



ASPIRATIONS

Official Newsletter of ASPIRE, Inc.

TRiO

September-December 2009



WINDS OF CHANGE: ENERGIZING FOR THE FUTURE

**ASPIRE 2010
OCTOBER 9TH-13TH**

**Little America Hotel and Resort
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

DID YOU KNOW?

On February 16, 1890, Robert C. Morris suggested the “Equality State” as a fitting nickname for the state of Wyoming?

On February 17th, 1870, Ester Morris was appointed 1st woman justice of the peace in South Pass City?

On February 27th 1945, Wyoming was 2nd in the nation in honey yield?

Message from the President



Salutations ASPIRE!

I would like to extend a belated Happy Holidays to you all! I hope that your breaks over the holiday were rejuvenating, full of laughter, family, and fun. Additionally, I hope your spring semesters are of to a great start as well! I am still pumped over a great conference in South Dakota, from the excellent professional development to the newly created song, “Everybody Loves a TRIO Man” inspired through karaoke.

I am excited to announce that the ASPIRE region is once again in the black, healthy, and this is due to the sacrifices of the two previous boards, your commitment to personal donations, ASPIRE project memberships, and the excellent fiscal responsibility of the last two conference committees. A little over two years ago you all aware that as a region we had a deficit to the tune of 60k, (I know I sigh too), but frown no more; we have 87k in the bank! While in the black the board is still very careful, conservative, and is strategically working to restore savings, committees, and opportunities that have not been available for a while.

The first re-additions are the State Initiative Grant and increasing the amount of funds for the Leadership Development Institute. State Initiatives are important it is the evolution of TRIO. For over twenty years we have worked to create a national presence and now it is equally important to duplicate our national initiative at the state level. TRIO works and it time for everyone to know! The Leadership Development Institute has been revitalized by Oscar Felix and Andrea Reeves. Their work has been nothing short of exceptional and as a board we are supportive and committed to their success. I highly encourage every director in our region to send identify an emerging leader from their staff and connect to the LDI. The LDI is development that has benefits beyond ASPIRE; it will directly impact your team, thank you Oscar and Andrea!

The first quarter of my presidency has been very exciting, from having a Legionnaire’s disease scare at the December COE board meeting to receiving a picture text from a board member that got a TRIO tattoo (no joke) on their neck! If there is one thing I can tell you for certain, it’s that this board is committed to TRIO and even more committed to you.

As we continue to grow as a region and further our political growth there are several things that are important housed under one core idea; Developing a Shared Vision:

- 1) Legitimize TRIO as an education power. In order to accomplish this we must understand our brand, market it, and celebrate our accomplishments on a broader basis. We have to be intentional about our programs receiving recognition beyond our campuses, agencies, and direct partners. Use media, flyers, electronic mediums, and write open editorial pieces whenever you get the opportunity. Most importantly leveraging our 501 c 3 status for additional revenue to help in these areas.



Message from the president continued

- 2) Embrace Organizational Development and Change. TRIO, like the educational landscape, is evolving. We must become more proactive and less reactive in order to take our proper place in the educational access and equity conversations and movement.
- 3) Label our services and practices. Use the language, adopt the jargon, and enlighten everyone on what we have accomplished over the last forty years.
- 4) Embrace the state initiative movement and begin to identify additional sources of revenue.
- 5) Fair Share, as a region we do an awesome job (thanks Carol Gritts for your leadership) of institutional memberships, but I challenge everyone in our region to call or email Alvin Phillips at COE and Carol Gritts from ASPIRE and donate \$5.00 dollars to COE and to the region. With a \$10.00 pledge from us all we can jump into to the lead and once again kick some NEOA butt!

The board just wrapped up our winter board meeting at the Little America Resort in Cheyenne, WY! The reports from the board and committee will all be available on the website please take a moment and read what's going on around your region. We are off to a great site and everyone is excited our upcoming regional meeting. The resort is fantastic and I am anxious for you all to see as well.

In Spearfish I told everyone one of my major goals was to visit each state to learn more about what you do, to just see you a little more, to get to know everyone better, and to plan have some "good ol'" ASPIRE fun. Well the state meetings are on the horizon, although some dates are very close together I intend keep my word and I will see you all soon.

Have a great semester and

THANK YOU ALL FOR ALL YOU DO!

In TRIO Spirit,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Ross', is positioned above the typed name.

Ryan Ross, M.Ed.
ASPIRE President



Committee Reports

Financial Aid News *from Cody McMichael, Financial Aid Committee Chair*

Student Loan Demand at Record High

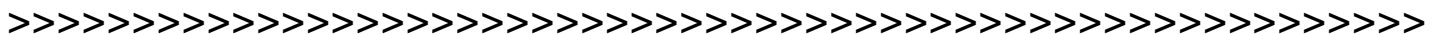
A recent article from Reuters news service indicates that the amount of student loans continue to rise. "Unprecedented growth in student loans over the past two years is raising questions about whether a generation will be saddled with debt before it has even entered the workforce, according to data that the Equifax Inc credit bureau provided exclusively to Reuters," Reuters reports. "The number of U.S. student loan accounts has risen 29 percent to 69 million over two years, according to Equifax, while balances have jumped by \$105 billion to \$527 billion. 'We've never seen this high student loan activity,' said Dann Adams, president of Equifax's U.S. Information Systems. The demand for student loans results from college graduates pursuing advanced degrees because of high unemployment. Also, parents' depleted savings mean more college-age children are forced to take on debt."

