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[www.AspireOregon.org](http://www.AspireOregon.org)



## OSAC Update

### **2006-2007 OSAC Scholarship statistics published:** *See how your work with the class of 2007 paid off*

Each year, OSAC publishes a report outlining the number of scholarship applications from as well as awards to students at high schools across Oregon. The number of OSAC scholarship applications continues to grow and it is exciting to see how many awards are being distributed statewide. View the report at [http://www.osac.state.or.us/hs\\_counselors.html](http://www.osac.state.or.us/hs_counselors.html) - stat.

### **College Goal Oregon:** *Successful day assists students across the state file their FAFSAs*

On Saturday, January 26, more than 2,000 Oregonians took a solid step toward making their dreams into reality by attending College Goal Oregon workshops at 20 locations statewide. College Goal Oregon helps students complete the FAFSA form and gain additional tips on how to apply for scholarships. College Goal Oregon is part of the national College Goal Sunday program that helps students access millions of dollars available in financial aid. Learn more at [www.CollegeGoalOregon.org](http://www.CollegeGoalOregon.org) and plan to attend next year!



### **Mazama Region Meeting:** *Mini-Mazama Region Meeting Held at Sisters High School*

“Working together, ordinary people can perform extraordinary feats. They can push things that come into their hands a little higher up, a little further on towards the heights of excellence.” Unknown--This was the hope as a group of ASPIRE Coordinators, Site Supervisors, and Team Leaders from Deschutes County gathered at Sisters High School on February 19<sup>th</sup> to share ideas and success stories, take a tour of the successfully integrated and thriving ASPIRE program at Sisters, and network with each other to develop a future support system. Many thanks to Laurie Adams, Sisters ASPIRE Coordinator and our gracious hostess, and the local Harvest Basket store and deli who provided a fantastic lunch. Becky Wilson, Mazama Region Supervisor and Karen Edmonds, OSAC Outreach and Programs Manager provided the group with updates from OSAC and answers to questions that arose from the group. This mini-regional meeting was a pilot for future gatherings with local ASPIRE schools to help develop and nurture their ASPIRE programs. As we grow together to help more students achieve post-secondary success and provide more volunteers with the opportunity to “give back” and support schools, these mini-meetings will prove to be useful, informative, and...oh, yes...fun!

## News

### **MTV Offers Online College Access Services**

MTV dabbles in the business of college access by encouraging MTV viewers to think about their education. The website offers academic support for standardized tests, scholarship searches and much more. The website can be viewed at <http://think.mtv.com/Issues/education/>.

### **How to Become an Oregon Teacher:** *OUS publishes a resource for aspiring high schoolers*

Do you have any students who are interested in becoming teachers? If so, the Oregon University System publishes a great resource, [How to Become an Oregon Teacher](#), along with brochures and a complete advising guide designed to help students know where to start and what is involved to become a teacher in our state. The Guide provides answers to many of the frequently asked questions regarding teacher preparation pathways and directs students to the appropriate contacts on Oregon 2-year and 4-year campuses for additional advice. Access the resource today at the OUS website, <http://www.ous.edu/programs/teached/index.php>.

### Scholarship Scams: *Federal Trade Commission works to protect students and families*

During scholarship season, the FTC encourages students to watch out for scams offering “guaranteed” scholarships or those that require a credit card to reserve. Tips and promotional information designed to help families prevent fraud can be found at <http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams>.

### Verizon Partners to Promote Education

Verizon has launched a new website, [www.Thinkfinity.org](http://www.Thinkfinity.org), with resources for educators and practitioners. The Verizon Foundation shows its commitment to education with a special emphasis on literacy. As one of the largest telecommunication companies in the world, Verizon has partnered with organizations, schools and the community to roll out this initiative nationwide.

### Western Undergraduate Exchange Program: *Oregon students study across the West...for less!*

As you help your students narrow-down their college choices, you may want to consider the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), program, which allows eligible students from 12 western states (*Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming*) to attend any participating colleges in other WUE states for a substantial discount. For more information visit [wue.wiche.edu/](http://wue.wiche.edu/)

## Upcoming Events

**Save the date:** *The ASPIRE Fall Conference will be held October 11, 2008 at the University of Oregon...we'll see you there!*



The ASPIRE Spotlight



### Malerie helps students see beyond high school

Malerie McCarty returned to her alma mater, Estacada High School, this fall to help students achieve their goals through ASPIRE. Returning to her hometown to serve as an ASPIRE/AmeriCorps member made Malerie feel very lucky to have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Estacada students. As a recent University of Oregon graduate, Malerie vividly recalls the complicated college admission process and has been able to use her experience to meet the needs of today's students.

Debbie Brochis, the Estacada Site Supervisor appreciates Malerie's ability to connect with and inspire all students. "She has been able to generate a lot more interest in post high school plans for all of our seniors--" says Brochis, "not just the college bound kids." It its first year with ASPIRE, Estacada doubled the number of OSAC application submissions and 90% of seniors have a plan for after college. Further, Malerie notes, "The students have seemed to take a more active and stronger role in preparing for their future and they seem genuinely interested in soaking up the information that will help them succeed after high school."

After a strong first year with ASPIRE, Malerie is looking forward to seeing the benefits of the program really grow with the class of 2009. They have been introduced to the college admissions process early and seen their peers travel off to

~Mentor: Someone whose hindsight can become your foresight~

***ASPIRE is administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) whose mission is to assist Oregon students and their families in attaining a postsecondary education and to enhance the value, integrity, and diversity of Oregon's college programs.***

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