



**We are BOLD**  
Fearless in the pursuit of our dreams

**ASPIRE Annual Report**  
*Program Year 2022-2023*

# Welcome

## Introduction

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In 2022 ASPIRE turned 24 years old. A lot has changed in 24 years. We have grown from a pilot program with four sites in 1998 to over 170 participating middle schools, high schools, and community based organizations in 2022. The number of sites participating in ASPIRE is not the only thing that has changed over the years, our mission and program has expanded to address the variety of postsecondary pathways Oregon students are now pursuing. Professional development opportunities supporting apprenticeships and trade careers have been added to our calendar and we added new career exploration resources to our middle school toolbox. A lot has changed in 24 years and we look forward to seeing how the program grows throughout the next 24 years.



ASPIRE Center at Mannahouse Christian Academy- Portland, OR

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# Get To Know ASPIRE

## Learn more about the State of Oregon's career and college readiness program.

You may have seen our newest poster, in which we unequivocally declare what ASPIRE is: we are curious, we are focused and engaged, we prepare, and we are BOLD- fearless in the pursuit of our dreams. We call this poster ASPIRE Bold.

ASPIRE Bold was created to communicate the evolution of the ASPIRE program expanding from a college access mentoring program to a program that strives to equally support career and college readiness through a variety of student supports. ASPIRE Bold is both a reflection of our vision for ASPIRE and a representation of our new mission statement:

The ASPIRE program helps educate Oregon students to become career and college ready. ASPIRE offers education, resources, and mentoring opportunities for all students.

Combined, ASPIRE Bold and our mission statement provide a way to understand how ASPIRE helps students explore their variety of career and college readiness options beyond high school.

### WHO ARE ASPIRE SITES?

ASPIRE sites are as diverse as the students they serve. Participating sites include middle schools, high schools, and community-based organizations. Sites represent urban, suburban,

and rural communities across the state. Some sites come to ASPIRE with a history of supporting career and college readiness and need a little support getting to the next level; some sites are implementing a program for the first time.

### MENTORING AND MORE

Schools and organizations that join ASPIRE receive ongoing support, resources, and a partnership grant to develop a student mentoring program, to build a career and college going culture, or to do both.

Many ASPIRE sites include a mentoring program that provides individualized student support. In this program model community and staff mentors meet with students 1:1 on a consistent basis throughout the year or they serve in drop-in centers. Mentors help students prepare for college, learn about apprenticeship or trade careers, explore military service, and help

students explore a variety of options beyond high school/ career pathways. Some ASPIRE middle schools include peer mentors to help students prepare for high school. Mentors with ASPIRE receive training and ongoing support from OSAC as well as their ASPIRE site.

ASPIRE helps students prepare for a variety of career and college readiness options

beyond school by working with sites to build a career and college readiness culture. In this program model ASPIRE sites receive coaching from staff to help determine strengths and areas of growth. Sites then work with Access Specialists to learn about tools and strategies that can help build their program and receive ongoing support. Some of the ASPIRE resources our sites use to build a career and college going culture include student/family presentations that relate to postsecondary planning, worksheets, checklists, mini-lessons, calendars, planners and more.

### A CALENDAR OF SUPPORT

No matter if a site is focused on expanding their mentoring program, building a career and college going culture, or both options, all ASPIRE sites receive support from OSAC throughout the year.

One of ASPIRE's biggest events is the ASPIRE Fall Conference. This conference is designed to support ASPIRE sites, mentors, and others by hosting topical workshops and providing opportunities for collaboration. Past conferences have included workshops on financial aid and scholarships, panel discussions on supporting students interested in apprenticeship programs, and more.

In the spring, ASPIRE sites participate in regional networking events. During these events, ASPIRE staff share important updates and facilitate a conversation around regional Strengths,

Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). This networking event is an important tool for developing regional strategies for supporting career and college readiness.

To supplement the fall conference and the spring regional meeting, ASPIRE staff host monthly "connections" meetings. These virtual meetings are an opportunity to highlight timely and specific information that helps our sites. There are connections meetings for high school coordinators, middle school coordinators, and volunteers/mentors.