Federal Student Financial Aid Application Streamlined for Needy Students


An article in *The Washington Post* on January 5, 2010 states that many students will see a simpler financial aid application. "The federal government Tuesday morning rolled out a shorter, simpler financial aid application for needy students in an effort to reduce barriers to higher education," *The Washington Post* reports. "Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Jill Biden, wife of the vice president, promoted the streamlined Free Application for Federal Student Aid in a swing Tuesday morning through Banneker High School in Northwest Washington. The new format, according to an Education Department summary, has fewer questions and a more user-friendly interface. For the first time, low-income students are able to skip certain questions about financial assets because the information is not required to determine aid eligibility. Questions about legal residency and prior drug convictions have also been reduced or eliminated for certain applicants."

More Financial Aid Available for Families Who Ask For It

TRIO professionals can help families find more financial aid. An article in *The Wall Street Journal* on December 28, 2009 states "After a year marked by layoffs, battered college funds and shrinking private-loan availability, more families are struggling to cover the cost of a higher education. But there is help out there -- and more of it in some instances," *The Wall Street Journal* reports. "More families are taking action to make sure their financial-aid packages reflect their current financial situation by requesting professional judgment reviews. ... A September survey by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators found that nearly two-thirds of institutions saw judgment requests rise by 10% or more."



ASPIRE Awards and TRIO Achiever nomination requests will be sent out early March! Please watch your email for the nomination forms. The DUE DATE to submit your nominations will be MAY 1, 2010! Start thinking now of your nomination for Rising Star, Friend of ASPIRE, Champion of TRIO and TRIO Achiever!



News from South Dakota

“South Dakota ASPIRE thanks you for making the 2009 Conference a success”



TRIO professionals from 6 states visit a very foggy Mt. Rushmore

News Briefs:

- Tina Hartley, President-elect of South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE, will be collecting information for the ASPIRE Regional Fact Book and SD TRIO Fact Book.
- Cody McMichael, President of South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE, submitted an application for the COE State Initiative Grant for funding the SD TRIO Fact Book and SD ASPIRE website.
- The South Dakota ASPIRE spring conference will be a co-state conference with North Dakota. It will be in Bismarck, ND on April 19-20.
- TRIO Day events are planned across the state for February 27. Marion Blue Arm (USD) will be promoting TRIO Day to all state programs. She will also coordinate a report of activities to be included in the ASPIRATIONS newsletter.
- TRIO staff from across the state will be volunteering time and expertise for the College Goal Sunday on February 21, 2010.
- Cody McMichael, President of South Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE, will be attending COE's Policy Seminar March 21 – 23 to ensure South Dakota TRIO program's voice is heard by law-makers in our nation's capitol

ASPIRE Regional Conference 2009: Spearfish, South Dakota



Dakota Wesleyan University

Dakota Wesleyan Student Support Services Welcomes New Staff

Amanda Welch is DWU's new TRIO SSS Tutor Coordinator and Disability Services Coordinator. She is originally from Maine, and completed both her undergraduate and graduate career at The University of Maine Orono. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology, and Master's of Education in Student Development in Higher Education.



DWU TRIO freshman attend King Tut exhibit. As part of the TRIO freshman experience class students traveled to the Goss Museum in Watertown South Dakota to learn more about ancient Egyptian culture and see some beautiful artifacts.



Spring 2010 is shaping up to be a very busy semester. Here are just some of the educational events DWUTRIO students will be participating in:



Jackie Larson from the Center for Talent Development discusses how students can call on their strengths to get involved on campus and in the community.

“Using Your Strengths to Get Involved” presented by The Center for Talent Development

TRIO Writing Center Monday Madness Series: Monday night mini lessons in the Writing Center covering - Common Punctuation Errors, Referencing, Sentence Structure, Dangling Modifiers

Career Speakers: Session 1 - Joel Reinesch, Patrol Officer & Roswitha Konz, Counselor. Session 2 - Dave Olson, Accountant & Mark Halling, Educator

TRIO Peer Tutor Workshops – Tips for multiple choice exams, note taking skills, studying for math and science exams, using you strengths in academics



Dakota Wesleyan University educational events continued



TRIO Peer Mentors Brenda Habermann and Lacey Vanden Berge

Effective Classroom Presentations: *TRIO Peer Mentors Brenda Habermann and Lacey Vanden Berge discuss how to effectively get your message across, show your expertise and impress your professors*

