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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 10, 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. The work of ASPIRE's membership, committee chairs, state presidents, and executive board over the last year compile to quite a list of accomplishments toward that two-fold mission.

Professional Development Accomplishments for 2004-2005

- ASPIRE, Inc.'s web page and list serve upgraded to have more professional development tools easily available to membership.
- 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 meetings were held in the spring, with regional presence and contributions at each.
- A Financial Aid Video was distributed to every project director in the region.
- Publicized COE's study abroad and National Student Leadership Congress opportunities.
- Leadership Development Institute with three separate tracks to be held October 15 & 16, 2005.
- Four (4) Professional Development Pre-Conference workshops to be offered October 15, 2005.
- Regional Conference to be held October 16-19, 2005 in Salt Lake City.
- First-ever Regional Student Leadership Congress to be held November 2-4, 2005 in Salt Lake City, UT.

Legislative Advocacy Accomplishments for 2004-2005

- Provided matching grants to states to host state initiative events.
- Promoted TRIO day activities within the region.
- Two of the five nationally recruited TRIO alumni invited to make congressional testimonies in support of the reinstatement of TRIO pre-college programs in the federal budget, were from the ASPIRE region. Testimonies can be seen on the Reasons for TRIO video available for purchase at COE's web page.
- Funded state presidents and board members to attend Policy seminar, making 26 congressional visits.
- Secured signatures from 6 of 14 National Legislators on the Cole/Payne Letter opposing the Foxx Amendment.
- ASPIRE remained a valued and supportive region to COE by;
 - Meeting 111% of COE Fairshare.
 - Steve Baumann served on the Strategic Planning and State Initiative committees.
 - Curtis Sandberg served on Budget/Finance and International Access committees.
 - Amy Verlanic served on By-laws, Resource Development, and Technology 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.

2004 – 2005 Membership Statistics By State						
State Name	Number of TRIO Programs	Number of GEAR UP and other EOPs	Number of Professional Employees	Number of Professional Members	Percentage of Professional Memberships	Number of Student/Volunteer Memberships
CO	44	3	197	72	36%	3
MT	28	3	144	77	53%	8
ND		0	87	31	36%	0
SD		0	77	25	32%	1
UT	26	1	149	82	55%	0
WY	10	00	63	64	100%	5

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. 2004-2005 Committee Chairs

Archivist	Pam Richardson	(307) 766-6189
Awards	Urla Marcus	(605) 642-6120
By-Laws/ Guidelines	Curtis Sandberg	(307) 766-6189
Conference – 2005	Julie Jackman	(801) 957-4179
Conference – 2006	Lynn Farris	(406) 756-3882
Corporate Development	Nancy Cannon	(801) 863-8844
Development (co-chair)	Carol Gritts	(605) 642-6210
Development (co-chair)	Ruth Anne Shope	(406) 496-4693
Elections	Brian Pilcher	(406) 683-7327
Finance	Ruth Anne Shope	(406) 496-4693
Financial Aid	Carole Shafer	(307) 778-4387
Governmental Relations	Cheryl Kingsbury	(701) 352-1668
International Access	Karla Motta	(801) 581-7188
Membership	Elaine Metcalfe	(701) 777-3427
Multi-Ethnic Advocacy	Oscar Felix	(970) 491-6473
National TRiO Day	Alethea Stovall	(303) 797-5602
Personnel	Amy Verlanic	(406) 496-4289
Professional Standards	Lynn Farris	(406) 756-3882
Public Relations	Allyn Kostecki	(701) 231-8919
Publications	Maria Schmidt	(701) 858-3015
State Initiative	Ray Carlisle	(406) 243-4202
Strategic Plan	Amy Verlanic	(406) 496-4289
Student Leadership Congress	Kim Coon	(801) 957-4089
Training/Professional Development	Sher Warren	(307) 778-4314
TRiO Achievers	John Kelley	(970) 491-6473
TRiO Alumni	Billie James	(605) 677-5947



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		√					

Colorado Chapter of Aspire

State Report

August 30, 2005

Several notices went out on requests to contact Congressman about support for Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search and GEAR UP, in May and June. In July and August several more requests went out to the membership about getting their Congressmen to sign on to the Cole/ Payne letter. Also explanations went out to members on how this second Cole/ Payne was part of a different request on funding issues for TRIO Programs and different from the letter last spring that called for the reinstatement of Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search and GEAR UP. Our members were confused about the second letter.

The Executive Board of CCO met in August. Because of a small budget it was decided that we could not contribute to the COE Banquet purchase of a table. We did meet about contacting several businesses to support our chapter and to reach the Regional goal of at least a \$500.00 contribution from business.

We have begun Plans for our State Conference in February 2005. We have co-chairs for this event President elect-elect, Valerie Giangos and Rana Cohen. Hotels are being contacted for the 2007 ASPIRE Regional Conference to be held in Colorado.

Colorado GEAR UP has been funded for another 6 years at 3.5 million each year. Half of this money is put aside each year for scholarships for GEAR UP students when they enter college. Our CCO secretary Natalie Nelson who has served as ETS coordinator at CSU, and will be serving in her second year on the Executive Board, is joining Colorado GEAR UP as a Regional Coordinator in Greeley.

At the state level there is a Pre- Collegiate Consortium made up of Pre Collegiate programs in the state. Alton Clark is or representative from CCO. Valerie Embry is the alternate representative.

In Colorado the Governor's office is committed to having more students enter post secondary schools. Colorado has on the highest educated adult populations in the country yet we are fifth from the bottom in the country for sending our students on to post secondary schools. Considering minority student in Colorado we are at the very bottom in bottom. College In Colorado.org is one of the many ways the state is rallying around pre-collegiate efforts. TRIO Programs, GEAR UP, AVID and other college and community based pre collegiate programs are being joined called together to work together in this important effort. Pre Collegiate Centers are being created beginning in three Denver Public Schools. At this time there is a proposal to ask all pre Collegiate Programs including TRIO Pre-Collegiate Programs to contribute to this effort. This is fairly hot off the press. I will inform the Board on any new developments on this last issue.

Higher Education is being threatened in Colorado because of a depleted state budget. We have Referendum C and D on the Ballot this fall and if it passes it will improve funding for Higher Education and will keep colleges from possibly shutting their doors or continuing to have large increases in tuition. There is a Bi partisan effort to pass C and D and our ASPIRE members have been encouraged to support both of the referendums.



Montana 2004-05 State Report

President: Dan Bengge, Ph.D.

Board Members: Angelina Levandowski, President Elect
Michelle Watson, Treasure/Secretary
Brian Pilcher, Past President

Date: September 1, 2005

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:

- Increased communication with the membership through email, dependent on the information needing dissemination.
- Held state meeting in April and invited legislators to attend a reception. Lt. Governor John Bohlinger and Commissioner of Higher Education, Sheila Stearns, attended and spoke at the reception.
- Several programs held TRiO Day activities and invited aids from the congressional offices and other VIP's to attend and meet with TRiO personnel and students.
- Montana had several staff and a student attend Policy Seminar to advocate on behalf of the state and the students served. We met with the aids from Rep. Rehberg and Senator Baucus and met directly with Senator Burns.
- Worked extensively with Senator Burns aid and Representative Rehberg's aid on restoration of funding for TRiO and support for legislation to support TRiO (Cole/Payne).
- Several TRiO personnel served on state wide committees to represent low income/disadvantaged/disabled students. The committees include the P-20 Commission and the Governors Shared Leadership Task Force.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The state meeting generated nearly twice the expected income for the state meeting.
- 65% of TRiO personnel have regional or state memberships
- 63 Professional memberships
- 5 Associate/Affiliate members
- 30 State Members
- 56% are institutional members

- 46% have project memberships
- There are 9 student members
- \$1,975 was raised through personal donations to MT ASPIRE
- Over \$800 dollars in goods was donated to Montana ASPIRE from individuals and organizations for the state meeting. Over \$1,000.00 in silent auction and raffle revenue were generated from these gifts and provided a significant number of door prizes for attendees.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- A needs assessment was distributed to Montana TRiO personnel to address needs at the state meeting. Tom Mortenson from the Pell Institute presented several workshops. Other speakers included Mike Jetty from the Office of Public Instruction, and several Montana TRiO staff involved in state wide initiatives.
- 98 people participated in the state meeting, the largest number in recent memory.
- There are a number of TRiO personnel working on various committees including membership, Governmental Relations (State Initiative), and Indian Advocacy. Also, several staff works on several state wide initiatives including the P-20 Commission and Shared Leadership to name a few.
- Montana TRiO personnel were encouraged to attend ATI trainings and COE sponsored teleconferences.