ASPIRE's mission is to educate Oregon students to become career and college ready. We accomplish this mission by implementing two program models one focusing on developing mentoring programs and another focused on building a career and college readiness culture. Additionally, we connect sites to resources, support, and professional development opportunities. On our newest poster we declare that ASPIRE is bold, and we plan to continue being bold on behalf of the dreams of Oregon students.



# What's New with ASPIRE

## New Presentations

Options Beyond High School- Provides an overview of postsecondary options available to students.

Junior Jumpstart- Discusses postsecondary planning, including financial aid.

Kahoots- Kahoot is an interactive presentation where participants use their cell phone to answer fun quiz and polling questions. Any standard presentation can be converted to a Kahoot.

## Support for Apprenticeships and Trades

Career Toolkit- The ASPIRE website now includes a career toolkit that includes lots of information on apprenticeship programs includes videos, lists of pre-apprenticeship programs, and suggestions for supporting students interested in apprenticeships. Information about trade careers is integrated into our presentations, lessons, and activities alongside college information.

Training- We offered professional development opportunities focused on supporting students interested in apprenticeships and trade careers at our fall conferences, in webinars, and through videos posted on YouTube.

## New Mini Lessons

Mini Lessons- Are short activities, games, and worksheets that support postsecondary learning.

Topics- career exploration, postsecondary exploration, scholarship support, financial aid, and more.