“Advanced Research Techniques” *presented by the Director of Learning Resources*

“Mastering Essay Exams” and “Right Word in the Right Place” *presented by TRIO Writing Center Staff*

TRIO Health Series:

Exercise Tips for College Students *with the Athletic Training Peer Mentors*

Healthy Relationship with Campus *with Counselor Sally Wickware-Thompson*

Healthy Nutrition *with Campus Nurse Donna Gerlach*

Stress Management *with Campus Counselor Sally Wickware-Thompson*

DWUTRIO SSS helps local non-profit organization

The TRIO Peer Mentors and the TRIO freshman Learn Strong 101 sections of Dakota Wesleyan University volunteered their time for the Abbott House Festival of Lights. The Abbott House is a residential treatment center that provides services for girls ages nine to seventeen who have suffered trauma and abuse. For two weeks in late November and December approximately 60 Mentors and Mentees worked 2 hours shifts to collect donations as the Mitchell community enjoyed the decorative lights set to Christmas music. Mentors and Mentees also braved chilly winter weather as they worked at the Winter Carnival with set up, games, food, and tear down. To learn more about the Abbot House go to <http://www.abbotthouse.org/events.html>



Left: The Abbot House

Right: TRIO Peer Mentors
Back -Heather Love, Derik Fossum, Derric Ludens
Front- Rosebud Haukaas, Kelsie Nebelsick, Shannon Mack-Not pictured: Ellie Peterson, Lacy Vanden Berge, Brenda Habermann



News from Colorado

The Fort Lewis College Talent Search Program announces their Daniel's and Gates Millennium Scholars

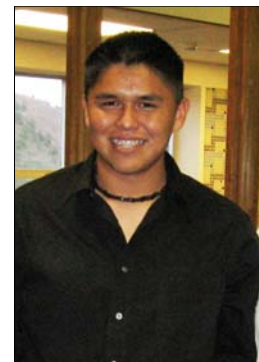
The Daniel's Fund Scholarship and the Gates Millennium Scholarship are two highly coveted scholarships. Thousands of high school seniors apply each year, but only a limited number of students are honored with this life changing award. With the persistence, hard work, follow through and guidance from FLC Talent Search Advisors, the Fort Lewis College Talent Search Program saw three students receive these amazing scholarships.

2009-10 Gates Millennium Program awarded 1,000 scholarships, out of thousands of applications. We are proud that two of our Talent Search students were awarded this highly competitive and prestigious scholarship. Amorina Lee-Martinez from Mancos High School, assisted by ETS Advisor Nicole Mosher, and Camille de Vera from Durango High School, assisted by ETS Advisor Wendy Javier. Note: this is the second ETS Gates Scholars that Wendy Javier has assisted. Congratulations to Wendy Javier too for her amazing work helping students obtain financial assistance for college.

2009-10 Daniel Fund Scholarship awarded approximately 250 scholarships, out of 2,000 applicants. ETS advisors, Wendy Javier, LaVonne Martinez and Nicole Mosher, submitted twelve nominees for this amazing scholarship. We are proud to say that of those submitted, three students were selected as Daniel Fund Scholars: **Charise Clarridge** from Mancos High School, **Justin Largo** from Montezuma Cortez High and Darryl Herrington from Durango High School. Congratulations to our local students who received this scholarship!



Charise Clarridge



Justin Largo

In case you are unfamiliar with these scholarships and would like to help your students apply next year, here are the links to their websites: <http://www.gmsp.org> and <http://www.danielsfund.org>

Reach for the Feather of Leadership and Find



Ya'at'eeh (Hello),

My name is Dwight Largie, Diné (Navajo), from Naschitti, New Mexico and the newest member to the Educational Talent Search TRIO Program. To reach this point in my life, thus far in my career I have developed and gained requisite knowledge that has been beneficial to mentor and direct the area secondary and intermediate school students with their endeavors. It has been a pleasure to converse with your students and you as parents as well. My experience up until now



Reach for the Feather continued

has been a joyous one full of laughter and new refreshing ideas that are innovative for future aspirations in the classroom and at my homestead.

To be perfectly honest I have always strived to establish a foundation for the next generation of leaders and to also uphold the integrity needed to truly be there for the student's well being. I have been taught many teachings that are derived from the Navajo Philosophy and one teaching that comes to mind is; if your true intent is in it for the children, prosperity will flourish.

It is with great satisfaction that I have been appointed to be an Educational Talent Search Academic Advisor for the communities of Mancos and Cortez, Colorado. Thank you for your time and encouragement to believe that there is better tomorrow in store for the next several generations to come.

News from Montana

Mike McLean has taken over as Montana ASPIRE President with Holly Barnett leaving her presidential post for a job in Italy. The transition took place on December 4th, 2009. Mike looks forward to serving all Montana TRIO programs.

The **2010 Montana State ASPIRE Conference** will be at Kwa Taq Nuk Resort in Polson April 20-21 with a possible LDI occurring on April 19th in the evening. Registration information will occur through CVENT and will be on line soon.

