



North Dakota Chapter

Quarterly Report

September 24, 2008

President: Dawn Eckhardt

Board Theresa Leiphon, Secretary

Members: Lori Larson, Treasurer

State News:

(Instructions: Examples include new initiatives, ongoing activities and meetings, changes in officers, partnerships, fundraising, and professional development.)

- First, a huge THANK YOU to all the TRIO staff across the state of North Dakota that volunteered their time, talents and energies to make the 2008 ASPIRE Regional Conference a success. They were fantastic!
- Derek Sporbert was elected as the next president for the North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE. This is a two-year term.
- Lori Larson was re-elected to the office of State Treasurer for the North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE. This is a two-year term.
- Mary Fredricks, North Dakota's State Initiative Chair, submitted an application for the COE State Initiative Grant. The grant application was accepted, and is funded at \$500.
- Our spring conference was held in Aberdeen, SD, April 6 – 8 as part of a co-state conference hosted by South Dakota.
- Three TRIO professionals from North Dakota attended the National Policy Seminar in DC: Elaine Metcalfe, Cheryl Kingsbury, and Dawn Eckhardt. Additionally, two alumni from programs at University of North Dakota attended and participated in lobbying activities with our legislators.
- TRIO Day events took place on the campuses of Dickinson State College, Lake Region State College, North Dakota State University, and University of North Dakota.
- Mary Fredricks testified in front of the Interim Higher Education Committee to introduce TRIO programs currently in North Dakota and offer suggestions to expand services with state funding.
- North Dakota's first College Goal Sunday event was held February 10, 2008. TRIO staff from across the state volunteered their time, energies, and expertise to make this a very successful event.
- A great deal of work has taken place to organize the 2008 regional conference. Please refer to the conference report for full details.



State Activities/Accomplishments related to ASPIRE's Strategic Plan:

(Instructions: Please report on the activities/accomplishments of the state chapter since the last report.)

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:

- Turtle Mountain Community College was awarded a new Upward Bound program as a result of the passing of HR 2669. They are in the process of hiring a program director and an academic advisor.
- A TRIO Day celebration at University of North Dakota took place on February 20. Program participants, staff, campus administrators, and friends of TRIO programs are invited to attend a motivational presentation by Tim Moore. An awards/recognition luncheon will follow.
- ND Chapter of ASPIRE participated in the co-state conference with South Dakota. South Dakota hosted the event this year in Aberdeen, SD on April 6 – 8. The conference was well attended by both North and South Dakota TRIO professionals.
- Dawn Eckhardt, Elaine Metcalfe, and Cheryl Kingsbury from UND attended Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. Additionally, Wayne Fox, McNair alum from UND and Earl Klug, SSS alum from UND accompanied TRIO staff to visits with all three legislative offices to share their experiences with TRIO.
- TRIO Day at North Dakota State University took place on April 17, and included McNair Poster presentations, a community service project supporting the local YWCA, and an awards banquet.
- TRIO Day at University of North Dakota took place February 20, and included a presentation by Tim Moser, motivational speaker, to a group of students from each of the five programs, as well as university staff from the student services division. His presentation encourages people to make positive choices for their lives. Tim Moser's presentation was followed by an awards luncheon.
- Lake Region State College held their second TRIO Day celebration on April 23. They hosted a banquet to honor alumni of their SSS program.
- TRIO personnel from across the state of North Dakota volunteered at College Goal Sunday events held in seven locations around the state.

Strategic Goal # 2: Strengthen the financial position of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- North Dakota finished the membership year with 40 members, 35 of which were professional members.
- In spite of a snow storm on the first day of the spring conference, the event was well attended with 29 participants, with minimum payments of \$100 per person.
- A silent auction was held during the co-state conference, with \$246 earned for North Dakota.
- Raffle baskets were donated to ND Chapter of ASPIRE for the spring conference. The baskets brought in \$155.



- The state chapter authorized up to \$1,800 for the state president to attend the National Policy Seminar in Washington, DC. In an effort to save the state money, the state president used frequent flyer miles to pay for transportation, and refused meal reimbursement. In the end, only \$1,028.24 was spent for this activity, covering registration fees and lodging expenses.

Strategic Goal # 3: Provide professional development opportunities for the members of ASPIRE.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Several workshops, covering a wide variety of topics, were offered at the co-state conference held in Aberdeen, SD, April 6 – 8.
- Volunteering opportunities have been offered to and accepted by several members across the state in conjunction with the ASPIRE 2008 regional conference.
- Professional development opportunities have been assigned to the members across the state of North Dakota who volunteered their services and expertise to assure that the 2008 regional conference is a fantastic event.

Strategic Goal # 4: Continue to strengthen governmental relations work at the national, regional, state, and local

Activities/Accomplishments:

- Dawn Eckhardt, Elaine Metcalfe, Cheryl Kingsbury (UND) attended the COE Policy Seminar in March, 2008. Meetings were held with each of North Dakota's three legislators or their education aids. Strong support was noted for TRIO programs from each legislator. Both North Dakota senators signed onto letters supporting the \$120 million increase for TRIO. Although Representative Earl Pomeroy did not sign the letter of support for an increase in TRIO funding due to timing of the requested signature, he did offer his verbal support.
- Mary Fredricks, State Initiative Chair for the North Dakota Chapter of ASPIRE, testified about TRIO Programs in front of the Interim Higher Education Committee.
- Messages and action alerts from COE are forwarded to TRIO employees in North Dakota.
- The state president has participated in conference calls organized by COE which provided information on governmental relations.

Strategic Goal # 5: Increase existing and create new communication capabilities and networking opportunities for TRIO professionals.

Activities/Accomplishments:

- COE action alerts were forwarded to membership as requested, with updated information appropriate to North Dakota as appropriate.
- Email contact list maintained by state president.
- Conference registration materials, agenda, and membership materials were sent to all TRIO staff in North Dakota in preparation for the spring conference.