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Information was collected from the Montana TRiO programs and data was presented in the TRiO Fact Book. This information was given to our congressional representatives, state policy makers, the Commissioner of Higher Education and school personnel and other pertinent people.
- State legislators were invited to a reception at the state meeting to learn about the TRiO programs and meet several TRiO achievers.
- Several programs hosted TRiO Day activities where legislators, school personnel and local government officials could interact with TRiO personnel and TRiO Achievers.
- Relationships with our congressional offices have improved through periodic e-mails and phone calls.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Web page was redesigned and is maintained on an as needed basis. Changes or updates are made immediately.

- There is a current review of alternate host sites for the web page and will hopefully be identified and selected prior to the regional meeting in October.
- The membership voted on the development and implementation of e-business so decisions regarding the state association can be made and voted upon more than twice a year.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- There was coordination with College Goal Sunday to encourage TRiO participants to complete their FAFSA.
- Montana Tech hosted the Upward Bound Olympics and six of the seven programs participated.
- Participants are being encouraged to participate in the regional Student Leadership Congress. The state is identifying students to participate and chaperones to provide support.
- Students from across the state participated in TRiO Day activities and several achievers spoke during TRiO Day activities.
- Several TRiO Achievers were recognized at the state meeting and spoke at the legislative reception.
- One student traveled to policy seminar to participate in meetings with congressional staff.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- State personnel were encouraged to attend the state meeting. 59% of TRiO personnel attended the conference.
- Other organizations attended the state meeting from Gear-Up, Student Assistance Foundation, Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.
- Several TRiO personnel sit on state wide initiatives and committees with the Commissioner of Higher education.
- MT Aspire Board held a new board training to help with the transition of officers.

North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE



President: Karen Grabanski

Board Members: Steve Schanandore Treasurer
Maria Schmidt Secretary

Date: 9/15/05

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:

- TRiO Day celebration and State Initiative activities are good PR tools, helping to spread the word about TRiO Programs, not only to a campus-wide audience, but to residents, and state and local politicians.
- National TRiO Day was celebrated on February 24th, 2005. Persons from across the University of North Dakota Campus and from various colleges in North Dakota attended the event.
- Encourage attendance of ASPIRE State and Regional Conferences. The North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE held its spring meeting in Bismarck, ND on March 21 and 22, 2004 TRiO personnel and ASPIRE members were brought up-to-date on current issues, attended professional development activities, and took advantage of networking opportunities.
- State initiative activities were also held during that time. Two-hundred TRiO Fact Books summarizing TRiO Programs across the state of ND. were produced and distributed to legislators during a reception held in the Great Hall of the North Dakota Capitol Building in Bismarck (March 22, 2005).
- Books were also distributed to members of the UND TRiO Advisory Board after a presentation by ASPIRE state president explaining the concept of State Initiative activities.
- Fact Books were given to Bob Foust, and Joan Huff, senior aides to ND Senator, Kent Conrad, during a visit/meeting with UND TRiO Programs on May 5th, 2005.
- Invitations were sent to key legislators (educational committees) for dinner with TRiO alumni and students. The idea was that students and alumni would be able to speak with legislators about their experiences with TRiO – familiarize them with the opportunities and support provided for students who, most likely, would not have attended college if it weren't for TRiO Programs.
- One-hundred-forty-two invitations were sent to members of the ND Senate and House of Representatives to attend a reception in the Great Hall at the ND State Capitol Building. Refreshments and information about TRiO Programs were served. Roughly, 100-110 people passed through the reception area in ~ two hours.
- ND TRiO Programs were invited to participate in a regional, state initiative campaign in which the ASPIRE region provided matching funds on a 2-1 basis, up to \$1000. North Dakota allocated \$500. to this campaign, receiving the full \$1000. from the region.

- 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, banner hung across major street announcing TRiO Day).
- Publish TRiO accomplishments in local newspaper.
- Develop and encourage participation in State Initiative activities; by staff (development and implementation), students, alumni, and legislative representatives.
- Four alumni and three students participated in state initiative activities in Bismarck, ND.
- Provide professional development activities at ASPIRE State meetings for TRiO personnel. Two speakers shared important information with TRiO personnel at the state meeting: Carole Shafer (Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, Wyoming), told us about changes in financial aid that would affect students. Renae Hoffmann Walker (Corporate and Continuing Education, Bismarck, ND), spoke on generational differences in the workplace.
- Improve communication with TRiO alumni. Planning is in process for a TRiO alumni reunion (to be held October 2nd, 2005) for those who participated in TRiO Programs based out of the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encourage membership in ASPIRE
Membership forms and a message urging membership was sent with all registration packets for the ND Chapter of ASPIRE state meeting.
- Encourage attendance of the ASPIRE Regional Conference
Messages to encourage attendance sent via listserv to ND. TRiO personnel.
- Work toward corporate sponsorship for ASPIRE. Bank of ND sponsored refreshments for a break during the ND State Chapter of ASPIRE spring meeting in March, 2005.
Ad Hoc committee, currently looking for sponsors for the ASPIRE Regional Conference in Salt Lake City, UT.
- Create PR publication to give to prospective contributors (in process).

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.
Two speakers shared important information with TRiO personnel at the state meeting: Carole Shafer (Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, Wyoming), told us about changes in financial aid that would affect students. Renae Hoffmann Walker (Corporate and Continuing Education, Bismarck, ND), spoke on generational differences in the workplace.

- Encourage attendance of Regional Conference. Members can take advantage of the professional development activities offered, including Leadership Development Institute pre-conference workshops offered. Excellent networking opportunities with regional ASPIRE members.

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.
- We have created fact books about TRiO Programs in ND including information about students and alumni. We will continue to update these books and use them as PR materials to be handed out to political representatives across the state and within our communities.
- Invite local and/or state representatives to lunch/dinner with TRiO students and alumni, representing each TRiO Program. The idea is to inform the representatives about the services that TRiO Programs provide, and the positive impact these programs have had on participants lives.

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.
- We are currently working on corporate sponsorship.
- 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.
- Host COE teleconferences. Have shared the information/conferences with other departments on campus and the community when appropriate.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provide professional development activities at ASPIRE state meeting.
- Two speakers shared important information with TRiO personnel at the state meeting: Carole Shafer (Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne, Wyoming), told us about changes in financial aid that would affect students. Renae Hoffmann Walker (Corporate and Continuing Education, Bismarck, ND), spoke on generational differences in the workplace.

- Provide Governmental Relations training for those participating in state initiative activities.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encourage ASPIRE membership and attendance of state meetings.
- Encouragement through email messages via the listserv, registration packets containing a letter from the state president, an agenda for the meeting, including professional development activities, and ASPIRE membership forms is 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.
- We are working toward becoming a nonprofit corporation within the state of North Dakota.
- We are in the process of updating operational guidelines for the ND Chapter of ASPIRE.