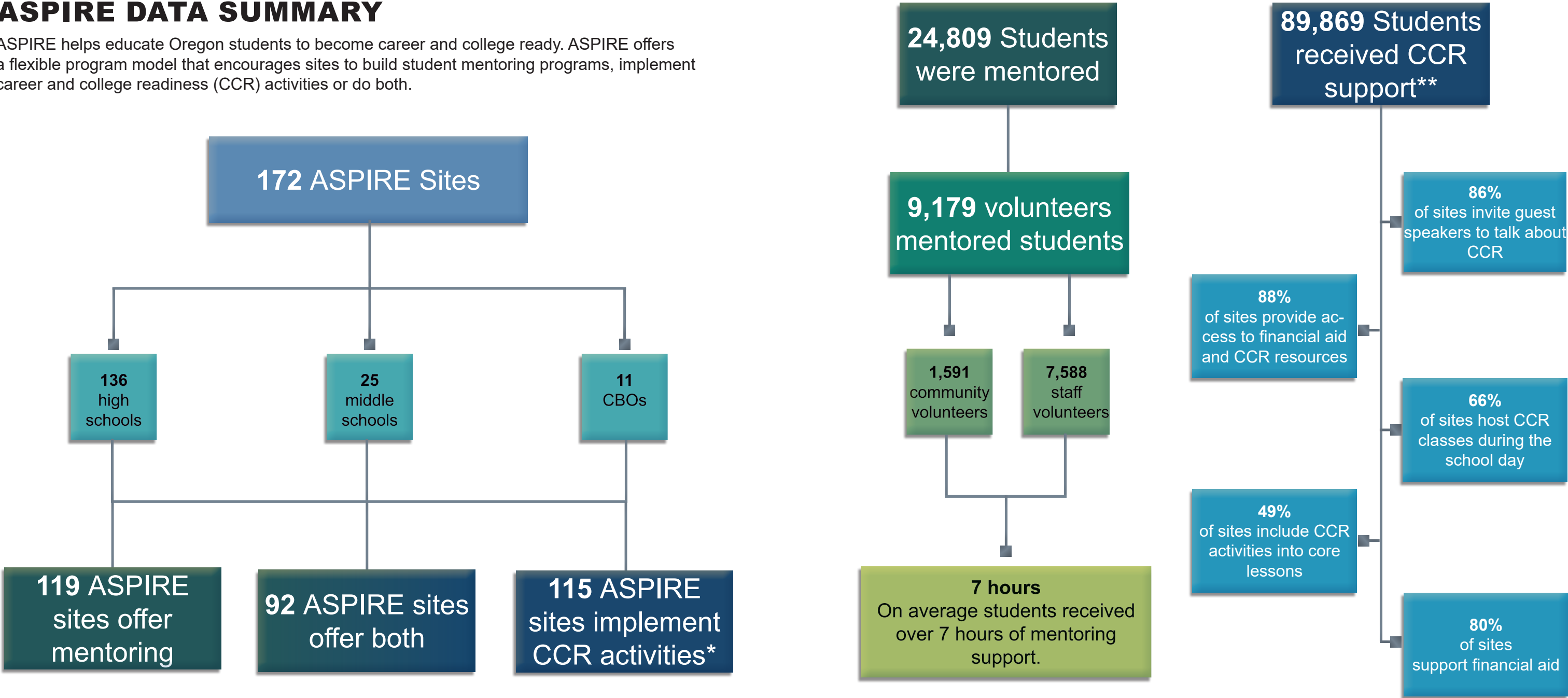
## CCR Inventory

CCR Inventory- Is a diagnostic tool that is used by ASPIRE sites to determine what Career College Readiness activities are implemented at the site and where gaps in services may exist. The tool is used to connect sites to needed resources and to set yearly goals.

# ASPIRE BY THE NUMBERS

## ASPIRE DATA SUMMARY

ASPIRE helps educate Oregon students to become career and college ready. ASPIRE offers a flexible program model that encourages sites to build student mentoring programs, implement career and college readiness (CCR) activities or do both.



### Additional Information About ASPIRE Sites

**ASPIRE** sites have a combined student population of **108,236 students**

- 39%** of ASPIRE sites are large size schools with 608 or more students
- 32%** of ASPIRE sites are medium size schools with between 146-607 students
- 29%** of ASPIRE sites are small size schools with fewer than 145 students

**Number of ASPIRE Sites By County**

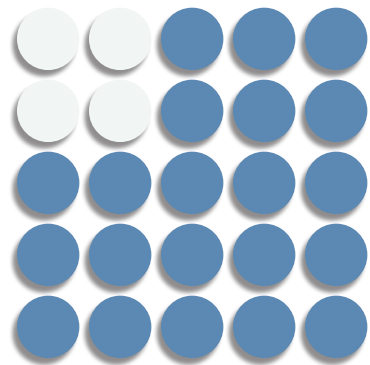
Baker- 1	Coos-3	Grant- 3	Josephine-6	Linn-3	Tillamook- 1
Benton- 1	Crook- 4	Harney- 1	Klamath-3	Marion- 20	Umatilla- 6
Clackamas- 11	Curry- 4	Hood River-1	Lake County-2	Morrow- 2	Union-1
Clatsop-1	Deschutes- 14	Jackson-7	Lane-21	Multnomah- 19	Wasco-1
Columbia-2	Douglas- 8	Jefferson-2	Lincoln- 6	Polk- 2	Washington-8
					Yamhill-8

\* Data is based on ASPIRE site self-reporting, not all sites completed the self report. Actual figure may be higher.  
 \*\* Student served data is based on an estimate provided by ASPIRE sites.

# ASPIRE High School Data

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Inviting community members into the classroom is an important way for students to learn more about postsecondary pathways; it is also one way that ASPIRE helps foster school-community partnerships. Here are some examples of how ASPIRE sites build community engagement.



**EIGHTY-SIX PERCENT** of ASPIRE sites include community members as part of their program.

**97%** of ASPIRE sites report that their administrators, teachers, and staff are aware AND supportive of the ASPIRE program and CCR work.

**56%** of ASPIRE sites report that ASPIRE is listed in their building's or district's strategic plan.



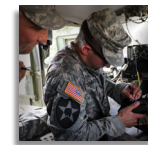
**88%** have college reps visit campus



**88%** have career reps visit campus



**78%** have trade reps visit campus



**86%** have military reps visit campus

## CAREER PREPARATION

Career awareness and career preparation are important components of the ASPIRE program. Each year ASPIRE sites engage in a number of activities that support students' career development and preparation. Here are some ways in which ASPIRE sites support career preparation.

