CARL PORTER RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM REGIONAL TRiO ORGANIZATION

Congratulations to Carl Porter, Executive Director of ASCP, who was honored at the Regional ASPIRE banquet on October 11th.

Carl received the 2011 “Friend of ASPIRE” award. Shown with Carl are Yvette Rosenberg of the Student Support Services program, former President of the ASPIRE UTAH organization and Lindsay Beddes of the Student Support Services Program and Immediate Past President of ASPIRE UTAH.

UPWARD BOUND FUNDING STILL UNDER ATTACK

As stated in the last issue, TRiO sustained a 3.1% cut this year, money that every program had to trim from its budget. But the attack on TRiO has not ended there. A proposal is being fought in Washington that could cause serious cuts to the popular Upward Bound program, and could eventually reduce the number of students who receive help from this excellent program.

Arnold Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education stated in a letter to Secretary Duncan of the U. S. Department of Education, “The Administrations proposed changes strike at the very core of Upward Bound by limiting the programs’ ability to include critical academic and motivational components. Indeed, these proposed changes go to the heart of what has made Upward Bound a successful program as well as the model that has prompted innovation and change in pre-college education for more than 40 years. The proposal will constrain academic programming and have a deleterious effect on students who are in the greatest need of such services.”

TRiO programs around the country still press forward to share the message of how valuable our programs are. An attack on one program is seen as a threat to all TRiO programs, in the long run.

Without TRiO programs, many low-income and first generation students would never have an equal opportunity to higher education.
NO DEAL ON DEFICIT REDUCTION IN NOVEMBER
Council for Opportunity in Education

The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, better known as the “Super Committee,” announced what many had suspected would be the inevitable conclusion of its private negotiations: no deal.

What does this mean for discretionary programs like TRIO? It is hard to predict at this time because there are many variables to consider. First, any reductions will not take place until January 2013. The Secretary of Education will not have discretion over the implementation of the cuts. Rather, every program, project, activity and every account will be cut by the same percentage. It is estimated that the Department of Education cuts under sequestration would be 7.8 percent in FY 2013. Congress does have the power to reconsider the legislation authorizing the Super Committee and make changes before any of these cuts are implemented next year. (However, President Obama has indicated his intent to veto any attempts by Congress to undo sequestration.) In any event, the cuts will be made from the amounts appropriated for FY 2013, which has yet to be determined. However, before we can begin to wrestle with the question of FY 2013, we must first resolve the funding crisis for FY 2012.

Currently, there are nine fiscal 2012 (school year 2012-2013) appropriations bills that have yet to be passed, including the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill, which funds TRIO. These nine bills will be rolled into one giant “omnibus” spending bill between now and Christmas Eve. As you know, this past February President Obama requested $920.1 million for TRIO (an 8% increase at the time). Yet, due to the last-minute negotiations surrounding FY 2011 funding last April, the TRIO appropriation has been reduced to $826.5 million and we have lost at least 70,000 students. Several thousand more students are at great risk of being lost if we are unable to persuade the President to stand behind his February budget request to Congress. These losses will likely occur in the Upward Bound and McNair competitions. Whether this happens or not will be played out in private negotiations when the House and Senate leadership sits down in late December with the President’s team to put together the final FY 2012 omnibus spending bill.

If you wish to read the entire article this came from you can go to http://www.coenet.us/ecm/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Weekly_Summary. This information is taken from the web site of the Council for Opportunity in Education.

TRIO RECEIVES A MODEST INCREASE
The following came from an e-mail sent to TRiO Directors on December 15, 2011 by Arnold Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education.

Dear TRIO Colleagues:

Today, Congress introduced its final agreement for the FY 2012 appropriations, which includes a $13.4 million increase for TRIO over last year’s appropriation ($826.5 million), for a total funding level of $839.9 million. Limited information is available about specific funding for all higher education programs at this time, but it is our understanding that GEAR UP took a slight cut and, while the maximum Pell Grant was maintained at $5,550, Congress instituted several cost-saving measures to achieve this, such as reducing eligibility.