South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE

President: Andrea Schneider

Board Members: Carol Gritts Charlie Luecke
Susan Hupp

Date: 09/19/2005

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:

- Encouraged purchase of individual and project memberships to ASPIRE
- Encouraged attendance at the Regional ASPIRE conference
- Hosted two State Initiative Events to educate Congressional aides about Trio
- Utilized a State Initiative grant from COE to disburse Fact Books about South Dakota Trio programs to our state legislators

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Encouraged purchase of ASPIRE memberships
- Encouraged participation in ASPIRE sponsored events

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Held a state conference where sessions on various topics of professional development were offered
- Sent out information on upcoming conferences and trainings

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Sent delegation to Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.
- All three of our congressional leaders signed on to support Trio: Senator Johnson, Senator Thune and Representative Herseth
- Hosted two State Initiative events with local aids of our congressional leaders
- Sent information to state legislatures on our Trio programs and our status in the state

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Increased communication in state utilizing email and phone throughout year
- Held State conference
- SSS directors organized and met to discuss current SSS issues
- Active outreach to new Trio directors to inform them of ASPIRE and to provide a resource

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Held State Conference

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Increased participation from programs that traditionally were not involved
- Promoted ASPIRE and the helpfulness of the Trio community



UTAH CHAPTER OF ASPIRE ANNUAL REPORT

President: Jonathan Morrell

Board Members: Barney Nye (president elect) Julie Jackman (past president)
Donalyn Sessions (treasure) Katrina Fox (secretary)

Date: September 19, 2005

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:

- 15 members of the Utah delegation attended the annual Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. in March. The delegation visited the three congressmen and two senator's offices. Included in the delegation were four former TRiO students.
- Contacted National and state legislators regarding the funding for UB and ETS
- The newly funded SSS slate for Utah includes:
 - Utah State University
 - Weber State University
 - University of Utah
 - Salt Lake Community College
 - Utah Valley State College
 - College of Eastern Utah - Price (5-year grant)
 - College of Easter Utah - San Juan
 - Snow College
 - Southern Utah University (5-year grant)
 - Dixie State College
- The following institutions are writing Educational Talent Search proposals
 - Weber State University (new)
 - University of Utah
 - Salt Lake Community College
 - Utah Valley State College
 - College of Eastern Utah - Price
 - College of Easter Utah - San Juan
 - Snow College
 - Southern Utah University
 - Dixie State College

- Keith Jensen, Director of SSS, nominated one of his students (Elizabeth Lewin-Fisher) as a National TRiO Achiever. She was selected and will be honored in Washington, D.C. September 19 at the COE conference.
- Actively involved in University programs (i.e. first-year experience, advising committee, directory of campus resources, presentations)
- Sent all of our reports and newsletters to campus offices/colleagues
- Promote TRiO programs at annual TRiO Day celebration on campus
- Presentation to campus advisors at Annual Advisors' Conference
- Director represents and promotes TRiO as member of Student Services Director's Council

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- State Members attended ASPIRE Regional and State Conferences
- Participated in raffles and fundraisers at Regional and State conferences
- Contributed to ASPIRE Fair Share
- Increased professional and student memberships
- The state passed a motion to investigate including ASPIRE membership costs in the annual conference fee. This motion will be presented at the regional board meet for further consideration.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- USU SSS Presented on Longitudinal Evaluation Study at regional ASPIRE Conference
- State personnel presented at Utah State ASPIRE Conference
- State personnel presented at Regional ASPIRE Conference
- Numerous state TRiO personnel attended the regional and state NACADA Conference.
- Numerous state TRiO personnel attended the Utah Association of Advisors (UAOA) conference.

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Utah TRiO View Book was published and distributed at the National Policy Seminar, TRiO Day at the Utah State Capitol to 11 state legislators at the TRiO Day Declaration signing with Governor Huntsman. 45 State TRiO personnel and TRiO Students were in attendance.
- USU SSS was in campus, local, and national publications for receiving the NACADA University and National Outstanding Advising Program Award.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Dave Bethers, SSS Advisor at Dixie State College, created the UTAH Chapter of ASPIRE web site:
http://dsc.dixie.edu/sss/newaspire_files/TRiO.html
http://dsc.dixie.edu/sss/newaspire_files/UT-ASPIRE-Index.html
He also created the New to TRiO web site:
http://dsc.dixie.edu/sss/newaspire_files/Tour-programs.html
And the ASPIRE web site:
<http://www.aspire-online.org/>
He also created the Regional Conference web site:
<http://www.aspire-online.org/conference/2005/index.html>
and the Regional Student Leadership web site:
<http://www.aspire-online.org/committee/slc/index.htm>
- All professional Utah TRiO personnel are serving on campus or school committees.
- USU – SSS received the 2005 Outstanding Advising Program Award
- TRiO Day Open Houses were observed at each campus that hosts TRiO programs.
- The State TriO Directory was updated.
- A distribution list of all state TriO directors was prepared.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The third annual State Student Leadership Conference will be held at Utah Valley State College on January 13 and 14, 2006. Rebecca Miller and Julie Jackson are directing this event
- **The first Regional Student Leadership Conference will be held at the University of Utah, November 2-4, 2005. Kim Coon and Monique Torres-Raymos are directing this event**
- **Utah Chapter of ASPIRE awarded \$4000 in scholarships to eight TRiO students in February**
- USU – SSS provided workshops for Participants (Managing Math, Mastering Math, Textbook Usage, Preparing for Finals, Graduate School)
- USU – SSS taught classes in (Math 0900, 1010, 1050, Psy 1730, 1750)
- All TRiO programs provided tutoring (Math Labs, Writing Labs, Individual)
- All TRiO programs provided Semester newsletter and continuous e-mail contacts
- Snow College SSS has achieved the 200 students we are funded to serve. Math and Writing Labs offered by our program are up and running. SSS website continues to be utilized more as well as our computer lab. We also are proud to display our new SSS brochures.
- SSS collaborated with the campus Student Success Center this past August with a new 3 week "College Connections" class. This was a 3 credit class offered to 31 entering freshmen who were probationally accepted to SUU and have definite academic need. Unfortunately only half

of them were SSS eligible but we did get some of our new freshmen from this class. We think they will be great new participants in our program.

- SUU - SSS team is the same as last year (HOORAY!) as we have had no retirements or resignations.
- During the summer, the Dixie - SSS staff presented at all the New Student Orientation and Registrations sessions and received 467 applications. There is space for 100 new participants this fall. We are currently interviewing students for program openings.
- The past year was great for Dixie - SSS. There were 66 students who completed associates degrees and of those 54 are continuing their education, and 5 students are serving LDS missions. 15 students transferred and there are 117 SSS students continuing at DSC this fall.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Participants from each TRiO program attended the State Conference held in Provo Utah
- The state chapter held a great state conference March 30- April 1 at the Provo Marriott under the direction of Barney Nye and Capri Fox. There were more than 100 people in attendance. The conference included a day's workshop sponsored by COE which brought attendees from Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado
- USU – SSS Volunteered to host 2006 State Conference
- Orientation tours for new and transfer students to USU



Wyoming ASPIRE

President: Michael Wade

Board Members: Sherry Warren Richard Miller
Cindy Gustin Dawn Kiesel

Date: 9/16/2005

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 President, Michael Wade, attended COE Policy Seminar & advocated on behalf of Wyoming TRIO programs to the Wyoming Congressional delegation
- WY ASPIRE TRIO Day Committee organized and participated in National TRIO Day in February 2005 with a day of activities at the Wyoming State Capitol designed to increase legislators awareness and support of TRIO programs in Wyoming
- Wyoming TRIO personnel, in general, and members of the Wyoming ASPIRE State Initiative Committee, specifically, have maintained communication with state legislators on the Joint Education Committee who are deciding the direction of the Wyoming Hathaway Scholarship program. Communication has emphasized the importance of the scholarship to serve low income students who are eligible for and participate in Wyoming TRIO programs.
- Wyoming TRIO personnel continue to educate Wyoming's Congressional policymakers regarding the need to retain Talent Search and Upward Bound in the federal budget.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Under the guidance and direction of the WY ASPIRE Membership chairperson, Sher Warren, WY ASPIRE succeeded in increasing membership levels more than 10% above last year's numbers to 65%. This is the highest professional membership percentage of any state in the ASPIRE region.
- Development -- Most TRIO projects in Wyoming have purchased a Project Membership.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- At the WY ASPIRE State Meeting in April 2005, breakout training sessions were offered on the following topics: Governmental Relations, State Initiative, Scholarship Fundraising, Newcomers Training, & Financial Aid. Meeting participants were also able to participate in project-specific breakout sessions in which they had the opportunity to network & share information on best practices.

