacts with individual projects to encourage contributions, publication subscriptions, and project memberships.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provided specific training to the chapter membership on the statewide Hathaway scholarship and the effects of the scholarship on financial aid award packages.
- Conducted a state meeting in spring 2006 with a focus on state initiative.

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Conducted a state meeting in spring 2006 with a focus on state initiative.
- President reported to the chapter membership on the COE Policy Seminar outcomes

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provided e-mail communications to the membership periodically throughout the year, encouraging communications
- President visited several projects in the state throughout the year.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provided TRiO/GEAR-UP students with training prior to Wyoming Educational Access Day including: meeting and communicating with public officials, basics of state legislative processes, and presenting information on TRiO to public officials.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encouraged GEAR-UP staff to join ASPIRE
- Working on state chapter incorporation as a 501.3C organization



ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Chair: Pam Richardson

Date: September 12, 2006

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Collection of Aspire documents continues
- Planning for moving archives from storage at Aspire Training grants office has begun



AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Juli Larson

Committee Members: Michelle Gasek (MT) Mary Fredricks (ND)
Marilu Duncan (WY) Katie Young (UT)
Ryan Ross (CO) Andrea Schneider (SD)

Date: September 19, 2006

2006 Budget Request: \$ 2,300

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Solicited nominations from the membership for the Rising Star, Friend of ASPIRE and Champion of TRiO awards and winners were determined by the committee
- Notified nominators of the final selections and asked them to invite the recipients to the ASPIRE Conference and to provide biographies and photos if possible to the agenda chair
- Updated the length of membership records to determine the recipients of the 5-year, 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, 25-year and 30-year membership awards
- Decided on the gift for the 30-year award
- Solicited names of retirees from State Presidents. Five retirees were named
- Ordered awards for the Membership awards, the Art Quinn Memorial Award, the TRiO Achievers and the retirees



CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Darlene Samson

Committee Members: Rob Rust
Chris Long
Ray Carlisle (helped but not part of committee)
Amy Verlanic

Date: September 18, 2006

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Developed fundraising materials to solicit businesses for financial support.
- Missoula Coke Company made a \$200 donation
- Missoula Target Store contributed a \$15 gift care to be used for the ASPIRE Raffle Basket
- A grant proposal was submitted to Washington Corporation for \$1,000. They graciously awarded ASPIRE the full request.
- Vermier Graphics from Anaconda, MT provided the conference bags at cost and did not charge for any of the screen printing services.
- DJ Doc Savage from Anaconda, MT provided his services at a discount.
- Dunnuck CPA from Laramie, WY sponsored the non alcoholic beverages served at the President's Reception.



DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Carol Gritts

State Development Leaders: Alethea Stovall, Colorado
Dan Benge, Montana
Karen Grabanski, North Dakota
Andrea Schneider, South Dakota
Jonathan Morrell, Utah
Michael Wade, Wyoming

Date: October 2006

Strategic Goal #2
Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

COUNCIL FOR OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION (COE) FAIR SHARE

ASPIRE achieved 107% of the COE Fair Share for their Fiscal Year (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006). Fair Share for COE includes Regional Dues, Institutional Memberships, Publication Package (Equality) Subscriptions, and Personal Donations.

THANKS to all who contributed to the COE Fair Share Campaign for it is only with the participation of all the TRiO Institutions, Projects, and Personnel that ASPIRE is able to achieve the Fair Share!

ASPIRE FAIR SHARE

ASPIRE Fair Share includes Project Memberships and Personal Donations. The Development Year is from September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2006.

For 2005 the total amount contributed for ASPIRE Project Memberships and Personal Donations was \$9,982.84. Of the amount possible for Project Memberships, the percentage of contributions was as follow:

Colorado	27% - 1% more than the previous year (12 of 42 Projects Participated)
Montana	80% - 40% more than the previous year (20 of 26 Projects Participated)
North Dakota	47% - 6% more than the previous year (8 of 17 Projects Participated)

South Dakota	73% - 28% more than the previous year (11 of 15 Projects Participated)
Utah	22% - 23% less than the previous year (6 of 27 Projects Participated)
Wyoming	75% - 30% more than the previous year (8 of 12 Projects Participated)

The following Projects are to be commended for being the first to contribute to the ASPIRE Fair Share fundraising campaign for the Development Year which began September 1, 2006.

Community College of Denver	Educational Opportunity Center
University of Montana Western	Student Support Services, Upward Bound Math/Science
University of North Dakota EOC,	McNair, Student Support Services, Talent Search,
	Upward Bound
Southern Utah University	Talent Search, Upward Bound

The following Project is to be commended for being the first to contribute to the ASPIRE Fair Share fundraising campaign for the Development Year which began September 1, 2006 and the first to contribute to the fundraising campaign for the Development Year which will begin September 1, 2007.

AIMS Community College	Student Support Services
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Again, THANKS to all who contributed to ASPIRE Fair Share! Your support of ASPIRE is greatly appreciated.