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### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

#### HOW OUR WORKSHOPS WORK

Rather than use a traditional manner of conducting study skills workshops, Student Support Services (SSS) uses a topic and a hook to encourage students to participate. First, we find student presenters from the SSS ranks. Often, SSS participants volunteer to present workshops. They come with ideas about how to approach a topic and work with a staff member to ensure that the content of the activity is correct and complete.

Some topics are student driven and others are by staff request. SSS staff members moderate the sessions while students present content and lead the activity connected with the workshop subject. Spring 2012 workshops will include topics such as: Snap! I didn’t finish that assignment! (time management skills.); BYOB: Bring Your Own Book (How to read a textbook.); and Financial Football (a competition between students to test their knowledge of financial literacy topics BLK). We tie an activity to every lesson. Our students grew up working in groups and in teams. They are active learners. SSS has put behind us the days of a traditional speaker-student workshop.

This workshop included general information on stress management and was taught by a student. Other students worked on hand massages and manicures to explain how human touch can be a means of stress reduction. As the workshop came to a close, participants were interested in continuing the exercise. This workshop is just one example of how SSS participants work to tie workshop topics to an activity.

In addition to having more engaged students and increased attendance at our workshops, our student presenters benefit in a variety of ways. They speak in front of a group, lead a discussion, and guide a related activity. Because they are experienced college students and near-peers to the workshop attendees, the presenters sometimes become protégés to other SSS students.

### WELCOME LINDSAY BEDDES TO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

We are pleased to announce that Lindsay is the new Summerbridge Coordinator. She manages the SmartStart learning community. This program serves underrepresented students who are newly admitted to WSU. Previously, Lindsay coordinated the TRIO Talent Search program here at Weber State. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge on best practices for providing academic services to low-income and first generation college students.

Lindsay started work as the Summerbridge Coordinator on January 9th.
TALENT SEARCH

TODAY IN TRiO TALENT SEARCH

The fall of 2011 has been a very busy month for the TRiO Talent search program. We have hosted multiple parent nights, collaborated with other outreach programs on various field trips and conferences, and hosted several highly successful fieldtrips. Below are some of our program highlights.

**ACT Prep:** TRiO Talent Search collaborated with various outreach programs at Weber State to offer an ACT Prep Class on Saturday, October 1. There were 110 students in attendance. The ACT Prep Class included sessions on English and reading, mathematics, science reasoning, and test-taking strategies.

**4th Annual Senior Retreat:** On October 20-21st, TRiO Talent Search partnered with the Student 2 Student program to host our fourth annual "Senior Retreat." This year’s event was held during the school districts’ fall break, so it was somewhat surprising that we hosted a total of 48 high school seniors - 33 TRiO TS and 15 S2S.

For half of the day on the 20th, student participants spent the day on campus at Weber State, participating in a day-long "Reality U" simulation. This activity was designed to help students understand what life will be like as a college student. Aspects of the simulation included budgeting, time management, setting a course schedule, and navigating a college campus.

The evening of the 20th we took the group up to the Swanson Environmental Center in Ogden Valley for an overnight leadership development experience. Students participated in team building activities, learned about Strengths Quest, played team sports, and enjoyed a relaxing evening by a campfire.

**Staff Awards:** Congratulations to Roxana Luna, who was honored at the Regional ASPIRE banquet on October 11th. Roxy received the 2011 "Rising Star" award, which is given annually to an individual who has worked in TRiO for no more than two years and who has excelled in providing services to TRiO and ASPIRE. The Regional Association of ASPIRE Inc. is comprised of the six states of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Way to go, Roxy!!