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- State President, Michael Wade, attended COE Policy Seminar & advocated on behalf of Wyoming TRIO programs to the Wyoming Congressional delegation
- WY ASPIRE TRIO Day Committee organized and participated in National TRIO Day in February 2005 with a day of activities at the Wyoming State Capitol designed to increase legislators awareness and support of TRIO programs in Wyoming
- Wyoming TRIO personnel, in general, and members of the Wyoming ASPIRE State Initiative Committee, specifically, have maintained communication with state legislators on the Joint Education Committee who are deciding the direction of the Wyoming Hathaway Scholarship program. Communication has emphasized the importance of the scholarship to serve low income students who are eligible for and participate in Wyoming TRIO programs.
- Wyoming TRIO personnel continue to educate Wyoming's Congressional policymakers regarding the need to retain Talent Search and Upward Bound in the federal budget.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- At the WY ASPIRE State Meeting in April 2005, meeting participants were able to participate in project-specific breakout sessions in which they had the opportunity to network & share information on best practices.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- At the WY ASPIRE State Meeting in April 2005, breakout training sessions were offered on the following topics: Governmental Relations, State Initiative, Scholarship Fundraising, Newcomers Training, & Financial Aid. Meeting participants were also able to participate in project-specific breakout sessions in which they had the opportunity to network & share information on best practices.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Under the guidance and direction of the WY ASPIRE Membership chairperson, Sher Warren, WY ASPIRE succeeded in increasing membership levels more than 10% above last year's numbers to 65%. This is the highest professional membership percentage of any state in the ASPIRE region.
- At the WY ASPIRE State Meeting in April 2005, breakout training sessions were offered on the following topics: Governmental Relations, State Initiative, Scholarship Fundraising, Newcomers Training, & Financial Aid. Meeting participants were also able to participate in project-specific breakout sessions in which they had the opportunity to network & share information on best practices.



Archives Committee

Chair: Pam Richardson

Committee Members: n/a

Date: 9/1/05

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:

- Assisted with incorporating a former student into Policy Seminar which led to her testimony before the Senate Committee on Education chaired by Mike Enzi of Wyo.

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Public promotion of all Trio Programs, and specifically Upward Bound, through media articles.



ASPIRE Awards Committee

2005 Annual Report

The 2005 ASPIRE Awards Committee members included Julianna Larson, South Dakota; Michelle Maksimowicz, Colorado; Rita Tanner, Utah; Michelle Gasek, Montana; Mary Fredricks, North Dakota; Richard Miller, Wyoming; and Urla Marcus, Committee Chair.

Nominations were solicited from the membership for the Rising Star, Friend of ASPIRE, and the Champion of TRiO awards. Several nominations were received and these were forwarded to the committee members for consideration. The chair collected the committee members' results and notified the nominators of the final selections. Those who had nominated recipients were asked to invite the recipients to the ASPIRE Conference and to provide the agenda chair with their biographies and a photo if possible.

The chair also updated membership information to determine recipients of 5-year, 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, and 25-year membership awards. Two retirees will be honored for their years of service with ASPIRE.

Awards were ordered for recipients of the honors listed above, as well as the retirees, the recipient of the Art Quinn Memorial Award, and the TRiO Achievers, to be presented at the conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Urla Marcus
Awards Committee Chair



2005 Conference Committee

Chair: Julie Jackman

Committee Members:

Nazih Al-Rashid	Kristina Fox
Mike Anderson	Joan Jorde
Jamie Bayless	Rebecca Miller
Cynthia Bonsall	Tracie Noyes
Lynne Brown	Barney Nye
Barbara Burkart	Monique Reymus
Nancy Cannon	Donna Rigby
Kimberly Coon	Rita Tanner
Kathy Felker	Tami Shugar
Susan Garner	Julie Walker
Eddie Hoyle	Rita Tanner

Date: September 23, 2005

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:

- Invited Congressman Matheson (D-UT) and Emily Marchant (Education Aid) to Trio Achievers' breakfast to reinforce importance of Trio Programs
- Developed press packet for distribution prior to conference to encourage local television and newspaper attendance at press conference following Trio Achievers' breakfast
- Provided concurrent sessions on state initiative and governmental relations at conference
- Invited COE and DOE representatives to speak at conference for updates and information
- Sponsored a service learning component in the community for recognition

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Developed a three-tier development program to market to corporate donors
- Worked with Corporate Development chair to provide information to secure corporate donors for conference
- Provided interesting fund raising opportunities at conference
- Monitored conference budget and used resources judiciously

- Offered pre-conference sessions to encourage program membership

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Schedule appropriate plenary and concurrent sessions at conference
- Invited various individuals from across the region to participate on conference committee
- Scheduled a variety of presenters from around the region
- Planned and executed first ever pre-conference sessions according to survey outcomes
- Sponsored a service learning component for members to gain knowledge of the model

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Offered concurrent sessions on governmental relations and state initiative at conference

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Submitted conference registration packet and agenda updates to webmaster for posting on web site
- Planned and executed first ever service learning opportunity for conference attendees to network with others on a variety of levels

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Offered reduced conference registration rate for program participants
- Allowed participants registration if desired in pre-conference sessions

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provided time for state associations to meet twice during conference.



DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Co-Chairs: Carol Gritts & RuthAnne Shope

State Development Leaders: Alton Clark, Colorado
Brian Pilcher, Montana
Karen Grabanski, North Dakota
Steve Rasmussen, South Dakota
Barney Nye, Utah
Zackie Salmon, Wyoming

Date: October 2005

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

- For accomplishments, please see following fair share and development report details.

COE FAIR SHARE:

ASPIRE achieved 111% of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Fair Share for their Fiscal Year (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005). Fair Share for COE includes Regional Dues, Institutional Memberships, Publication Package (Equality) Subscriptions, and Personal Donations. Again this year, Utah and Wyoming are to be commended as all of the institutions hosting a TRiO Project in both states had an Institutional Membership. **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 (September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2005) was a transition year as the Project Membership was increased from \$75 to \$100.

The goal set for Development was \$11,100 (\$7,770 to be raised through Project Memberships and \$3,330 through Personal Donations). To achieve the designated amount for Project Memberships, 60% of the projects in each state needed to pay the Project Membership as indicated in the chart below.

STATE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS REQUIRED TO PAY THE PROJECT MEMBERSHIP TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL	NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT PAID THE PROJECT MEMBERSHIP	
		Project Memberships Paid as of August 31, 2005	Project Memberships Needed to Achieve Goal
Colorado	25 of 42 Projects	14	11
Montana	17 of 28 Projects	13	4
North Dakota	11 of 19 Projects	10	1
South Dakota	9 of 15 Projects	8	1
Utah	16 of 27 Projects	11	5
Wyoming	7 of 12 Projects	6	1
Training Grant	1 of 1 Project	1	0

The total amount contributed for Project Memberships was \$5,425, \$2,345 below the goal. Of the amount possible, the percentage of contributions for each of the states was as follow:

Colorado	26% - 6% more than the previous year	(14 of 42 Projects Participated)
Montana	40% - 10% more than the previous year	(13 of 28 Projects Participated)
North Dakota	41% - 19% less than the previous year	(10 of 19 Projects Participated)
South Dakota	45% - 1% more than the previous year	(8 of 15 Projects Participated)
Utah	39% - 15% less than the previous year	(11 of 27 Projects Participated)
Wyoming	50% - 23% less than the previous year	(6 of 12 Projects Participated)
Training Grants	100%	(1 of 1 Project Participated)

Personal Donations totaled \$3,520, \$190 above the goal.