- 89%** use career exploration tools like Oregon CIS
- 79%** offer career or industry presentations
- 86%** offer resume workshops
- 82%** offer mock interview workshops
- 76%** help students find internships
- 75%** help students find job shadows



## SUPPORTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Supporting CCR needs of undocumented/ DACA students helps ensure that all students are prepared for postsecondary journeys. Here are some of the ways ASPIRE sites support undocumented/ DACA students.

- 79%** include information for undocumented/ DACA students in all CCR presentations
- 62%** provide training for staff on supporting the CCR needs of undocumented/DACA students
- 50%** translate CCR communication into two or more languages
- 35%** translate CCR presentations into two or more languages

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Families play an important role in supporting the CCR goals of students. ASPIRE sites work hard to build meaningful opportunities for family engagement. Here are some of the ways ASPIRE sites support family engagement.

- 76%** communicate with parents/caregivers about CCR activities and events
- 70%** invite parents/caregivers to student focused CCR workshops
- 58%** invite parents/caregivers to be ASPIRE mentors
- 39%** host CCR workshops for parents/caregivers

## COLLEGE PREPARATION

Helping students learn about and prepare for college is a fundamental part of ASPIRE. Each year ASPIRE sites engage in a number of activities that support college preparation. Here are some ways ASPIRE sites support college preparation.

- take students to visit college campuses **93%**
- host college preparation workshops for seniors **88%**
- host CCR workshops for underclassmen **87%**
- host college application workshops **75%**
- participate in senior decision day **64%**
- participate in college application week **49%**

# ASPIRE Middle School Data

## HIGH SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

Helping middle school students successfully prepare for high school is a critical part of building a robust career and college readiness program. Learn more about how ASPIRE programs help students prepare for success in high school.

**90%** host high school readiness events or facilitate high school readiness activities in their classrooms



**40%** request presentations from OSAC on high school/ college planning or paying for college

**90%** provide opportunities for 8th graders to visit high schools

## SUPPORTING UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Supporting CCR needs of undocumented/ DACA students helps ensure that all students are prepared for postsecondary journeys. Here are some of the ways ASPIRE sites support undocumented/ DACA students.

communicate with parents/caregivers about CCR activities and events



translate CCR communication into two or more languages

include information for undocumented/ DACA students in CCR presentations

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Families play an important role in supporting the CCR goals of students. ASPIRE sites work hard to build meaningful opportunities for family engagement. Here are some of the ways ASPIRE sites support family engagement.

invite parents/caregivers to student focused CCR workshops



host CCR workshops for parents/caregivers

translate CCR presentations into two or more languages

## POSTSECONDARY EXPLORATION

Exposing students to a variety of options after high school is an important part of building a successful career and college readiness program. Learn more about how ASPIRE middle school programs support postsecondary exploration.



**100%** offer career exploration opportunities to their students

**90%** organize college visits.



**90%** invite community members into classrooms to talk about specific careers

**80%** offer career exploration lessons in classrooms



**91%** of ASPIRE Sites encourage students to participate in community service

## FINANCIAL AID

Students need to learn what financial aid is and what they can do to prepare for college. Here are some ways ASPIRE sites support financial aid.



**82%** offer presentations on paying for college



**55%** provide information about the Oregon College Savings Plan

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers help students learn about careers and prepare for high school. Here are some ways that Middle School ASPIRE sites use volunteers.



**91%** use volunteers to talk to students about careers



**70%** use staff, community or peer mentors

## RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Checklists, posters, trackers, activities, and more. Here are some of the resources and tools middle school ASPIRE site use.



**64%** use ASPIRE or OSAC activities or mini-lessons



**82%** request OSAC or ASPIRE publications to use in their school

# FAFSA/ORSAA Data

ASPIRE sites have access to a variety of resources and tools to help support FAFSA/ORSAA completion. ASPIRE sites receive support from ASPIRE Access Specialists at OSAC, participate in College Goal Oregon, and use the FAFSA Plus+ tool to monitor student progress. No wonder ASPIRE FAFSA/ORSAA completion rates are so inspiring.