Montana State University—Bozeman

Thanks to the supplemental funding from the U.S. Department of Education, TRIO Student Support Services was able to award 14 students (half of those who applied) with grant aid for spring semester 2010. In addition to being Pell eligible, the students had to write an essay describing why they deserved the award.

MSU-Bozeman was awarded a \$220,000 McNair grant in September 2009. Dr. Shelly Hogan is the Director and Elise Coy is the Program Assistant. The project is designed to promote graduate school application and future enrollment for first generation, low-income, and minority students who are current undergraduates. For more information go to www.montana.edu/mcnair.

MSU-Bozeman welcomes a new President, Dr. Waded Cruzado. Dr. Cruzado comes from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces where she was the Executive Vice-President and Provost for several years. Dr. Cruzado was born in Puerto Rico and is the first woman and the first minority to serve as a university president in the state of Montana.

MSU-Bozeman will celebrate National TRIO Day on February 22nd, 2010. This event is hosted by TRIO Student Support Services and the McNair Scholars Program. For more information go to www.montana.edu/TRIOsss.



News from Montana continued

Fort Peck Community College SSS Recognizes Tutor

Student Support Services at Fort Peck Community College would like to showcase **Ilenda Youpee** for being an excellent, dependable tutor for the past two years. Ilenda is majoring in Computer Technology. She is a very busy mother of three children, Maria (9 yrs old), Jim (18), and Sean (22). Ilenda has always worked while going to college in various jobs off and on the college campus. She continues to maintain a high GPA and keeps up with her younger daughter's school and extra curricular activities, like Girl Scouts, Sunshine Singers, basketball, soccer, and baseball.



What is remarkable about Ilenda is she takes her tutoring position very seriously and had taken the time and effort to complete two Association for Tutoring Profession (ATP) on-line training and received two certificates showing her accomplishments. It is very important that our Tutors and Mentors receive training for their position. Not only does it make them more efficient in their job, but it gives them a sense of accomplishment. So, congratulations to Ilenda for being a great tutor, student and SSS participant.

I asked Ilenda to write an essay on "How TRIO has Helped Her" and this is what she wrote.

TRIO has helped me in so many ways. I have been a peer tutor for two years. It has been a wonderful way to get to know my fellow students, and helping others in need has been a good experience for me. The income has helped pay bills. I have also received scholarships and gas vouchers from the TRIO program. I am thankful for the incentive awards from the Resource Closet, with much needed household items, and other useful things for my family. The study guides are informative and useful. I didn't even know what a learning style was, before I did the study guide and took the survey on the internet link. After I learned about it, we discussed learning styles in several of my classes. I was glad to have known my own learning style already.

Student Support Services has food and snacks, coffee and water, which I depended on when my class schedule didn't give me a break for lunch. I have received class required school supplies, like note cards, when I couldn't find any at any of the stores in town. There are student activities like the Madrigal, which is a musical with dinner, put on by the Wolf Point Music Department. I have gone two years in a row, and recommend it for anyone who has not experienced it. There are special activities during the holidays, like decorating stockings and filling them this past year, and selecting gifts and wrapping them the year before. Another activity was going to the Interpretive Center at Fort Peck Lake. I had never been there either, and it was amazing to see the dinosaur discoveries found in our area.

The TRIO staff is very knowledgeable and helpful. They provide resources that I would not have been able to acquire without their help. I appreciate each and every one of them, and everything they have done for me, and wouldn't have had as much success without them.



News from Utah

A New Home / Veterans Upward Bound shows off its new WSU digs during open house *By admin Created Nov 12 2009 - 11:18pm Standard-Examiner staff*

OGDEN -- Many veterans on the path to higher education share certain struggles.

Many haven't been to school in years, some are low-income, and others are first-generation college students. The Veterans Upward Bound program lets these veterans know they are not alone and provides them with services that will help them succeed in school and find a career they can enjoy.

The Weber State University Veterans Upward Bound held an open house Thursday to honor veterans and to showcase the program's new home in Annex 12 on the main campus.

"Mostly, we've just been trying to honor veterans and let people know about our facility," said Donna Rigby, director of Veterans Upward Bound.

Veterans Upward Bound moved into its new space in March and was finally ready to showcase it for the community.

"It's finally all come together," she said. "It takes a long time."

A short program recognizing veterans was held Thursday afternoon, when WSU President Ann Millner and Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, each thanked veterans for their service and spoke on the importance of education for veterans.

"Education is becoming more and more significant as we are going forward," Bishop said, adding that he was a first-generation college graduate like many veterans who participate in Veterans Upward Bound. "Education is also one of those things that broadens our horizons, broadens our perspectives and makes us a more well-rounded individual."

Millner thanked the veterans for their service.

"Each of you has paid a very personal price for your paTRIOtism," she said. "It's very difficult to measure what that price has been to you personally. Or to really measure what the impact is for all of us, in terms of freedom and the quality of life that we all enjoy each and every day that we often take for granted."

