Updates from the AAC

It has been a busy few months at the AAC, and we are excited to update you!

We have had several staffing changes over the past few months. Jill Putman joined the staff in May 2011 as the career/retention specialist, and Lucy Paltoo came on board in July as the mentoring/retention specialist. Jill and Lucy joined Andrea Reeve, director; Shawanna Kimbrough, assistant director for retention; and Carmen Gonzalez, assistant director for academics to complete the counseling team. We also welcomed Star Garcia, who is serving as our graduate intern this year, in September.

Eric Whittington, who served as our administrative assistant, recently accepted a new position on campus with Human Resources, and we wish him the best in this new endeavor!

This fall, we welcomed 96 new students into the program. We will serve a minimum of 275 students this year. With the outstanding work of our student tutoring staff and tutor coordinators, we provided more than 1,000 hours of tutoring to students this fall!

Our mentoring program kicked off this past semester with several social events as well as a resume and career coffeehouse discussion with Star. We offered fall workshops on academic and career topics as well as study-abroad programs.

In October, the AAC staff had the opportunity to attend the regional TRiO conference, ASPIRE, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The staff had a great time catching up with fellow TRiO professionals and attending workshops, and came back to CSU armed with lots of great knowledge to build into the AAC programs.

Connect With Us Online

Have you checked out the AAC website recently? Our website is a great way to stay up to date on the latest AAC news as well as find information specifically geared for AAC and TRiO alumni! Visit http://www.aac.colostate.edu/alumni for information on the AAC alumni interest group, the National TRiO Alumni Association, and instructions on how you can sign up to mentor a current AAC student. You can also provide your updated contact information and a quote about your AAC experience by completing our online information form. To submit the online form, please go to http://www.aac.colostate.edu/get-involved.

We would love to hear from you and learn more about how you would like to connect with the AAC!
TRiO Alumni Gathering at CSU Homecoming

The CSU TRiO community celebrated Homecoming with our annual picnic gathering on Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, before the Rams big Saturday game against San Jose State. The picnic was held on the lawn in front of the Gibbons Building, home of the AAC, and guests got to enjoy boxed lunches from Jimmy John’s. Attendees included current students, staff members, and alumni from the TRiO programs at CSU, including the Educational Opportunity Center, Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and the Academic Advancement Center. Everyone had a great time reconnecting and enjoying the sunshine and Homecoming parade! If you weren’t able to join us last fall, we hope you’ll mark your calendars now to join us for Homecoming 2012!
National TRiO Alumni Association

Are you looking for a way to network and connect with TRiO alumni nationwide? The mission of the National TRiO Alumni Association is to promote the critical value of the TRiO programs by:

1. Providing career and networking opportunities for graduates of TRiO programs.
2. Mobilizing alumni so that their talents and success can encourage others through mentoring.
3. Providing career information and other supports available to low-income, first-generation, and disabled students, particularly those currently enrolled in TRiO programs.
4. Advocating for increased public support of the expansion of college opportunities for low-income and first-generation students and those with disabilities within the United States.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the larger TRiO network and movement, please go to www.trioalumni.us today! On the website you can read more about the growing membership of NTAA, history of the organization, and submit nominations for outstanding TRiO achievers. Best of all, you can sign up to be an official member of NTAA online. Membership is FREE and will give you access to the alumni career mentor network, career events, and more.

You can also connect with NTAA on Facebook and Twitter: www.facebook.com/thentaa or www.twitter.com/thentaa.

Meet the AAC Alumni Liaison

Greetings, AAC alumni! My name is Jill Putman, and I am the AAC alumni liaison. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with all of the incredible AAC alumni and hear your stories!

I joined the AAC staff in May 2011 as the career/retention specialist. In addition to meeting with AAC participants, I coordinate all of the career workshops and provide career counseling for students. I also have the privilege of serving on the Fostering Success Program committee for former foster youth and in the role of alumni liaison for the office. Prior to coming to Colorado State, I earned my bachelor’s degree from Miami University and a master’s degree in College Student Affairs Administration from the University of Georgia.

I was a first-generation college student and feel very strongly about the importance of TRiO programs and working with the AAC students. I am looking forward to hearing from our alumni about your experience in the AAC and any feedback you have on our program.

I hope that you will contact me with any questions or suggestions you have for our alumni programming. We plan to send out the AAC Alumni Connections newsletter twice a year, but we are also hoping to sponsor more events for our alumni in the future. If you have any ideas or would like to assist with the alumni group, please do not hesitate to contact me at Jill.Putman@colostate.edu or (970) 491-2121.

“I am excited to have the opportunity to work with all of the incredible AAC alumni and hear your stories.”
We Want to Hear From You!

Would you like to be featured in an upcoming issue of AAC Alumni Connections? Are you hoping to reconnect with former CSU and AAC classmates? If so, we want to hear from you! In future newsletters, we will be highlighting the stories, accomplishments, and updates of our AAC alumni, and we would love to know what is new with you. Whether it’s news about your career, family, or anything else, we want to hear from you!

Send your stories to Jill Putman at Jill.Putman@colostate.edu, or submit them online by completing our “Get Involved” form at http://www.aac.colostate.edu/get-involved.

The Academic Advancement Center (a Student Support Services Program) has served more than 6,500 students at CSU since its arrival on campus in 1978. The Center is funded by a primary grant from the U.S. Department of Education, with additional funds for operations, tutoring, and direct grants to students from the University. A grant from FirstBank Community Fund of Colorado also allows for enrichment of programs.

As one of the 946 federally funded TRiO Student Support Services programs in the nation, our mission is to help low-income, first-generation college students, foster youth, and students with disabilities to stay in college until they earn their baccalaureate degrees.