## FAFSA/ORSAA Completion Rate Class of 2023-

Oregon Public High Schools-	<b>48.2%</b>
Schools with an ASPIRE Program-	<b>52.1%</b>
Schools without an ASPIRE Program-	<b>43.4%</b>

FAFSA/ORSAA Rates as of July 1st 2023



# FAFSA/ORSAA Support



## ON THE ROAD FOR FAFSA/ORSAA COMPLETION

This year ASPIRE Access Specialists drove approximately **2,200 miles** to support FAFSA/ORSAA completion events at 30 ASPIRE sites across the state. During these events ASPIRE Access Specialists helped students and families complete FAFSA/ORSAA forms or provided training to school staff, students, and families on FAFSA/ORSAA completion.



## COLLEGE GOAL OREGON

College Goal Oregon is Oregon's statewide FAFSA/ORSAA completion campaign. Participating sites pledge to host FAFSA/ORSAA completion workshops and in return receive event support, training, swag, and a small grant. This year ASPIRE sites hosted **56 College Goal Oregon** events.



## FAFSA PLUS+

The FAFSA Plus+ program provides student-level data on FAFSA completion. Student-level data includes who has or has not completed a FAFSA and students' verification or rejection status. FAFSA Plus+ is a key tool in the effort to help ASPIRE sites improve their FAFSA completion rates. This year 93 ASPIRE sites were a part of FAFSA Plus+

## Four Activities That Might Improve Your FAFSA and ORSAA Completion Rates

Recently we took a deep dive into our program data to look at what ASPIRE sites with high FAFSA/ORSAA completion rates are doing and we noticed some interesting trends. Nearly all ASPIRE sites host financial aid presentations (80%), and FAFSA/ORSAA completion events (73%) but ASPIRE sites with FAFSA/ORSAA rates higher than 50% were more likely to complete a few activities when compared to other sites:

- 1. Assist Students with Career Development-** ASPIRE sites with high FAFSA/ORSAA rates were 39% more likely to help students find an internship and 36% more likely to help students prepare for interviews.
- 2. Host a Senior Decision Day Event -** ASPIRE sites with high FAFSA/ORSAA rates were 39% more likely to participate in Decision Day.
- 3. Use ASPIRE/ OSAC Activities and Mini Lessons-** ASPIRE sites with high FAFSA/ORSAA completion rates were 52% more likely to use our tools and resources.
- 4. CCR Training for Everyone-** ASPIRE sites with high FAFSA/ORSAA Rates were 40% more likely to provide CCR training to teachers, counselors and other building staff.

We hope these tips give you ideas to increase your site's FAFSA/ORSAA completion rates.

# Quotes

“

As a first year ASPIRE coordinator it was very helpful to have support from ASPIRE to help my students be successful. Last year my school only had 35% of seniors complete their FAFSA. This year we hosted 2 FAFSA events and raised that number to currently 48%.

ASPIRE Coordinator

“

My aspire mentors were able to connect me with the MPACT program which led me to see all the different trades and helped me get into a program that would suit me. It helped me narrow down what I what to do and I can now say that I am confident in where I'm going after high school. I'm not worried about what I'll be doing and if I doing the right thing.

ASPIRE Student Class of 2023

“

ASPIRE has created a school and community wide culture of helping high school students make successful plans for life after high school. Many community members have donated monies for scholarships. I have one mentor who comes and works with students two days a week and he has been able to create a scholarship fund that will give over \$200,000.00 to students this year alone for college & training programs.

ASPIRE Coordinator

“

I began working with a senior at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. We met on a weekly basis to talk about his post-high school plans, which included flight school to become a pilot. Recognizing that this path would be very costly, we laid out options for scholarship and grant opportunities through Portland Community College in their Aviation program as well as their Civil Engineering and Automotive program. In addition to helping him apply for scholarships, we were able to find out exactly what funding he would receive based on his FAFSA. We could directly show the cost savings of going into a PCC program vs. taking out private loans for flight school. It was rewarding to be able to present all of this student's options to him, showing him that he could be \*receiving\* up to \$25K in aid (grants/scholarships), instead of paying \*out\* \$72K.