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, 2005.

Metropolitan State College	Student Support Services
Trinidad State Junior College	Upward Bound
Montana State University – Northern	Educational Opportunity Center
University of Montana – Western	Student Support Services, Math/Science Upward Bound
University of North Dakota	Educational Opportunity Center, McNair, Student Support Services, Talent Search, Upward Bound
Southern Utah University	Talent Search, Upward Bound

Kathy Hamilton (ASPIRE Accountant's Office) is to be commended for being the first to make a Personal Donation to ASPIRE for the Development Year which began September 1, 2005. Again, THANKS to all who contributed to ASPIRE Fair Share! Your support of ASPIRE is greatly appreciated.

CONTRIBUTORS / PROJECT MEMBERSHIPS

COLORADO

Adams State College	Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound
Colorado State University	Educational Opportunity Center Student Support Services Talent Search Upward Bound
Colorado State University – Pueblo	Educational Opportunity Center
Community College of Denver	Educational Opportunity Center Talent Search
Fort Lewis College	Talent Search Upward Bound
Greeley Dream Team	Talent Search
Metropolitan State College	Student Support Services

MONTANA

Flathead Valley Community College	Student Support Services Upward Bound
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
Montana Tech of the University of Montana	Upward Bound
Rocky Mountain College	Student Support Services
University of Great Falls	Student Support Services
University of Montana	Student Support Services
University of Montana – Western	Student Support Services Math/Science Upward Bound

NORTH DAKOTA

Northern Dakota State University	McNair Student Support Services Upward Bound Veterans Upward Bound
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

South Dakota State University

Student Support Services
Upward Bound

University of South Dakota

Student Support Services
Talent Search
Upward Bound
Math/Science Upward Bound

UTAH

Dixie College

Student Support Services
Talent Search

Salt Lake Community College

Student Support Services
Talent Search

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

Upward Bound
Veterans Upward Bound

WYOMING

Laramie County Community College

Student Support Services

University of Wyoming

McNair
Student Support Services
Talent Search
Upward Bound
Math/Science Upward Bound

TRAINING GRANT – Project Membership and Personal Donation (Judy Coburn)

PROJECT MEMBERSHIPS

Pair Bair (Upward Bound)	Weber State University
Steve Baumann (SSS and Upward Bound)	University of Utah
Dan Bengé (Talent Search – Upward Bound)	Montana State University – Billings
Cynthia Bonsall (Student Support Services)	Salt Lake Community College
Lynne Brown (Student Support Services)	Southern Utah University
Carol Eckhardt (Talent Search)	University of Wyoming
Dawn Eckhardt (Talent Search)	University of North Dakota
Carol Gritts (Upward Bound)	Black Hills State University
Estelle Hill (Upward Bound)	Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Maureen Johnson (Student Support Services)	Metropolitan State College
Kelly Kirschke (Upward Bound)	Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Sandra Lanier (Student Support Services)	Snow College
Mary Lukin (Student Support Services)	Montana State University – Bozeman
Valorie Maes (Veterans Upward Bound)	Metropolitan State College
Michelle Maksimowicz (Gear Up)	Colorado
LeAnne Maxwell (Upward Bound)	Southern Utah University
Linda Ornowski (Educational Opportunity Center)	Montana State University – Northern
Bernie Phelps (Upward Bound)	Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Brian Pilcher (SSS and M/S Upward Bound)	University of Montana - Western
Andrea Reeve (Student Support Services)	Colorado State University
Neil Reuter (TRiO Programs)	University of North Dakota
Zackie Salmon (McNair)	University of Wyoming
Darlene Samson (Student Support Services)	University of Montana
Curtis Sandberg (Student Support Services)	University of Wyoming
Steve Schanandore (Student Support Services)	University of Mary
Andrea Schneider (Talent Search)	University of South Dakota
Carole Shafer (Student Support Services)	Laramie County Community College
John Shafer (Student Support Services)	Southern Utah University
RuthAnne Shope (Upward Bound)	Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Staff (Educational Opportunity Center)	Colorado State University – Pueblo
Alan Thompson (Upward Bound)	Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Amy Verlanic (Upward Bound)	Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Sher Warren (Student Support Services)	Laramie County Community College



Elections Committee

Chair: Brian Pilcher, University of Montana-Western

Committee Members: none to date

Date: Sept. 1, 2005

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Network with Association board members to identify officer candidates who are motivated to further the goals of ASPIRE, including the strengthening of state associations
- Posted solicitation for ASPIRE officer candidates on the TRIO listserv
- Contacted several potential officer candidates



Finance Committee

Chair: RuthAnne Shope, Treasurer

Committee Members: Amy Verlanic, President Michael Wade, WY President
Curtis Sandberg, Past President Carol Gritts, Development Ch.

Date: October 10, 2005

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Presented a 2005 balance ASPIRE budget to the board at the January meeting, which was approved as attached. This is the first year in three years that the finance committee and the board approved a budget not spending up the savings.
- Authorized ASPIRE maintain its savings and checking accounts at U.S. Bank (\$30,000 transferred from savings to checking).
- Cashed the \$25,000 Certificate of Deposit at First Interstate Bank and deposited into the checking account at U.S. Bank May 12, 2005 to cover upcoming expenses of \$30,000.
- Retained Pauline Dunnuck, CPA as the registered agent and contracted accounting firm for ASPIRE, Inc.
- Authorized Mader, Tschacher, Peterson & Co. to conduct the 2004 audit.
- Filed the 501-C-3 Not for Profit 2004 Tax Returns in November.
- Renewed the “Not-for-profit directors and officers liability insurance and bonding” through Warner and Company of Fargo.

ASPIRE 2005 Budget

Income	
ATI Indirects	\$21,000.00
Membership	14,000.00
Development	11,100.00
Interest Income	500.00
Equipment Disposal	0.00
Student Leadership Congress	15,000.00
Conference	112,000.00
Accounts Receivable	5,000.00
Corporate Development	3,000.00
Leadership Development Institute	2,100.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$183,700.00
 General Expenses	
General Operating	\$15,000.00
Executive Board	28,000.00
Insurance	1,700.00
Accountant	9,000.00
Audit	4,000.00
Legal	0.00
COE Fair Share	0.00
Conference	72,000.00
ATI Direct Expenses	2,000.00
ATI Indirect Expenses	
Student Travel to Policy	0.00
Host COE Board meeting	0.00
<i>Total General Expenses</i>	\$131,700.00
 Committee Expenses	
Awards	\$1,600.00
By-Laws/Operating Guidelines	100.00
Corporate Development	200.00
Development	2,000.00
Elections	0.00
Finance	1,200.00
Financial Aid	1,357.00
International Study	300.00
Governmental Relations	11,000.00
Membership	3,700.00
Multi-ethnic advocacy	100.00
National TRIO Day	1,300.00
Personnel	1,500.00
Public Relations	500.00
Publications	2,377.00
State Initiative	6,300.00
Strategic Plan	0.00
Student Leadership Congress	10,000.00
Training/Professional Development	4,500.00
TRIO Achievers	3,000.00
TRIO Alumni	200.00
<i>Total Committee Expenses</i>	\$51,234.00
 Total Income	 \$183,700.00
Total Expenses	182,934.00
Net Gain or Loss	\$766.00



Financial Aid

Chair: Carole Shafer

Committee Members: CO: Valerie Embry MT: Burton Pierce
SD: Teresa Roscoe UT: Nazih Al-Rashid
WY: Carole Shafer

Date: September 6, 2005

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Recorded and sold Department of Education FAFSA Training Videos to out of Region TRiO Professionals.
- Stayed within budget

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Traveled to ND Chapter of ASPIRE Meeting and trained professionals on the Financial Aid and FAFSA changes, proposed changes, and the impact of the changes on the state's TRiO Students and College Funding Program.
- Trained a Committee Member to attend the WY Chapter of ASPIRE Meeting to train Wyoming TRiO professionals on the FAFSA changes and how the FA Aid legislation changes would impact the other states in the region.
- Recorded and distributed the DOE FAFSA training to ASPIRE TRiO professionals in the region for use in training TRiO Professionals, students, and parents.