PROJECT MEMBERSHIPS

COLORADO

Adams State College	Talent Search
Colorado State University	Educational Opportunity Center Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound
Community College of Denver	Educational Opportunity Center Talent Search
Fort Lewis College	Student Support Services
Greeley Dream Team	Talent Search
Metropolitan State College	Student Support Services
Trinidad State Junior College	Upward Bound Upward Bound Math/Science

MONTANA

Blackfeet Community College	Student Support Services
Dawson Community College	Student Support Services
Flathead Valley Community College	Student Support Services Upward Bound
Fort Belknap College	Student Support Services
Fort Belknap Education Department	Talent Search
Montana State University – Billings	Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound
Montana State University – Bozeman	Student Support Services
Montana State University – Northern	Educational Opportunity Center Student Support Services Veterans Upward Bound
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	Upward Bound
Montana University System	Talent Search
Rocky Mountain College	Student Support Services
University of Montana	Student Support Services Upward Bound
University of Montana – Western	Student Support Services Upward Bound Math/Science

NORTH DAKOTA

Candeska Cikana Community College	Student Support Services Talent Search
University of Mary	Student Support Services
University of North Dakota	Educational Opportunity Center McNair Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound

SOUTH DAKOTA

Black Hills State University	Student Support Services Upward Bound
Dakota Wesleyan University	Student Support Services
Northern State University	Student Support Services Upward Bound
South Dakota State University	Student Support Services Upward Bound
University of South Dakota	Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound Upward Bound Math/Science

UTAH

Southern Utah University	Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound
Utah State University	Student Support Services
Utah Valley State College	Educational Opportunity Center
Weber State University	Student Support Services

WYOMING

Laramie County Community College	Student Support Services
University of Wyoming	Educational Opportunity Center North Educational Opportunity Center South McNair Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound Upward Bound Math/Science GEAR UP

PERSONAL DONATIONS

ASPIRE FRIEND

Juliet Daniels (Talent Search)	University of Wyoming
Maria Grabiell (Student Support Services)	Fort Lewis College
Charlene Herron (Student Support Services)	Flathead Valley Community College
Sandra Lanier (Student Support Services)	Snow College
Sue Misock	ASPIRE Training Grant
Chuck Swick (TRiO Programs)	University of South Dakota
Georgia Thompson	Southern Utah University

ASPIRE ADVOCATE

Dawn Eckhardt (Talent Search)	University of North Dakota
Julie Jackman (Student Support Services)	Salt Lake Community College
Linda Ornowski (Educational Opportunity Center)	Montana State University – Northern

ASPIRE COUNCIL

Krisan Crow (Educational Opportunity Center)	Colorado State University
Carol Gritts (Upward Bound)	Black Hills State University
Carol Heath (Upward Bound)	Montana State University – Billings
Kathy Hamilton	ASPIRE Accountant's Office
Angelina Levandowski (Upward Bound)	University of Montana
Elaine Metcalf (Talent Search)	University North Dakota
Barney Nye (Educational Opportunity Center)	Utah Valley State College
Zackie Salmon (McNair)	University of Wyoming
Alethea Stovall	Arapahoe Community College

ASPIRE PATRON

Andrea Reeve (Student Support Services)	Colorado State University
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ASPIRE CHAMPION

Charles Luecke (Upward Bound)	University of South Dakota
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ASPIRE BENEFACTOR

Curtis Sandberg (GEAR UP)
Amy Verlanic (Upward Bound)

Sher Warren (Student Support Services)

University of Wyoming
Montana Tech of the University of
Montana
Laramie County Community College



ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Brian Pilcher & John Kelley

Committee Members: None to Date

Date: September 17, 2006

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:

- Attempting to find candidates for President elect and Secretary who will be advocates. Posted calls for nominations to the TRiO list 3 times and to the ASPIRE Board 2 times over the last 3 weeks. Called several potential candidates. To date, I have only received one nomination—me. We have one candidate for secretary and none for President elect.
- Brian resigned as Chair of the committee when he chose to run for secretary so Amy Verlanic appointed John Kelley who graciously accepted the position.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Krisan Crow

Committee Members: Amy Verlanic Curtis Sandberg
Allyn Kostecki Carol Gritts

Date: October 4, 2006

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Finance Committee met in January and set a balanced budget for ASPIRE which was approved by the board. The committee met again in May and requested board approval for minor line item adjustments, again keeping the bottom line budget balanced. Committee expects actual spending and revenue to closely mirror budget.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Finance Committee ensured all committees and professional development opportunities for ASPIRE members remained funded at the highest levels possible.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Finance Committee approved the purchase of C-vent to streamline communication and financial processing.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Finance Committee funded the 2nd annual Student Leadership Congress.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Finance Committee maintained the state membership rebates, as well as travel for regional president or designee to attend state meetings, and state president expense to regional board meetings. All of these are important investments for the regional budget because they keep our state associations strong and informed.



FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Chair: Cody McMichael

Committee Members: Carol Schafer
CO: Valerie Embry
SD: Cody McMichael
WY: Kris Crow
MT: Burton Pierce
UT: Nazih Al-Rashid

Date: September 26, 2006

2006 Budget Request: \$ 1,195

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Solicit sponsorship with corporate sponsors of Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators while attending regional conference.
 - ASPIRE is a current member of the Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators.
 - The FA Committee chair planned to attend the RMASFAA regional conference in the fall of 2006. The purpose was to strengthen the relationship between ASPIRE and RMASFAA. The conference would also allow the FA committee chair to approach RMASFAA Associate members for sponsorship of ASPIRE. Unfortunately, the 2006 RMASFAA conference is the same dates of the ASPIRE conference. The plan is make contact with RMASFAA associate members at a later date and attend the regional conference in the fall of 2007.
- Stay within budget for 2006.
 - This goal has been met as the major item within the budget was attending the RMASFAA Conference.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Committee members will present one session on financial aid at each state meeting in the region
 - The committee chair did not receive information on state conferences to make sure that a session was presented at each conference.
 - This will be a continuing goal for 2007.