Rigby said the program focuses on helping veterans who are low-income or first-generation students, as well as students called to active duty after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

The grant-funded federal program helps veterans by providing academic and career assessment testing,

A New Home continued

advising and referral services, and academic assistance through tutoring in math, English and computer literacy.

"They know the transitions military people have to go through," said Alicia Mathews, a Veterans Upward Bound participant who served in the Air Force. "They know what challenges we face. Some of us are older. We're not right out of high school, and some of us have kids."

The program is funded to serve 120 students a year, but Rigby said it often serves more. All services are provided at the main campus, with some additional English tutoring available at the Davis campus.



News from Wyoming

University of Wyoming Student Success Services

SSS Fall Connection



This year's Student Success Services Fall Connection was held September 17, 2009, in downtown Laramie's historic Union Pacific train depot. Approximately 100 participants enjoyed the several platters of Mexican food from Corona Village. While the Fall Connection is a great way for first year students to learn about the SSS program, all in attendance also were able to hear success stories from junior and senior SSS members.



Clair Naylor, senior in International Studies, discussed her study abroad experience in England. Jennifer Steiner, junior in Pharmacology, shared her knowledge of how to transfer from a UW undergraduate program to one of our professional schools. Aylin Marquez, senior in Mathematics, explained to all why she decided to apply to the McNair Scholars Program for post-graduate education and what steps she took to gain acceptance into the program. Finally, Sarah Sawin, junior in Architectural Engineering, provided information on how to land an internship as she had done the previous summer at Warren Air Force Base.



Continuing what has become a tradition at the Fall Connection, the tables and gathering space in the depot were enlivened with flowers from SSS Advisor Bill Anderson's garden. SSS Project Director Sandy Straley announced door prizes throughout the evening and SSS Advocates for Achievement (AFA) members helped with set up, clean up, and took time to introduce themselves and their purpose as a UW recognized student organization. Among those in attendance

were UW President, Tom Buchanan, and his wife, Jacque, who greatly assists SSS with the Spring Junior-Senior Etiquette Dinner; Vice President of Student Affairs, Sara Axelson; Assistant to the Vice President, John Nutter; Coe Librarian, Cass Kvenild; Department Head, Family & Consumer Sciences, Karen Williams, and Travis Deti and Linda Valent, representatives from Wyoming Senators John Barrasso's and Michael Enzi's offices.



University of Wyoming SSS continued

SSS Student Achievement



Carisa R. Stansbury

I am a recent graduate from the University of Wyoming who was a three-year participant in the SSS program. With their help and support, I successfully completed my undergraduate education and obtained a B.S. degree in Zoology and Physiology. Following graduation, I now hold a graduate research position at the University of Idaho where I am working on the new method of non-invasive genetic sampling to evaluate population dynamics and pack structure of gray wolves in the state of Idaho. Non-invasive genetic sampling uses animal sign such as scat, hair, feathers, or saliva to obtain DNA and identify individuals through genetic analyses.

This emerging new method allows researchers and managers to monitor wildlife populations such as wolves without the need for trapping, immobilizing, handling, or directly observing individuals, making it a safer alternative for both wildlife and wildlife managers. Thanks to the resources the SSS program has provided me, I am where I want to be today, working in a field I am passionate about.

Meet Katie Ludwin — New SSS Advisor

My name is Katie Ludwin, and I am the newest advisor in Student Success Services. It is an exciting change for me to be a part of SEO and Student Affairs, and I feel fortunate to be here. For the past two and a half years, I worked in academic support for UW Athletics; I am new to working in TRIO programs, and am enjoying it very much so far. I am thrilled to be taking over the position as the Advocates for Achievement (AFA) advisor and look forward to teaching UWYO 1205 next fall.

I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, and did my undergraduate studies at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. After moving to the Colorado Rockies to ski, play, and “figure out the rest of my life,” I attended graduate school at the University of Northern Colorado, obtaining a degree in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in higher education. My husband decided to pursue his graduate degree at the University of Wyoming, and that is what brought us to Laramie in the summer of 2007.

I enjoy spending my free time outside and regularly get out of town to camp, ski, and explore. We are expecting our first child in April – my life will soon be changing drastically! Thanks for welcoming me so warmly into SEO



University of Wyoming SSS continued

UW Fall 2009 Summit

The first ever Summit, a UW first year student transition program, was held from August 27-29, 2009. Events helped students interact with experienced students, connect with instructors, learn about college life and expectations, and begin the transition from high school to postsecondary identities. For three days of events, SSS participants were grouped with their UWYO 1205 classmates and led by their SSS peer mentor. On Saturday, SSS students traveled to Curt Gowdy State Park for a fun day of outdoor activities. Interactive activities helped SSS students and staff become acquainted and begin to form a supportive group. Activities included Trolleys (crossing the lava), I've Never, Happy Salmon, and Wireless Communication. After lunch, students divided into three groups to meet with their UWYO 1205 instructor and peer mentor. Students were given an introduction to the 1205 course and the opportunity to obtain answers to their questions about transitioning to college. Students who participated in Summit activities felt they had a jumpstart to college and to making connections with other students.