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Represented TRiO and advocated for TRiO students and parents at the National DOE FAFSA e-design meeting in Washington, DC.
- Visited with Wyoming Senators and Representative about TRiO issues and Financial Aid impacts on TRiO students while in Washington, DC.
- Actively disseminated FA Alerts and change information during the special congressional session in December 2004 and January 2005. Educated TRiO professionals, students, and parents on the issues and the potential impacts on TRiO.

- Visited the ND State Capitol and met with ND State Representatives to educate them on the ND TRiO programs and their impact on the students and the state of ND.
- Solicited information from the ASPIRE Region about the FAFSA and the proposed changes. Presented the suggestions to the National FA Committee Chair and the DOE.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Presented a pre-session workshop and a concurrent session at the 2005 ASPIRE Conference about Financial Aid. Facilitated a Financial Aid dialog session at the 2004 ASPIRE Conference.
- Published a FAFSA and FA Update article in the December issue of ASPIRATIONS.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Attended the Realizing the College Dream Conference in Denver, Colorado and adapted the curriculum for all TRiO programs and to be used by TRIO participants and their parents to better understand the FA process and availability.
- Presented information at the WY and ND Chapter of ASPIRE Meetings about the FA packaging process and taught professionals how to explain the process to students and parents.
- Assisted WY and MT TRiO Professionals in the successful participation in College Goal Sunday to assist students and parents in completing the FAFSA accurately and timely.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Attended the ND Chapter of ASPIRE meeting.



Membership Committee

Chair: Elaine Metcalfe

Committee Members: Brian Pilcher, Charlie Luecke, Catherine Dekler, and Sher Warren.

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:

- Membership committee members communicated with TRIO personnel in each state to relay information regarding the benefits of Aspire membership (including advocacy for students and programs) through personal communication and at state meetings.
- A letter describing benefits of membership was mailed to all non-members.
- The Aspire Directory 2004-05 was published and mailed to all Aspire members.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- New memberships were solicited through the efforts of the membership committee members, in conjunction with excellent efforts by each state president, to raise funds for Aspire.
- Communication with the Development Committee Chair and Awards Committee Chair was increased, to facilitate address and membership updates for both the directory and membership lists. Gratitude and appreciation is expressed to Carol Gritts, Development Committee Chair and Urla Marcus, Awards Committee Chair for their assistance in these areas.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Student membership has increased, through efforts by state presidents and committee members.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- In recognition of the important role of the state presidents in reaching out to their state TRIO personnel, the membership committee included them in membership drive correspondence by the committee.
- The membership committee provided state presidents and committee members with current lists of membership at various times in the past year, so that membership drives within each state could be facilitated with non-members.

ASPIRE TRIO DAY ACTIVITIES

This year ASPIRE was very busy putting together activities for National TRIO Day. The following states reported the following:

Wyoming National TRIO Day Activities

- Governor's Proclamation signing
- Mayor of Cheyenne's Proclamation Signing
- TRIO Students on the State Capitol Campus providing state legislators with the Wyoming TRIO brochure, how TRIO has helped them in their educational goals, and "afternoon snack bags" with more TRIO information
- TRIO Students introduced in both the House and Senate Chambers by TRIO friendly state legislators who described the TRIO programs to their colleagues.
- Central Wyoming College held a "Diversity Celebration" to provide information to the campus and community of TRIO work and successes.
- Northwest College hosts a TRIO Day celebration in conjunction with graduation where the college and the community recognize graduating TRIO students.

Montana National TRIO Day Activities

Billings, MT National TRIO Day was celebrated at Montana State University-Billings on February 28th, 2005. Representatives from Congressman Rehberg and Senator Baucus offices were also in attendance. Little Big Horn College and five programs from the Billings area gathered to recognize the significant contributions TRIO has made to students, educational institutions, and the community. Each program selected a TRIO Achiever. Award recipients were presented with a plaque and gave a short speech. Additional activities included a reading of a proclamation from Billings Mayor Tooley office, a speech from the ASPIRE President Dan Benge, and a television interview.

- Upward Bound TRIO Achiever Award-Ashley Jensen
- Educational Talent Search Achiever Award-Mallory
- Veterans Upward Bound TRIO Achiever Award-Jeff L. Kraus
- Educational Opportunity Center TRIO Achiever Award-Angela Montez
- Little Big Horn College TRIO Achiever Award-Kyle Whiteman
- Student Opportunity Services TRIO Achiever Award-Charlotte York

Butte, MT James Smith, Mayor of Helena, Gene Vuckovich, CEO of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, and Paul Babb CEO of Silver Bow County all wrote Proclamation's declaring TRIO day as an official day in their communities. Montana Tech Upward Bound students gathered in Helena on TRIO day and read these proclamations. Then an ophthalmologist who recently opened a new practice in Helena, who was in Upward Bound as a high school student addressed the students, he credits much of his accomplishments to the TRIO program and was quite motivational for them to hear.

Bozeman, MT Student Support Services (Advance By Choice) hosted TRIO Day. We hosted a two-hour reception on campus. We recognized some former TRIO alums that now work at MSU. We also recognized current tutors who have earned their College Reading and Learning Association certifications. Our director, Mary Lukin, talked briefly about her time here at MSU and announced her retirement at the end of May. We also prepared and showed a power point presentation on the

program. Who came? A cross-section of people from around campus attended, including some of our students, tutors, some faculty members and administrators.

Great Falls, MT We had an "open house," inviting institutional staff/faculty, our students & past TRIO alum. We also had the Mayor (Randy Gray) of Great Falls come to speak at our center about the importance of higher education--I got him to come with my insistence that our support services help people graduate and eventually contribute to the local/state economy--many of our students remain in Great Falls or the state to work. We had our president speak about the importance of TRIO and congratulated past TRIO graduates. Also, we had the TV stations come and interview me on what TRIO is all about & the proposed cuts. We also had a raffle to give away educational materials with the TRIO logo.

Kalispell, MT Flat Head Valley Community College had tables with literature from each of our TRIO programs laid out so by-passers could see info and pictures of things happening in our projects. Brenda Hansen gave a history of the TRIO Program from its beginning on the National level. Lynn Farris gave a history of the TRIO projects here at FVCC. We then honored a person not in TRIO who has contributed to the success of our students. Kathleen Brown told of how this person has helped our students and gave the award to Judy Shaffer, the first person that students see as they inquire about financial aid. Mary Jordt then gave the history of the person in TRIO and how they have contributed to the success of the students. This award was given to Brenda Hanson. We had students sign in for prizes, the first prize being 2 concert tickets. We then had punch and ice cream sundaes as we conversed about TRIO. It should be noted that an invitation was sent the President, Vice President, and board members. Several days before the event and official press release was sent by the college media person.