Strategic Goal # 3 continued ...

Provide training on financial aid process as a pre-conference session at ASPIRE regional conference.

- The FA committee chair presented an all-day pre-conference workshop entitled “Financial Aid Advising for TRiO Professionals”

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Strengthen cooperation between government relation committee of RMAFSA and ASPIRE FA committee.
 - This goal was to be accomplished at the 2006 RMAFSA Conference. This was not done due to scheduling conflicts.
 - This will be a continuing goal for 2007.
- Provide timely alerts and information on financial aid changes via the ASPIRE web site and e-mail.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Present a pre-session workshop and a concurrent session at the 2006 ASPIRE Conference that encourages participants to learn the differences in financial aid processes at schools.
 - The FA committee chair presented an all-day pre-conference workshop entitled “Financial Aid Advising in TRiO Programs” This workshop provided TRiO personnel with a knowledge base of financial aid programs that will enable them to become effective financial aid advisors for TRiO participants. Each workshop participant became a first year college student for one day. They will be able to walk through the process of securing financial assistance for college. Each scenario will present different issues for workshop participants to discuss appropriate advising strategies. Advising strategies included networking with financial aid directors and other staff, appropriate use of financial assistance, and dealing with special circumstances.
- Publish a FAFSA and Financial Aid Update article for the December issue of ASPIRE and ASPIRE web page.
 - A financial aid update will be given at the ASPIRE conference. The update will presented printed materials that TRiO professionals can use with students to discuss the new Academic Competitiveness Grant the National SMART Grant. The update will include any major changes in the federal financial aid process.
 - The web page was not used due to problems with web page updates. Important announcements will be sent to state presidents for dissemination to state members.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Research and develop an educational program for ASPIRE program participants that emphasizes the financial aid needs of program participants.
 - Future educational programs will be incorporated into state and regional ASPIRE conferences. The FA committee chair is developing a five part program that can be presented as one hour concurrent sessions at each conference.



GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Cheryl Kingsbury, University of North Dakota

Executive Summary of Accomplishments

- The Governmental Relations Committee provided advice to first time attendees of the COE Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.
- Disseminated information to the membership regarding legislation, action alerts, and current issues.
- Implemented the State Policy Seminar Initiative

2006 COE Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.

ASPIRE had excellent representation by state presidents including TRiO Alumni at the 26th Policy Seminar at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., March 26-28, 2006.

The following ASPIRE delegates attended:

Colorado: Oscar Felix, Team Leader, Tiffany Rocha, Miel Sloan, John Kelley, Gillian McNally, Justin Boos, Phong Tram, Marisol Gutierrez

Colorado: Alethea Stovall, Team Leader, Wendy Allbrook Javier, Brian Francis, Marianne Hardy, Pamela Osborne, Patricia Trotman, Mike Manos

Montana: Dan Benge, Team Leader; Michelle Watson, Angelina Levandowski, Amy Verlanic

North Dakota: Karen Grabanski, Team Leader, Elaine Metcalfe, Allyn Kostecki, Monte Yellowbird (TRiO Alumnus), Cheryl Kingsbury

South Dakota: Aaron Poor Bear, Team Leader, C.D. Douglas, Carol Gritts, Jeffrey Vostad, Carla Anderson, Kayte Peters

Utah: Barney Nye, Team Leader, Diane Martin, Julie Walker, James Kopecky, Barbara Burkart, David Trujillo, Kathryn Felker, Tiffany Gearhart, Nancy Cannon

Wyoming: Sher Warren, Team Leader, Pam Richardson, Curtis Sandberg

On Monday, March 27, a Governmental Relations meeting on congressional visits was held for newcomers to Policy Seminar. State Presidents will schedule a Policy Seminar report at their state meeting to update membership.

Through the leadership of Representative Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma) and Donald Payne (D.-New Jersey) and the tireless efforts of the TRiO community, the Novice Provision in the House's Higher Education Reauthorization bill was killed. The Council learned late Tuesday, March 28, that there would be no floor vote needed to eliminate H.R. 609. We were successful in getting 225 signers on the Cole-Payne letter to let the Novice Provision proponents know that we would win in a floor fight.

President Bush signed into law (Public Law 109-149) the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill which originally funded TRiO at the same level as FY 2005, \$836.5 million. However in passing the Defense Appropriations bill, Congress included a 1% across-the-board cut in all discretionary spending (except for veterans' funding). This brought the TRiO appropriations for FY 2006 to \$828.2 million.

Thank you to Dr. Arnold Mitchem and COE for their hours of continuous work on the Hill to secure funding for TRiO. COE's lobbying efforts were lauded in Congressional Quarterly's online news.

TRiO APPROPRIATIONS

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2000	\$645 million
2001	\$730 million
2002	\$802.5 million
2003	\$827.1 million
2004	\$832.6 million
2005	\$836.5 million
2006	\$828.2 million

State Policy Seminar Initiative

All state presidents have continued to work in their states on the State Policy Seminar Initiative. State senators and representatives have been invited to TRiO Day celebrations, and have been invited to visit the TRiO Programs in their congressional districts. ASPIRE members have worked tirelessly to develop strong relationships with the senators and representatives in their congressional districts.