**Note of interest:** Roxana is a former TRiO participant who is using her education in a positive manner to help TRiO others.
Every Saturday during the school year, Upward Bound’s seventy five high school students meet on campus as part of the academic year program. Students attend a reading-comprehension class, a college prep class, and work with university students during study hall, where they receive tutoring and mentoring. In addition, students receive financial literacy training from Wells Fargo.

Upward Bound students involve themselves in community service year-round. Since the start of the 2011-12 school year, Upward Bound students have put in a total of 370 volunteer hours! They have volunteered with the Boys and Girls Club afterschool program at Odyssey Elementary School, collected food at the Alliance for Unity food drive, and helped raise money for St. Benedict’s Foundation at “Funds of Love” and the Boys and Girls Club at “Scarecrow.”

We are proud to announce that Upward Bound senior Ernesto Molina from Ben Lomond High School entered Ogden School District’s student writing contest and was selected as a winner. Ernesto will meet author Geraldine Brooks when he is honored at a student assembly on November 10. He will also be treated to dinner that evening.
VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

NEW VUB ASSISTANT

Lori Adler has moved out of education to sell cars at a local dealership which left VUB with a glaring hole in our staff that has been severely felt. We are happy to have completed our search for a new staff member and have hired Jan Pollard. Some of you know that Jan has been working in the Sponsored Programs office. We are happy to welcome Jan and her wealth of WSU experience to VUB.

SHOE BOXES FOR VETERANS

Shoe Boxes for Veterans has become an annual event that Veterans Upward Bound organizes to provide gifts to veterans in the area. When this began several years ago 50 gifts were collected and distributed to homeless veterans. This year 303 gifts were distributed to veterans homeless shelters and nursing homes in Ogden and Salt Lake City.

What are Shoe Boxes for Veterans? Shoe box sized containers are filled with necessities such as soap, deodorant, other toiletries, gloves, hats, and useful items for homeless veterans. I am sure treats are sometimes included in some gifts but we discourage money for fear it might be used for alcoholic or drug abuse purposes. The boxes are collected for generous donors after they have been wrapped. They are distributed to various shelters and nursing homes just before Christmas.

We feel this is a way to support “down-on-their-luck” veterans in a positive way and it also gives people who are managing well to enjoy the gift of giving outside their own families. Everyone benefits one way or the other.

If you are interested in donating the contents for a box next year, contact the Veterans Upward Bound office in the middle of November or look for a flyer that should reach all campus departments around that same time.
While we regret that Congress did not fully embrace the $920.1 million (or 8%) increase recommended by President Obama, we take heart in knowing that this bill will provide funding for approximately 40 Upward Bound and McNair programs that otherwise would have been lost next year. COE wishes to acknowledge the strong support of our allies in the House of Representatives, most notably Representatives Tom Cole (R-OK), Mike Simpson (R-ID), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Gwen Moore (D-WI), and Bobby Scott (D-VA), who fought hard to achieve increased funding.

Thank you for everything you did to realize this goal.

NATIONAL TRIO DAY

According to the 1986 Congressional resolution, National TRIO Day is meant to focus the nation's "attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made."

Every year, TRIO Day is the last Saturday of February. This year (2012) National TRIO Day will be held on February 25th, but remember events do not need to be limited to that day. The week before Saturday the 25th is a great time to write, call, and visit congressmen and senators to advocate for the continuation and increase of Federal TRiO Programs.

The pictures seen on this page are from TRiO Day that was held last year in the Student Center at Weber State University for all TRiO programs in Utah.

Sandra Kester (Senator Hatch’s office), Jennifer Scott (Congressman Chaffetz’s office), and Adam S. Gardiner (Congressman Bishop’s office) attending WSU’s TRiO Day.

Shaquille Heath, a participant in the WSU Talent Search program speaking at TRiO Day.

Tim Jones, a participant in the WSU Veterans Upward Bound program, speaking at TRiO Day.

These students and other TRiO participant’s from other schools, spoke about their educational successes and attendees found their testimonials to be very moving.