North Dakota National TRIO Day Activities

University of North Dakota hosted a luncheon at the Energy and Environmental Research building on UND campus. TRIO programs from around the state also took part in the luncheon. During the TRIO Day Celebration the following activities took place:

- Five student awards were presented to students in each program.
- Invitations went out to local and state representatives
- Distinguished officials from across the university also attended the luncheon.

Utah National TRIO Day Activities

- 45 TRIO professionals and participants marched up to the state capital and met with Governor Huntsman, who signed a proclamation of National TRIO Day.
- 11 state legislators were also present during the signing of the proclamation.
- Each campus hosted an open house where conversations of what "TRIO does for the campus and community" were had.
- Salt Lake Community College hosted a luncheon where eight \$500.00 scholarships were awarded to TRIO participants.
- Press coverage was

Colorado National TRIO Day Activities

- Colorado celebrated National TRIO Day by hosting a state luncheon where both state and national representatives were invited and represented
- All programs were represented at state luncheon.
- Over 90 TRIO professionals and students attended luncheon, which had the opportunity to talk about TRIO programs and the impact of the community.
- Over 17 state legislatures were present at luncheon.
- Relationships were established with both federal and state representatives.

South Dakota National TRIO Day Activities

South Dakota celebrated National TRIO Day by hosting activities at respective colleges and universities. The programs hosted activities that celebrated the success of students and promoted awareness about TRIO programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Alethea Stovall



Personnel Committee

Chair: Amy L. Verlanic

Committee Members: Curtis T. Sandberg & Karen Grabanski

Date: October 10, 2005

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ASPIRE reduced the percentage of in-directs that the region gives back to the training grant from 2% to 1% during the January budget process.
- In May, ATI agreed to provide \$1,000 to the region in future years to partially cover the expenses of the President-Elect to attend an ATI training.
- 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.
- ATI staff actively participated in and contributed to the ASPIRE annual conference.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- To keep ATI fully staffed and manage the personnel issues of the grant, the following activities took place;
 - In early January, ATI requested an 8% raise for all staff via memo to Steve Baumann, President.
 - At the January 14, 2005 board meeting, Steve Baumann asked Amy Verlanic to create an ATI Task force to consider the raise request and three other ATI issues. The task force was formed and an agenda was set. Membership on the taskforce was; Lynne Brown, Utah; Oscar Felix, Colorado; Neil Reuter, North Dakota; Allyn Kostecki, North Dakota; Andrea Schneider, South Dakota; Curtis Sandberg, Wyoming; Ray Carlisle, Montana; and Amy Verlanic, Montana.
 - The task force met via teleconference on April 14, 2005, then submitted a written report to the personnel committee.

- The personnel committee considered the task force's report at the May 13, 2005 board meeting and made the following two motions to the board, which both passed unanimously.
 - **Motion #5:** Motion moved and seconded from Personnel Committee that based on merit, comparative salary surveys and 5 year historical research Judy Coburn and Sue Misock should be granted a 5% raise retroactive from January 2005 and denial of pay request for Brent Hoefler who started in Sept. and had not completed his probationary period at the time of the request.
 - **Motion #6:** Moved and seconded from Personnel Committee to modify Operating Guidelines section 3.10 line 10 to include language "and a report from the ATI director and must include budget verses actual expenditures of grant funds".
- On September 2, 2005 Judy Coburn submitted her resignation as ATI Director. During the next week the personnel committee developed the following three motions, which were presented to the full board via e-mail on September 10, 2005.
 - It comes moved and seconded from the personnel committee to accept Judy Coburn's resignation as ATI Director effective November 30 2005.
 - It comes moved and seconded from the personnel committee that ASPIRE, Inc. promotes Sue Misock beginning Oct. 1, 2005 to interim director until the end of the grant cycle, Sept. 30, 2006.
 - It comes moved and seconded from the personnel committee ASPIRE, Inc. grants authority to Sue Misock, as interim director, to subcontract this spring, using indirect funds, with Kathy Walker to write and/or edit the renewal proposal. (Estimated date of submission is June 2006).
- Every board member had replied in favor of all three motions by September 24, 2005. Amy Verlanic contacted Sue Misock and Judy Coburn regarding the passing of the motions and reassignment of duties.
- On September 26, 2005 a letter welcoming Sue to her new position was sent to every ATI trainer on behalf of the ASPIRE board.



Publications Committee

Chair: Maria Schmidt

Committee Members: Karen Grabanski
Ron Garcia

Date: September 26, 2005

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:

- Current information on the status of TRIO funding is published in the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.
- COE Action Alerts are published in the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.
- Updates on the regional conference are published in the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.
- Articles are published on the achievements of current TRIO participants, as well as TRIO alumni and TRIO staff.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ASPIRE members are kept informed on the activities of other states in the region by publishing the state reports submitted by each state president.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ASPIRE members are notified of upcoming professional development activities through the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.
- Updates on the regional conference are included in the ASPIRATIONS newsletter, including requests for assistance with planning.

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) has been added to the mailing list of the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.

- Congressional representatives from the ASPIRE region have been added to the mailing list of the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.
- COE Action Alerts are published in the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- ASPIRE members are asked to submit articles on best practices for publication in ASPIRATIONS.
- ASPIRATIONS newsletters are published on the ASPIRE website.



State Initiative Committee

Chair: Ray Carlisle

Committee Members: ASPIRE State Presidents, ASPIRE President

Date: 9/16/05

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 sponsored informational activities with state legislators to inform them about TRIO's impact on their state's education system
- All six ASPIRE states have completed fact books describing TRIO activities in their respective state

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Because state presidents also served as State Initiative chairs, there was considerable overlap with national "Save TRIO" campaign. In several cases, some of the contacts made as part of the state initiative (i.e., MT Commissioner of Higher Education) helped lobby for support of congressional representatives for TRIO budget, appropriation, and TRIO-friendly reauthorization language
- Every ASPIRE state initiative sponsored activities to focus informational activities on state legislators and key state-level education administrators or committees, a relatively new political arena for TRIO

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- RFP's for ASPIRE state initiative funding was entirely done online; this process worked very well and demonstrated effective electronic communication between ASPIRE and state associations

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- All six ASPIRE states applied for and received ASPIRE funding for state initiative activities
- All six ASPIRE states committed and spent state funds to match ASPIRE contribution for state initiative activities



Student Leadership Congress

Chair: Kimberly Coon-Domacilio

Committee Members: Monique Torres-Reymus – Chair over registration at the ASPIRE Student Leadership Congress

Date: September 26th, 2005

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:

- Informed ASPIRE state-presidents about the 2005 National Student Leadership Congress.



- Planned and will soon put on the ASPIRE Student Leadership Congress on November 2nd - 4th 2005 in Salt Lake City Utah. This congress is for pre-college students.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Will provide training opportunities to ASPIRE professionals at the ASPIRE Student Leadership Congress. Training will prepare TRIO staff to teach students and professionals a methodical way in how to prepare and write a bill.
- Information on the Regional Student Leadership Congress, as well as a report on the Utah State Leadership Conferences will be given at the ASPIRE Conference in Salt Lake City in October 2005. The past 3 Utah Student Leadership Conference chairs will share information on their experiences on putting on a state conference.

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We have secured a strong ‘tentative’ commitment from Congressman Matheson’s office. He is a Utah Democrat who is very interested in attending the November Congress.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- With the expertise of Allyn Kostecki- we have posted an ASPIRE Student Leadership Congress webpage. The webpage contains information regarding the congress including registration process and agenda. The webpage is posted at: <http://www.aspire-online.org/committee/slc/index.htm>

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The National Student Leadership Congress in Washington DC is a week-long training for TRIO pre-college students. State presidents were alerted to registration opportunities and deadlines. Students wrote bills and participated in a mock congress, helped in service projects, received leadership and diversity training and had a chance to rub shoulders with congressmen and senators at a final banquet.
- The ASPIRE Student Leadership Congress will give 100 TRIO participants in the ASPIRE Region the opportunity to get a ‘taste’ of the experience those in Washington DC had.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- By bringing the states together at the ASPIRE Student Leadership Congress, states can glean information and training they can then take back to their students. Ideally, programs that have student leadership can take the training to another level and encourage their students to lead in their school and community. The ultimate ideal outcome would be to help students learn the power of the individual and the team and how education can help propel their efforts forward.