Sincere thanks to our ASPIRE State President, Amy Verlanic and the ASPIRE Executive Board for their outstanding work this past year.



INTERNATIONAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Chair: Oscar Felix

Date: October 2006

A major function of the International Access Committee is to disseminate information about international educational opportunities for TRiO students. To this end, the committee is pleased to provide the following information about COE's current offerings:

Save the Date! SSS and McNair Students Invited to Apply to TRiO 2007 International Leadership Training Program

**World Citizenship: Building Leadership Skills in a Multicultural Society”
A 3-Credit European Study Program for TRiO College Students
June 10 to July 1, 2007**

Applications due December 15, 2006

In June 2007, an exciting learning opportunity will be available for a group of 20 TRiO students. You will have the chance to spend 3 weeks in Europe as guests of the University of Liverpool, one of the leading research universities in the UK, and as part of the program you will have the opportunity to visit at least 3 major European cities, including London and Cologne. The program is in its seventh year, and this year promises to be the best ever. The program is cosponsored by the Council and the University of Liverpool.

Contact: For more information and to receive an application, contact Holly Hexter at the Council for Opportunity in Education at 202-347-7430 or by email at holly.hexter@coenet.us.

**New! TRiO 2007 Summer Study Abroad Offered in China
“World Citizenship: Developing Leaders through Educational Access”
A 6-Credit China Study Program for TRiO College Students
Beijing, Shanghai and Wuhan
June 2 to July 11, 2007**

Applications due December 15, 2006

In June 2007, a group of 20 TRiO students will have the chance to spend four weeks in China as guests of the State University of New York, University at Buffalo. The University at Buffalo (UB) is New York State's premier public center for graduate and professional education, as well as the state's largest and most comprehensive public university. This program is offered through the UB Graduate School of Education, which also houses the Center for Comparative and Global Studies in Education. It is

based at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST). HUST is located in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River. As part of the program you will have the opportunity to visit at least two major Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai. This is the first year we are offering this program and it promises to be exciting!

Contact: For more information and to receive an application, contact Holly Hexter at the Council for Opportunity in Education at 202-347-7430 or by email at holly.hexter@coenet.us.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Dawn Eckhardt

Committee Members: Dan Bengé, Montana Dondra Nance, Utah
Karen Grabanski, North Dakota Pam Richardson, Wyoming
Charles Luecke, South Dakota Alethea Stovall, Colorado

Date: September 18, 2006

2006 Budget Request: \$ 4,000

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:

- Collection of employment lists for all TRiO programs within the ASPIRE region was conducted in December, 2005 with the intent of producing an ASPIRE directory. It was later decided by the ASPIRE Board to not produce the directory as a cost savings measure.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Processed all applications for ASPIRE membership submitted for the 2005-2006 membership year. Payments for all membership applications received were forwarded to the ASPIRE treasurer.
- Application materials sent via email to 2006 regional conference chair for inclusion in conference materials.
- Application materials sent via email to the whole of the ASPIRE personnel list (both members and non members) as identified in October, 2005, to renew membership for the 2006-2007 membership year.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Opportunities are provided to those individuals that support ASPIRE through their membership and participation.

Strategic Goal # 7:
Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Processed applications for new and continuing members of ASPIRE submitted throughout the 2005-2006 membership year. Additionally, membership for the 2006-2007 membership year is now being accepted. In doing so, membership to state associations have increased as well.

2005 – 2006 Membership Statistics by State							
State Name	Number of TRiO Programs	Number of GEAR UP and other EOPs	Number of Employees	Number of Professional Members		Percentage of Professional Memberships (Professional & Associate)	Number of Student Memberships
				Professional	Associate		
Colorado	39	5	225	94	5	44%	3
Montana	26	3	168	81	7	52%	4
North Dakota	17	0	88	40	1	47%	0
South Dakota	12	1	102	34	0	33%	15
Utah	26	4	150	76	3	53%	0
Wyoming	12	1	78	35	5	51%	0

Data sources:

- *Number of Programs: COE Directory of TRiO and GEAR UP Programs.*
- *Number of Employees: ASPIRE employee directory information (unpublished) gathered in December 2005.*
- *Number of Members: Membership applications processed for 2005-2006.*



MULTI-ETHNIC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Chair: Aaron Poor Bear

Date: September 14, 2006

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:

- Discussed potential ideas, thoughts about promoting minorities in TRiO.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Find programs, grants that will promote/support the ASPIRE Minority Adv. Comm.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Look for and bring experts on various minority cultures from different regions (ASPIRE).

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Continuing work with governments all levels for good relations.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Using our email or BLOGS to answer questions to assist ASPIRE members in their effort to working with minority students.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Providing an opportunity to for ASPIRE program participants to provide feedback on how we as an ASPIRE organization could change, promote, or express concerns about working with minority students.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Use state and local resources/programs to identify specific concerns and address using the Multi-ethnic Advocacy Committee to seek resolutions or assistance.