News from Wyoming continued

University of Wyoming McNair Scholar Receives Award

UW Student Receives Stanford Award for Diversity



Jan. 28, 2010 -- **Tracy Montanez**, a University of Wyoming business administration senior from Alliance, Neb., is the recipient of the Willena Stanford Commitment to Diversity Award.

The award honors Stanford, a former UW instructor and member of the Martin Luther King Jr. March and Days of Dialogue steering committee.

As a McNair Scholars Program member, Montanez last summer participated in a funded research internship directed by Roland Kidwell, UW Department of Management and Marketing associate professor. Montanez conducted an extensive literature review, developed a methodology for conducting his project and wrote a research proposal.

"Tracy's commitment to diversity and equity are significant," says a person who nominated Montanez for the award. "Knowing that diversity goes beyond skin color and gender issues, Tracy has contributed creative ideas to support the non-traditional student population on our campus."

As a member of the UW Multicultural Student Leadership Initiative, he is a mentor to a first-year student. He assists the student in developing leadership skills and introduces him to the importance of activities related to social justice.

Montanez is a member and historian for the student group Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Atzlan (MEChA), in which he has participated in diversity programming, including the annual fiesta and the sugar skulls workshop. He is a member of the UW Student Advisory Board and previously served as a Minority Undergraduate Fellow in the Vice President for Student Affairs office. Montanez is a member of the UW chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Other nominees for the award were Chelsea Hampton, Samuel Saftwat Hanna, Elizabeth Quinn Kenworthy, Chumba Limo, Chuong Huynh Ma, Aylin Marquez, Tenzin Nyinje and Grant Walsh-Haines.

For more information about the Stanford award, call John Nutter at (307) 766-5123 or e-mail nutter@uwyo.edu.

Photo:

Tracy Montanez of Alliance, Neb., a University of Wyoming senior in business administration, offers leadership training to UW students Maria Simental, senior in business administration, and Sydney Exell, senior in kinesiology and health science, both from Cheyenne. Montanez recently was honored for his commitment to diversity on the UW campus.

Posted on Thursday, January 28, 2010



News from North Dakota

North Dakota ASPIRE State Initiative Update

The State Initiative Committee has been following up with the “Each One, Reach One” initiative which was discussed at the state meeting in October. With the implementation of our new ND ASPIRE website and updated ND TRIO Fact Book, the State Initiative Committee thought this would be a good opportunity to invite campus administrators to visit our website and read about the positive impact that TRIO is having at the local, state, regional, and national levels. “Each One, Reach One” volunteers were asked to contact their campus administrators and invite them to view our new ND TRIO Fact Book online at the ND ASPIRE website. Administrators were asked to pay particular attention to the “Impacts” and the “Student” section of the Fact Book, both of which underscore the importance of TRIO services. Thanks to Steve Schanadore, SSS director at the University of Mary for developing the “Impacts” section, to ND TRIO programs that contributed new student stories, and of course to COE for providing some of the funding to accomplish this work.

The State Initiative has also been following the work of Interim Legislative Committees of the North Dakota State Legislature. The purpose of the Legislative Study Committees is to study issues that were assigned to them by the 2009 Legislature, and to provide recommendations and/or bill drafts regarding those issues to the 2011 Legislature. These bodies started meeting in the Summer of 2009 and will finish up their work by late Fall 2010. Issues of potential interest to ND ASPIRE include the completion-based funding study assigned to the Interim Higher Education Committee, the Indian education study assigned to the Interim Education Committee, and the study being conducted by the Interim Workforce Committee on the establishment of a higher education student trust fund. A bill to establish such a trust fund was defeated in the 2009 Session, but it is likely a similar bill will be introduced in the 2011 Session. It is interesting to note that the Wyoming Legislature established a similar program several years ago called the Hathaway Scholarship. An official for the Wyoming Department of Education recently gave a presentation to the ND Legislative Workforce Committee regarding Wyoming’s Hathaway Scholarship Program. Because of its potential positive impact on our TRIO students, it is important that ND ASPIRE keep on top of this issue to be sure that all students can benefit from the establishment of a higher education student trust fund.

Dickinson State College

Dickinson State’s TRIO Student Support Services has been very busy this year, beginning with our Summer Bridge program. Bridge is an all-expense-paid head start the week before classes begin that provides the cornerstone for the ultimate college experience. Students can look forward to meeting one-on-one with DSU SSS staff, attending student success workshops, and becoming acquainted with key Dickinson State University (DSU) staff and faculty members and the services they provide. During the week-long program students:

- Learn effective academic skills
- Learn the process of checking into their residence halls
- Learn the process of purchasing school books



Dickinson State College continued

- Learn about clubs and organizations as well as activities on campus
- Learn the process of securing and accepting financial aid
- Tour campus to get familiar with the location of various offices and where their classes will be held
- Attend social cultural events



This year during Bridge, students traveled to Medora to attend the Medora Musical and to view the beautiful badlands. Bridge week also included a bowling evening and a karaoke evening.