Training and Professional Development

Chair: Sher Warren
Committee Members: Susan Bornsen
Cheryl McGrew (2003-2004)
Andrea Reeve (2004-2005)
Date: Annual Report for 2004-2005

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 important of individual contributions to ASPIRE.
- Membership goals may have increased due to the high number of newcomers in attendance at the 2004 LDI/ASPIRE Academy (35 participants).
- LDI 2004 attempted to be self-sustaining by generating \$1,150.
- LDI provided four opportunities for newcomers to interact with seasoned TRiO/ASPIRE professionals.

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- LDI participants from October 2003 designed, disseminated, and reported on a training needs survey of the ASPIRE membership.
- LDI, by board recommendation, redesigned LDI tracks to include an Academy for newcomers, the traditional emerging leaders track and, a state/regional leaders required attendance track.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Academy participants were introduced to the TRiO and ASPIRE listservs.
- 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 # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- While this goal is not specifically related to TPD, the ASPIRE Academy regularly serves 3-5 student participants each year.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- LDI Provides three strands of leadership development training each year: Academy for newcomers, emerging leaders for members wishing to enhance project/campus/community leadership skills, and the state/regional leaders strand for members assuming elected or appointed roles within ASPIRE and/or ASPIRE State Chapters.



TRIO Achievers Committee

Chair: John Kelley

Committee Members: Chuck Swick, Krisan Crow, Patrice Giese, Barbara Sullivan, and Carol Heath

Date: September 9, 2005

Strategic Goal # 1:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- The committee has worked to advocate for TRIO programs by identifying and honoring TRIO participants for their educational excellence. We have achieved this by awarding 3 participants with the TRIO Achiever award for 2005.
- In publicly recognizing the accomplishments of our TRIO Achievers, we too help the media\public to recognize how important the work of TRIO is to promoting educational success.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- By providing student success stories of how “TRIO works” the committee is assisting in the effort to ensure future funding for TRIO, ASPIRE, GEAR UP and other Educational Opportunity Programs.

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE\TRIO program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- By funding the attendance of TRIO Achievers award recipients to the annual regional conference, the TRIO Achievers committee hopes that each award recipient gains a more complete grasp of what TRIO & ASPIRE aim to achieve for all student participants.

October 10, 2005

Dear ASPIRE,

Here is a list of the **Alumni** committee members.

CO	M. Cristina Grabiell	Fort Lewis College	grabiell_m@fortlewis.edu
MT	Rob Rust	MSU – Billings	rrust@msubillings.edu
ND	To Be Named		
SD	Billie James	University of South Dakota	bjames@usd.edu
UT	Kelley Paystrup	Snow College	kelley.paystrup@snow.edu
WY	Berna Weston	University of Wyoming	bwatson@uwyo.edu

We were just elected at the last annual meeting of ASPIRE and have gathered ideas and will have our first formal meeting in the fall of 2005 at the ASPIRE conference. I have actually set up a database with our Alumni (Foundation office) for our former students from USD and have corresponded with many of them. We did get feedback on the survey of graduates - which was positive. Our fall 2005 meeting will be a brainstorming meeting.

Sincerely,
Billie James

ASPIRE TRAINING INSTITUTE

Annual Report to ASPIRE, Inc.

Director: Judy Coburn

Co-workers: Sue Misock, Brent Hoefler, Jody Yelton

Date: Sept 25, 05

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:

- Three well received trainings from TRIO participants across the country as well as a few Gear-up folks. Not only do our trainings help TRIO professionals hone their effective counseling skills, we offer much regarding retention and resilience, provide individuals a chance to network and share their talents with each other and celebrate the TRIO community and its success.

Strategic Goal # 2:

Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Provided indirect
- Personal donation
- Institutional membership

Strategic Goal # 3:

Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Offered our services to anyone in the region for training
- Provided the computer lab at last year's conference
- Personal invitations to all state presidents to send to their membership regarding our trainings
- Provided training in region (Denver)

Strategic Goal # 4:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We regularly respond to alerts on listserve to communicate with Senators and Representatives

- In every situation when asked our occupations we constantly speak to the great work TRIO is doing. People in airports, taxi-drivers, folks in line for anything including the restroom have a great opportunity to hear about ASPIRE and TRIO. We try to be ambassadors wherever we go.

Strategic Goal # 5:

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

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Again, computer lab at the regional convention
- Our Best Practices session is a great hit—a great sharing/new ideas time

Strategic Goal # 6:

Provide educational/training opportunities for ASPIRE program participants.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We make room for our ASPIRE members at every training.

Strategic Goal # 7:

Strengthen state associations.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- We try to send someone from our office to the state meetings however they often coincide with out training travel.



**ASPIRE Membership Meeting
Jackson Lake Lodge, Wyoming
Monday, October 04, 2004
UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

President Curtis Sandberg called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m. Curtis directed members to pick up an Agenda at the entry doors. Curtis asked for any additions to the Agenda, hearing none he accepted the Agenda as submitted. Curtis then appointed Kathy Felker as Parliamentarian, hearing no objections from the membership.

Minutes of the Membership Meeting held in Rapid City, South Dakota at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn on Sunday, October 5, 2003 and Wednesday, October 8, 2003 were provided in the *ASPIRE 2003 – 2004 Annual Report*. Curtis requested any corrections or additions.

MOTION #1: Susan Garner moved to accept the minutes. Dan Banga seconded the motion and it PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Curtis Sandberg then presented the **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**.

Curtis referred the membership to the *ASPIRE Annual Report*.

Amy Verlanic then presented the **TREASURER’S REPORT** and encouraged the members to refer to their copies for details. She announced that *ASPIRE* is in great financial shape.

Carol Gritts and Rita Tanner presented the Membership Awards.

Brian Pilcher, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the slate of nominations for the offices of President-Elect (Amy Verlanic) and Secretary (Julie Jackman). He then called for additional nominations.

MOTION #2: Michelle Maksimowicz moved to elect Amy Verlanic as President-Elect by acclamation. Lynne Brown seconded the motion and it PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION #3: John Hennenberg moved to elect Julie Jackman as Secretary by acclamation. Mike Manos seconded the motion and it PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Kathy Felker, Parliamentarian, clarified that the last year of Amy’s term as Treasurer will be filled by appointment from the Board as per the *ASPIRE Constitution*.

Amy invited the membership to come and meet her and Julie at the Candidate’s Forum at 4:15.

Julie Jackman, 2005 Regional Conference co-chair, presented the **2005 Regional Conference Report**. Kim Coons is Julie's co-chair.

Julie reported that the 2005 ASPIRE Regional Conference will be held at Little America in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 16 – 19, 2005. There will be a Service Learning Projects and Julie has written proposals to find funding for the Projects. All chairs and sub-chairs have been identified and will be meeting in the next few days to set goals.

The 2005 Regional Conference Committee is going to expand exhibitors as well as ads in the 2005 Conference Program.

Curtis commended Julie on her hard work and adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

ASPIRE Bylaws and Operating Guidelines

ASPIRE, Inc. is governed by Bylaws and an extensive set of Operating Guidelines. Each paid member of ASPIRE has been provided with a CD with an electronic copy of this annual report as well as the bylaws and operating guidelines. These two governing documents are not included in the annual report, but are provided as Attachment A & B. The bylaws and operating guidelines are also available as separate documents on ASPIRE, Inc.'s web site at www.aspire-online.org.