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair: Amy L. Verlanic
Committee Members: Curtis T. Sandberg & Karen Grabanski
Date: October 10, 2006

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ASPIRE collected 7% of all in-directs that the training grant generated in 2005-2006.
- ASPIRE invested \$5,000 in the proposal for the renewal of the training grant in an effort to ensure the indirect funds revenue is sustained.
- ATI's memberships and contributions helped ASPIRE meet our COE fair share goals.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ATI provided three trainings to over 200 TRIO professionals nationally. Many of which were from the ASPIRE region.
- ASPIRE submitted a proposal to the Department of Education for renewal of the ATI grant.
- ASPIRE and ATI did submit a request for a no cost extension and it was approved.
- ASPIRE is working closely with COE to submit an appeal for the Training Grant.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRIO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The personnel committee ensured that ATI was kept at full staff and manage the personnel issues of the grant.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Andrea Reeve

Date: October 4, 2006

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Work with the ASPIRE Annual Conference Committee to schedule a concurrent “Overview” session on “CAS Standards”
- Work with the ASPIRE LDI Committee to schedule a session on “CAS Standards”



PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Cindee Leonard
Committee Members: Russ Lamson, Diane Marten
Date: September 2006
2006 Budget Request: \$ 500.00

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:

- Produced one newsletter with informative articles on TRiO programs

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provide one newsletter with specific articles on fiduciary responsibilities of the membership including ASPIRE and COE fair share goals and avenues of contributions

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The one published newsletter provided information on upcoming training opportunities.

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The one published newsletter provided articles on governmental relations and state initiatives

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The ASPIRATIONS newsletter is the one formal communications vehicle within the ASPIRE membership. The goal was to produce three newsletters in the calendar year. The first 2006 edition with completed in May. The second and third editions are planned for pre and post conference.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The one published newsletter provided information on up-coming educational and training opportunities for the membership.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The one published newsletter provided information on each state association's work toward incorporation as well as information on the state meetings and trainings provided to date.



STATE INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Ray Carlisle

Committee Members: 2006 State Presidents

Date: September 21, 2006

2006 Budget Request: \$ 6,000

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:

- All six ASPIRE states participated in the ASPIRE State Initiative activity during 2005-06; all of these activities involve advocating for TRiO programs with state legislators and/or education officials and policy makers in each ASPIRE state

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Again this year there was considerable overlap between State Initiative and the “Save TRiO” campaign. Because of past and continuing State Initiative activities, state legislators and education officials been increasingly willing to join as allies in making the case for TRiO to our respective state congressional delegations

Examples of tasks undertaken this year under state initiative: in Utah, TRiO staff and students met and talked with the governor and five state legislators after the Governor signed the TRiO day proclamation; in MT, with the state legislature not in session, the TRiO Fact Book was updated for 2006 and copies distributed to state education officials and the state’s congressional delegation during Policy Seminar; in WY, TRiO staff and students helped secure passage of the Hathaway Scholarship Bill which will provide permanent scholarship assistance to Wyoming high school graduates funded by energy development revenues; in CO, the state chapter partnered with the CO Commission on Higher Education to hold a state-wide Pre-collegiate Conference; in ND, with the state legislature also not in session, 70 TRiO students from six ND TRiO programs participated in

a statewide mentoring event featuring the UND President, Mayor of Grand Forks, and faculty and staff from UND. Discussion topics included leadership, overcoming adversity, and planning and attaining educational goals.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Note the activity described above in which six ND TRiO programs sponsored a statewide mentoring event for 70 TRiO participants

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The ASPIRE Executive Board continued the State Initiative matching fund program in 05-06, offering up to \$1,000 per state as a 2-1 match from ASPIRE for a total of \$1,500 to fund state initiative activities.
- The past four years of State Initiative activities have considerably increased work undertaken by the state associations on behalf of their own states, as opposed to working on behalf the region. It is the goal of State Initiative to continue strengthening the role of TRiO at the state level of education policy-making, where so many important decisions are made and policies adopted that affect TRiO students



STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONGRESS

Chair: Kristy Salisbury

Date: September 26, 2006

Please join us for an exciting Student Leadership Conference sponsored by ASPIRE to give your students real life experiences in the legislative process. Mark Harris, a former Wyoming State Senator is spearheading the effort to demonstrate the ins and outs of working in the political process. This year's theme is "Change Starts at Home," looking at how students can make a difference by understanding the dynamics of state legislatures.

Students will arrive for registration between 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 9. A reception and ice breaker activity will follow from 5:00-6:00 p.m. At the reception students will draw cards to find out if they are in the House or Senate and if they are in the Majority or Minority party. After the reception, students will split into Party Caucus' to review the roles of Party Leadership and will be given a selection of laws, statues and bills to choose from for the rest of the session. To close out the evening students will watch a short documentary produced by Wyoming Public Television on the Legislative Process.

On Friday morning, students will start off the day with a continental breakfast before they break into Caucus for Party Leadership elections. Participants interested in running for party leadership positions will be asked to give a short speech. Following the elections, students will listen to a guest speaker explain the bill drafting process and answer questions. Students will have a short break and then Party leadership will give committee assignments to their membership. Students will enjoy a guest speaker at lunch before breaking into committees to draft bills. Students will be assisted in drafting the bills with staff attorneys, legislators and other political players. Friday night will bring pictures, a banquet and a dance.

Saturday morning students will have a quick breakfast and get started on a mock session. Three bills will be introduced in each house and ran through the process. Following the session will be a closing luncheon with farewell speeches from the party leadership.

For more information, please call or e-mail Kristy Salisbury or Marcia Himes at 307-855-2246 or 307-855-2047, ksalisbu@cw.edu or mhimes@cw.edu.