DSU SSS offers Freshman Seminar in the fall semester which is a unique interactive journey during the first year of college. This three credit course provides students for a successful first year, by providing them the opportunity to become acquainted with college resources, college expectations, and interaction between faculty and staff. During Freshman Seminar students receive:

- Planners and instruction on filling the planner with important dates last day to add and drop a class, fee payment date, holidays, spring and winter breaks, mid-term week, finals week, course test dates, course assignments
- Instruction on study skills, note taking skills, test taking strategies, time management, goal setting, academic writing, learning styles and presentation skills
- Library instruction, i.e., how to find books and research articles online, process of checking out books
- Instruction from local law enforcement on self-defense
- Instruction from Fitness and Wellness coordinator on health and wellness
- Instruction from the Health Nurse on preventive measures in health care
- Information about community service projects in which they will participate
- Career exposure and resume writing tips
- Assistance with other services offered on an ongoing basis



During Freshman Seminar students are to be involved in a community service project. This year's students were involved with an "Adopt a Pet Project."

Workshops are also provided to the students throughout the year which include: Test Taking, Time Management, Note Taking, Study Skills, Money Management, Career, How to Apply for Financial Aid and Scholarships and Graduate School.

Social activities during the fall included a bus trip to attend a theatre production, "Cirque of Dreams Illumination" in Rapid City, SD, and karaoke evening, and attending the Homecoming football game together.



News from North Dakota continued

Lake Region State College

TRIO-SSS at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, ND, had a busy fall. We served almost 150 participants, and we're proud to announce that 40 of them (27%) were named to the President's or Dean's Lists for fall semester.

Thirty-five students participated in our 1-credit cultural enrichment course, HUMS 212, Integrated Cultural Enrichment (ICE). Each of these students attended a minimum of 15 hours of cultural activities including concerts, field trips, performances, and visits to art galleries and museums. For spring semester, 25 students are enrolled in the course.

In October, Patty Wallace, Annette Schmid, and Theresa Leiphon attended the ASPIRE Regional Conference in Spearfish, SD.

In December, the SSS Proposal was submitted. We're waiting and praying - along with every other applicant - to find out if we'll be funded.

In February, Annette, Theresa, and Andy Wakeford, will be helping with College Goal Sunday at Cankdeska Cikana Community College in Ft. Totten, ND.

Andy and Patty have been "on the road again." Andy Wakeford, Transfer Program Coordinator, has taken transfer students on campus visits. Patty, Administrative Assistant and TRIO Nursing Student Advisor, has visited Project participants several times a semester at distance delivery sites of the Dakota Nursing Program.

We're planning TRIO Day at LRSC. Save the date: Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

North Dakota State University

Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program

North Dakota State University (NDSU) is celebrating the 20th year of the McNair Scholars Program on campus. During this tenure, 233 participants were provided services to prepare for graduate school success. One hundred thirty-eight scholars completing their bachelor's degree have enrolled in graduate school. One hundred sixteen scholars, of those enrolled in graduate studies, have completed at least one graduate degree. Thirty-four McNair alumni have completed their dream of achieving the PhD. In addition, 15 of the 138 scholars are continuing their studies in a PhD program.



Anna Sheppard was hired as the McNair Scholars program coordinator in the Office of TRIO Programs. As coordinator, she will assist with daily operations and long-term goals for the federally funded grant from the U.S. Department of Education. She will recruit first-generation and income-eligible students or under-represented students wanting to earn a doctoral degree.

Sheppard earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a bachelor's degree in



Anna Sheppard continued

communication from Concordia College. She also has a Kindergarten Endorsement and master's degree in educational administration from Minnesota State University Moorhead. She previously worked as a manager of the instructional management systems at Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Moorhead, where she provided support for online courses for faculty and students.

Nine students were selected to the program for this year to join the 20 continuing scholars. The majors are: political science, pharmacy, nursing, natural resource management, zoology, electrical engineering, English and French. All scholars are embedded in their research projects during the academic year.

Two research forums are scheduled each academic year to highlight the progress of their research. Three scholars graduated in December and presented their findings at the Winter Research Forum. The continuing scholars will present a poster at the TRIO celebration banquet to be held April 22, 2010 in the NDSU Ballroom. These same scholars will conduct a formal research presentation at the Spring Research Forum scheduled for April 22 and 23, 2010.

Student Support Services

Greetings from NDSU's Student Support Services (SSS)! Our program has been undergoing a revitalization and re-commitment to the history and mission of Student Support Services. We are delighted to share with you a few of our highlights.

We began this process by welcoming three new staff members: Aida Martinez-Freeman, Project Director; Naomi Lapham, Project Coordinator; and Ray Smith, Science and Math Instructor. This new team joined Charles Cherry, seasoned SSS Reading and Study Skills Instructor.

