

## The Goals of ASPIRE are to:

- Provide advising, resources, and encouragement to help students access education and training beyond high school
- Build a sustainable community of volunteer advisors
- Educate students and families about the scholarship application process and other options for paying for postsecondary education

Beginning with four pilot schools in 1998, ASPIRE has expanded to 115 sites across Oregon. In the 2007-08 academic year, ASPIRE recruited 1,404 adult volunteers who mentored 11,934 students to step closer to their educational dreams.

## Want to Find Out More or Get Involved?

**Contact ASPIRE today!**



[www.AspireOregon.org](http://www.AspireOregon.org)  
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Eugene, OR 97401



## A Program of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission:

**Oregon Student Assistance Commission** assists Oregon students and their families in attaining a postsecondary education and enhances the value, integrity, and diversity of Oregon's college programs. [www.osac.state.or.us](http://www.osac.state.or.us)

### Key Partners:

Governor Kulongoski and the 2007 Oregon Legislature approved bills to establish ASPIRE as a state program and provided funds for partnership grants to establish ASPIRE Coordinators at high schools. [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov)

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs. ASPIRE utilizes 29 AmeriCorps members to develop the program in high schools around the state. [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

The Oregon Community Foundation is a statewide, nonprofit organization that administers permanent charitable funds established through gifts and bequests from individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations. [www.ocf1.org](http://www.ocf1.org)

The Ford Family Foundation helps individuals through organized learning opportunities to be contributing and successful citizens and to enhance the vitality of rural communities in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California. [www.tfff.org](http://www.tfff.org)

Oregon GEAR UP gives low income students every opportunity to prepare for and succeed in college. [www.ous.edu/gearup](http://www.ous.edu/gearup)

The Department of Human Services assists people in becoming independent, healthy, and safe. DHS and ASPIRE work together to help foster youth go on to college. [www.osac.state.or.us/ChafeeEtv.html](http://www.osac.state.or.us/ChafeeEtv.html)

Oregon College Access Network (OrCan) is dedicated to assisting local communities initiate, develop, and sustain their own college access programs. [www.oregoncan.org](http://www.oregoncan.org)



**ASPIRE**  
Encouraging  
Higher Education  
for Everyone



# What is ASPIRE? Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone

*ASPIRE is the state of Oregon's official mentoring program to help students access education and training beyond high school. Students receive information about college options, admissions, and financial aid from trained, supportive, ASPIRE volunteer mentors who work one-on-one with them throughout the year.*

*Students who participate in ASPIRE become more knowledgeable about the steps needed to attend college, university, or training programs. ASPIRE is open to any and all students at ASPIRE sites. By utilizing community volunteers as advisors, ASPIRE extends the reach of the sites' counseling services.*



## Changing Oregon's Future

★ ASPIRE educates students and families about the grant and scholarship application process and other options for financing postsecondary education.

★ Students who participate in ASPIRE receive one-on-one mentoring from trained ASPIRE advisors. Other students at the site receive up-to-date information on scholarship and financial assistance at workshops that are open to everyone.

★ ASPIRE has proven to have a positive effect on students: Coos County high school administrators credit ASPIRE and its partners with creating a strong college-going culture. In Coos County, where nearly all high schools are ASPIRE sites, an impressive 31% of the county high school graduates attend community college, compared to 13% for the state average.

## Creating Community Investment

★ ASPIRE provides the tools to recruit, train, and implement volunteer advisor programs, helping each site build a sustainable community of mentors who are sincerely invested in students' futures.

★ Mentors are prepared and qualified to assist each student with postsecondary education planning, career choices, financial aid, college admissions, and scholarship applications.

★ The program brings together students, school staff, community volunteers, and parents to help students overcome obstacles to continuing their education.

## Cultivating Achievement

★ ASPIRE is a proactive strategy to encourage all students to further their education, set goals, and achieve career dreams. In 2007, applicants for scholarships through the Oregon Student Assistance Commission from ASPIRE sites were more likely to receive an award compared to applicants from schools without the ASPIRE program.

★ ASPIRE is successful in reaching first-generation college students: of senior students surveyed, 42% had mothers and 36% had fathers who had not attended college.

★ Advisors provide the necessary resources needed for students to make a successful transition to the opportunity of their choice after high school graduation.