Registration will cost \$125.00 per student to include the reception dinner, two continental breakfasts and lunches, one banquet, and student shirts and binders. In addition to registration programs will be responsible for their own transportation and motel arrangements. A block of motel rooms is available at the local Comfort Inn for \$69.99 and at the Holiday Inn.

**Central Wyoming College
Aspire Student Leadership Congress**

Thursday, November 9

- 3:00-5:00 Registration (Protech Building)
- 5:00-6:00 Reception/Ice Breaker: Students will be mixed into parties and congressional bodies. (Protech 121)
- 6:00-7:15 Break into Minority and Majority Caucus'
(Protech 103, Protech 115)
Review Leadership roles
Review and choose statues and laws with party attorney
- 7:30-8:30 Understanding the legislative process, committees, drafting bills, etc.
(Little Theatre)

Friday, November 10

- 8:30-9:00 Continental Breakfast: (Food Court)
- 9:00-9:45 Party Caucus: Candidates give short speeches and election of leadership positions for the Minority and Majority parties. (Classrooms)
- 9:45-10:00 Break
- 10:00-11:00 Guest Speaker: Rick Miller will explain the legislative bill drafting process and answer questions. (Little Theatre)
- 11:00-11:30 Divide into committees/Leadership assigns membership to committees. (Little Theatre)
- 11:30-1:00 Lunch/Speaker
- 1:00-3:00 Committees draft bills with assistance with from staff attorneys and legislators. (Classrooms)
- 3:00-3:30 Snack Break
- 3:30-4:30 Legislative Bloopers (Little Theatre)
- 6:00-6:30 Pictures/Participants wear Congressional polo's
- 6:30-8:00 Banquet/Speaker (Food Court)
- 8:00-10:00 Dance

Saturday, November 11

8:30-9:00 Continental Breakfast

9:00-12:00 Mock Legislative Session (Both Congressional Bodies introduce 3 bills, 2 statutes and 1 constitutional amendment)

45 minutes-1st Reading Committee of the Whole

30 minutes-2nd Reading

15 minutes-3rd Reading

Bills move to the other House

12:00-12:30 Conference Committee to negotiate changes

12:30-1:30 Lunch and farewell speeches by the party leadership



TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Susan Bornsen
Committee Members: Oscar Felix and Andrea Reeve
Date: September 2006

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Through the ASPIRE Academy, membership information was disseminated and benefits discussed.
- Fiduciary responsibility was discussed in all strands of the Leadership Development Institute (LDI), promoting the importance of individual contributions to ASPIRE.
- LDI 2005 attempted to be self-sustaining by generating approximately \$1,500.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- LDI, in October 2005, provided three tracks of leadership training opportunities: Academy: Trained 12 members on the foundations of TRiO history and leadership basics.
- Emerging Leaders: Trained 15 members on intermediate level leadership skills, TRiO/ASPIRE strategic plans, and leadership opportunities in ASPIRE
- State and Regional Leaders: Trained 10 members on specific duties of their roles as state and regional leaders, conducting meetings, governmental relations, and fiduciary responsibilities.

Strategic Goal # 4:

Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local levels.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Introduced to Academy and Emerging Leader strand participants the basics of governmental relations: processes, strategic plans, COE Policy Seminar, and state initiatives.
- Provided training to State and Regional Leaders on governmental relations, policy seminar, and state initiatives.

Strategic Goal # 5:

Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRiO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- LDI training in all three strands provided opportunities and encouragement for networking
- LDI is a regular component of the regional conference pre-conference offerings.
- ASPIRE Academy is the foundation for newcomers to network and gain training on TRiO history, TRiO organizations and structures, and TRiO/ASPIRE involvement.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- LDI participants learned the basics of Robert's Rules of Order, conducting meetings, state initiatives, and governmental relations. The State and Regional Leaders strand specifically assists these leaders with skills necessary to operate state associations.



TRiO ACHIEVERS

Chair: Bill Anderson

Committee Members: Zackie Salmon &, Susan Stoddard,
Thanks to Ray Carlisle & Florence Garcia to crucial assistance

Date: October 5, 2006

2006 Budget Request: \$ 1,500.00

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:

- Annual Trio Awards keep the goals and objectives of TRiO programs in the minds of those that can make a difference for TRiO students and programs As an example attendees at ASPIRE regional meetings often include university administrators, state legislators or their liaisons.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We were fiscally conservative with funds budgeted to the ASPIRE TRiO Achiever committee. Approximately 1/2 of allotted budget requests were spent.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Acceptance speeches of TRiO achievers are always an educational experience for non-TRiO attendees.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The acceptance speeches TRiO achievers deliver are inspiring and motivational to old and new TRiO professionals. As such this serves to strengthen our commitment to the goals and objectives of trio programs. This in turn strengthens our state associations.



ASPIRE TRAINING INSTITUTE

Annual Report to ASPIRE, Inc.

Director: Sue Misock

Date October 3, 2006

ASPIRE Training Institute, "*Strategies for TRiO Counselors*"

Since my last report in May 2006 in Denver the ATI office has been busy contacting participants who attended our first two trainings in January and March. The new proposal was submitted before the April 21st deadline. One of our four proposal objectives is to contact all participants six months after each training to see how they are doing implementing the Action Plan (AP) they designed while at the training. While Simon Harrison, ATI coordinator was busy doing the AP follow-up and 'cleaning' up required paperwork from each training I was busy looking for new hotel sites for next year's training cycle and contacting trainers about changes we would be making in the new cycle and new topics to cover. I had three of the four sites secured but no contracts signed when we learned that we were not one of the eight training programs funded this cycle.