With a fully staffed program, we are moving ahead with exciting new initiatives and necessary programmatic updates, our highlights include:

- Updated program application, grant aid application and tutor application
- Developed a comprehensive communication plan
- Implemented AccuTrack, a paperless tutor sign up process
- Developed tutoring/learning spaces policies
- Expanding the scope of academic support services
- Renewed our partnerships with campus constituencies
- Expanded our Learning Center
- Coordinated a new process for reaching out to students experiencing academic difficulties

In addition, we are creating a strong tutor community with the expansion of training, and other opportunities for professional growth. Our participants are noticing the difference and their feedback has been very positive!

NDSU Continued

Upward Bound

This past summer the Upward Bound Program took a trip to the Grand Rapids, MN area. Some of the items on the trip's agenda included touring Bemidji State University, visiting the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids, touring the Soudan Mine in Soudan, MN and of course enjoying time at the Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids: golf lessons, tubing and a pontoon ride on the lake. While at Sugar Lake, students and staff enjoyed a formal meal and program awards to students for outstanding efforts in academics, most improved leadership and community service involvement. Staff was recognized for years of service to Upward Bound. The NDSU students and staff traveled north to UND for our first UB Olympics. A small group but eager to participate, placed in several events and was awarded the Spirit Stick, for our enthusiasm and chanting.

The Students also participated in the annual NDSU Parade in October. An Upward Bound pirate themed float was created by the students. Students walked in the parade, attended the Pep Rally at the Bison Sports Center and the football game deck out as pirate complete with eye patches and bandanas. In late October, a representative group presented blankets to the Veterans Hospital Palliative Care Unit here in Fargo. The fleece tied blankets were made by the UB students from NDSU. Students prepared for the December ACT with Prep nights in November. The annual holiday luncheon was in December. The students and staff were joined by Mark Knutson, director of the Fargo Marathon as our special guest and speaker. Prakash Mathew, Vice President for NDSU Division of Student Affairs, and Janna Stoskopf, Dean of Student Life were also special guest of UB for the luncheon and short program. Annie Preskey and Craig Schatz were both recognized for their first year of service to NDSU Upward Bound.



Group at Sugar Lake in our "UB 4 Life" shirts.



Blanket Presentation: Wilma Jebodeyo, Susan Dralu and Jenny Everson represented NDSU Upward Bound

Veterans Upward Bound

Veterans Upward has a growing number of participants who deploy with the National Guard or as civilian contractors to various locations around the world. In some cases, the deployment is a brief two to three weeks, whereas other deployments may last months. Through the Blackboard platform, we are able to continue course work for these vets with little interruption.

One example is John Waters. John is deployed to Kosovo where his task force adapted Musa Zajmi, a local K-9 school of about 1,000 students. John assists in teaching 9th grade English at the school, and keeps up with VUB English and Mathematics course work on line. Thus, John is able to continue the learning process, and apply what he learns in a positive way.

Feedback from participants who have used the online platform have been very positive, and we look forward to refining the delivery system to make it a better experience for us all.



University of North Dakota

The five TRIO Programs at UND have had an active fall semester. The SSS Program proposal for the next five year cycle was submitted, and it included new support for the program from the Associate Vice President's Office (funding for technology) and the UND Foundation (scholarship funding for SSS students). Cheryl Kingsbury, SSS Instructor/Advisor, also spent many hours of time developing new relationships with academic departments, and the result was a commitment to the program of no-cost tutors from academic departments who earn credit for their tutoring. This program was implemented in the fall, and Cheryl has done an excellent job of making it very successful.

The TRIO Outreach Programs, UB, TS, and EOC, have maintained operations in the "full speed ahead" mode, with provision of services across the state and in northwestern Minnesota. The EOC Program is developing a "summer institute" for selected students, which is a new effort by that staff to provide opportunities for more intensive services, through a series of workshops in academic enhancement areas and a stay on the UND campus. Upward Bound has been recruiting students throughout the fall with good success, and has sponsored college tours and trips for the students during the fall semester. Talent Search continues to provide intensive services through a middle school program called "Shoot for the Stars" which enhances opportunities to intervene early and enable academic success. Talent Search has also begun development of an alumni association, which is comprised mainly of students who participated in this intensive program. A reunion of those alumni was held during the Talent Search middle school summer program, with alumni mentoring the current students about how to reach their educational goals.

The University of North Dakota McNair Program is proud to celebrate four of its alumni receiving their PhD's, two in August 2009 and two in December 2009. **Crystal Evans** and **Casey McDougall** were



UND continued

awarded PhDs in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Dakota in August 2009. Crystal Evans is currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and lives in Louisiana. Casey is a Mental Health Clinician (Psychologist) employed by the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico. Allison Herlickson and Desiree Jagow-France were awarded PhDs in Counseling Psychology from the University of North Dakota in December 2009. They are both currently residing in Minnesota.



Crystal Evans



Casey McDougall & Allison Herlickson