You can imagine how shocked we all were. Staff, trainers, the ASPIRE board members and former TRiO participants were all in disbelief. Ten years of ASPIRE Training Institute – gone the first week in August. The Department of Education used panels of five readers for the 39 total proposals submitted this cycle. They threw out the top and bottom scores of the five and our scores were 75(a perfect score - since everyone gets an automatic 25 points for the Statement of Need portion of the grant.), 74, and 73 averaged together plus our perfect 15 PE points gave us a score of 114. We were told in the rejection letter that the Department funded the training grants at 115 points. Two proposals were funded for each of the four priorities. Eight grants funded for 2006-2008. (SAEOPP, University of Washington and University of Nevada Las Vegas got 2 each, COE got 1 and Lewis & Clark College (Univ. of Idaho) got the last one.)

Since the inception of ATI in the fall of 1996 the Department had always increased the training grant budget and added new trainings. The TRiO training grants write a proposal every other year for funding for a 2 year cycle. The biennium 2002-2004 reached new heights when **29 TRiO training programs** were funded. ATI had three programs in that 29 (Counseling, Reporting and Technology and Retention). The 29 programs cost \$6,762,255 and served 4,164 TRiO personnel. ATI had \$712,292 of that amount with its three training grants. I believe that RSPP received an additional \$100,000 the second year after submitting a supplemental proposal to conduct another training because the Department realized there was a very large need for Reporting in the TRiO community. When the 2004-2006 training scores came out a very large cut was made by the Department and ATI's – Counseling & Retention was one of only **13 TRiO training programs** funded. We lost two of our

three programs that cycle (Reporting and Technology& Retention). In that cycle the 13 programs cost \$5,299,275 and served 3,688 TRiO personnel.

With the latest cuts there are only **8 training programs awarded** this cycle for **TRiO personnel**. The Department of Education continues to consolidate training programs and feels that the training programs don't offer "direct service to students". One can only assume that the training programs will continue to suffer cut backs until TRiO has no training programs dedicated to them specifically. It feels like we've come full circle in these 10 years. (From few TRiO trainings to many to few.) I can't tell you how many TRiO people have told me there aren't enough good training programs to go to in any given year.

TRiO people continue emailing or calling our office seeing no change on our website. They inquire about where our new training dates and sites will be in 2007. We give them the news and they say, "You're not closing down are you? ASPIRE always had the best trainings and the most useful information to put into practice right away." I had two calls last week from the southeastern seaboard. One was going to send 5 new people and the other was going to send at least 4 and maybe more. I told them to keep us in mind and maybe we'll return in two years with the new training cycle. Who knows how many programs they'll fund in 2008?

With the initial shock over and Simon moving onto a new job at the university (his work visa ran out the beginning of August) the office is pretty quiet with just Tom Smith, ATI's bookkeeper and me. Tom has been a real trouper. He's spent his spare time this summer moving equipment around the office and developing a real system to keep track of our entire inventory. At the request of Amy Verlanic and other ASPIRE board members I initiated a no cost extension for the training grant. After sending in the initial request and emailing my program officer, Wendy Lawrence, with some clarifying answers we were granted the extension until March 31, 2007.

We have figured out a new budget and all of the grant funds will be spent by mid to late December 2006. I will be finishing the compilation of the statistics for the Annual Performance Report due the end of December. There will be an End Report to do as well.

Currently, we are getting the inventory together to show the board what equipment and supplies we need to find new homes for. I've had a couple of people drop by from Colorado State University and the University of Wyoming. They've looked over the office and will go back to their schools to see what they might need. Not only do we need to find new homes for our equipment/supplies but also the ASPIRE Archives (20 boxes) ATI tax paperwork (approx. 14 boxes) and the 15 laptop lab. (Kathy Hamilton may have to access the boxes wherever they are stored for an audit.) We also have 3 projectors that we might want to store until the next training cycle in case we get funding again and can use them for the training. There are some decisions the board needs to make so I can really start 'cleaning' out the offices by the end of December.

Tom, Sue and previous staff of ATI have thoroughly enjoyed providing a unique style of trainings for 10 years now and the demise of the program will most certainly be felt. The staff has enjoyed meeting so many lovely, dedicated TRiO people from Florida, to Maine to California and Micronesia and all states in between. We've met wonderful people from the ASPIRE region through the years and it was always fun to see people return to our trainings every time we put a new training together. We will miss you and hope you will continue to do great TRiO work. We would like to send

out a particular thanks to all of the ASPIRE Boards and consultants who have supported us through these 10 years, especially all of you sitting in this room, **Amy V. & Company** (and a special shout out to Ray Carlisle who always believed in ATI).

As a previous Director of TRiO once said “*Nothing is impossible when TRiO starts to dream....*” Remember to keep dreaming and keep TRiO strong. It’s such a wonderful concept. Thanks for supporting us all these years and we’ll see. We will write again in two years and get new funding. That would be grand!! Till we meet again.....



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

ASPIRE Membership Meeting
Little America Hotel – Salt Lake City, UT
October 15, 2005

Unapproved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:22 PM by President Amy Verlanic.

Amy asked for any additions to the agenda, hearing none she accepted the agenda as submitted.

Amy then appointed Kathy Felker as Parliamentarian, hearing no objections from the membership.

Old Business: Members were asked to review the 2004 Membership Meeting Minutes which were found in the 2004-2005 Annual Report, pages 60 and 61.

Motion #1: Lynn Brown moved and Dan Bengé seconded to approve the minutes as written. **Motion passed unanimously.**

State Reports: Each state president presented brief highlights from the submitted reports. The full reports were located in the 2004-2005 Annual Report, pages 12-26.

President's Report: Amy gave brief updates on the Strategic Plan, ATI, and Operational Guidelines. The full report can be found in the 2004-2005 Annual Report. The Board has completed the updates to the Strategic Plan and the 2005-2006 Board will continue to work under the goals established by the plan. This board is also working to update the Operating Guidelines. These two documents help provide continuity and vision for the region while providing parameters in which to work.

The Walter O Mason Award, the most prestigious award granted by the Council for Opportunity in Education, was awarded to Renee Dubay in September 2005. The membership of ASPIRE congratulated Renee Dubay for this accomplishment.

Treasurer's Report: Ruthanne Shope presented the treasurer's report for the nine months of this fiscal year. ASPIRE had to cash out the CD in order to make deposits on conference, but anticipated conference income should make up the funds. She reported, ASPIRE is expected to have a balanced budget by the fiscal year end should all expenses and income hit as projected.

Presentation of Fair Share Plaque: Amy Verlanic thanked the regional membership for their efforts and generosity in making COE's fair share goal. She displayed the plaque that the region was presented with at the September National Conference in Washington, D.C. and credited Carol Gritts for her leadership, hard work and tenacity in ensuring that ASPIRE met its obligations to support our national organization with the necessary unrestricted funds to sustain the legislative advocacy work for TRIO.

Committee Reports: The membership was referred to the 2004-2005 Annual Report for information and review of committee activities carried out on behalf of ASPIRE. Amy requested that special attention be given to the upcoming Student Leadership Congress that will be held in Salt Lake City.

Motion #2: Barney Nye moved and Julie Walker seconded to accept all other Committee Reports as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Call For Nominations: Brian Pilcher announced that Krisan Crow and Rosalie Martinez both had accepted nominations for the Treasurer position. He called for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none he closed nominations for the Treasurer. Brian then announced that Allyn Kostecki had accepted a nomination for President-Elect. He called for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to elect Allyn by acclimation.

Motion #3: Kristy Mickelson moved and Babette Patton seconded to elect Allyn Kostecki as President-Elect by acclimation. Motion passed unanimously.

Brian then encouraged everyone to attend the candidate's forum the next afternoon.

Meeting Adjourned 5:30 p.m.



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

ASPIRE Membership Meeting
Little America Hotel – Salt Lake City, UT
October 19, 2005

Unapproved Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 PM by President Amy Verlanic.

Hearing no objections from the membership, Amy appointed Kathy Felker as Parliamentarian.

Appreciation and Introduction: Amy Verlanic recognized the 2005 Conference Committee and introduced the 2006 Conference Chair, Lynn Farris. The conference will be held October 7-11 in Missoula, Montana and will offer western hospitality.

Leadership Development Institute: Sher Warren reported that this year's Institute had 41 participants: 11 for Academy, 12 for Second Year Academy; 18 for Emerging Leaders. The evolution of LDI has provided information and opportunity, provided history, and assisted with development of leadership skills within our organization and its' membership.

Student Leadership Congress: Kim Coon-Domacilio reported that there have been two successful state Student Leadership Congress events which have begun to build a foundation of experience for a new regional event. The dates are November 2-4. Students will be taking on leadership roles which will empower them to become instruments for change. A mock congress will be held; a service learning component will be central to the experience. Steven Covey, a noted author, will be speaking to students. Kim asked those in attendance who are planning to send students or need more information to contact her.

Aspire Training Institute Update: Sue Misock announced that ATI has scheduled three trainings this year and encouraged new personnel, as well as seasoned, to attend. Information is available on the web site. Sue also introduced Simon Harrison who has accepted the role of project coordinator. She also thanked Tom Smith, part time bookkeeper, for all of his work.

Framework for Membership Discussion: Amy announced that she intends to guide the 2005-2006 committee charges and board efforts in four focused direction;

1. Creating Higher Levels of Membership Engagement:

2. Improving the work of the Multi-Ethnic Advocacy committee:
3. Increasing Financial Stability of the Regional Association:
4. Strengthening States Chapters for Rapid Responses to COE Action Alerts:

She encouraged the membership to remain optimistic about the work they do and our chances of continuation even in these perilous times and to never give up the ideal that a few joined voices can make a difference.

The floor was opened for discussion. None was brought forward.

Meeting Adjourned.

ASPIRE Bylaws, Operating Guidelines & Articles of Incorporation

ASPIRE, Inc. is governed by Bylaws and an extensive set of Operating Guidelines as well as a formal set of Articles of Incorporation. Each paid member of ASPIRE has been provided with a CD with an electronic copy of this annual report as well these three governing documents. The bylaws and operating guidelines are also available as separate documents on ASPIRE, Inc.'s web site at www.aspire-online.org.