ASPIRE Coordinator

“

ASPIRE has helped me become prepared for what comes next, and I am unconditionally thankful to my mentor

ASPIRE Student Class of 2023

“

I would be completely stranded without my ASPIRE mentor.

ASPIRE Student Class of 2023

“

My middle schoolers loved to participate in the ASPIRE College and Career Week! It was so nice to see them so involved! I am excited to work with all of our students as we grow this program even more next year!

ASPIRE Coordinator



## ASPIRE Site 2022-2023

Amity High School  
A3  
Adrienne Nelson  
Alliance HS (Benson Campus)  
Alliance HS (Meek Campus)  
Ashland High School  
Baker High School  
Bandon High School  
Beaverton High School  
Bend Senior High School  
Benson Tech High school  
Bonanza High School  
Boys and Girls Club of Salem (HS)  
Boys and Girls Club of Salem (MS)  
Brookings-Harbor High School  
Caldera High School  
Canby High School  
Central Christian School  
Central Linn High School  
Central Linn Middle School  
Chiloquin High School  
Clackamas High School  
Cleveland High School  
College Hill High School  
Colton High School  
Crater Lake Academy  
Creswell High School  
Crook County High School  
CTEC  
Culver High School  
Dallas High School  
Dayton High School  
Douglas High School  
Driftwood Middle School  
Duniway Middle School  
Eagle Point High School  
Early College High School  
Eddyville High School  
Elkton High School  
Elkton Middle School  
Elmira High School  
Estacada High School  
Experimental Aircraft Association  
Forest Grove Community Middle School  
Forest Grove High School  
Franklin High School  
Gervais High School  
**15** Gold Beach High School

Grant High School  
Grant Union High School  
Grant Union Jr. High School  
Grants Pass High School  
Hermiston High School  
Hidden Valley High School  
High Desert Christian Academy  
Hood River Valley High School  
Illinois Valley High School  
Insight School of Painted Hills High school  
Insight School of Painted Hills Middle School  
Jefferson High School  
La Grande High School  
La Pine Middle School  
La Pine Senior  
High School  
Leslie Middle School  
Lifegate Christian  
Lincoln High School  
Long Creek High School  
Lost River High School  
Lowell High School  
Maclaren Correctional Facility  
Madras High School  
Mannahouse (Eugene site)  
Mannahouse (Portland)  
Mapleton High School  
Marshall High School  
Marshfield High School  
McDaniel High School  
McKay High School  
McKenzie High School  
McKenzie Middle School  
McLoughlin High School  
McNary High School  
Metro East Web Academy  
Miller Education Center  
Milwaukie High School  
Molalla High School  
Monroe School  
Mountain View High School  
NAACP Eugene-Springfield High School  
NAACP Eugene-Springfield Middle School  
NAYA  
Neah-Kah-Nie High School  
Network Charter High School  
Network Charter Middle School  
New Bridge High School  
New Hope Christian School  
Newberg High School

Newport High School  
Nixyaawii Community School  
North Bend High School  
North Eugene High School  
North Marion High School  
North Medford High School  
North Salem High School  
North Valley High School  
Open Door Christian Academy  
OR Outreach Scappoose Academy  
Oregon City High School  
Outside In  
Pacific High School  
Paisley Public Charter School High School  
Paisley Public Charter School Middle School  
Parrish Middle School  
Patton Middle School  
Pendleton High School  
Perrydale High School  
Phoenix School of Roseburg High School  
Phoenix School of Roseburg Middle School  
Pilot Rock High School  
Realms High School  
Redmond High School  
Reedsport Community Charter High School  
Reedsport Community Charter Middle School  
Regis High School  
Rex Putnam High School  
Reynolds High School  
Ridgeview High School  
Riverside High School  
Riverside Middle School  
Roberts High School  
Rogue River High School  
Roosevelt High School  
Sam Barlow High School  
Sandy High School  
Scio High School  
Seaside High School  
Sheridan High School  
Sisters High School  
Siuslaw High School  
Siuslaw Middle School  
South Medford High School  
South Salem High School  
Southridge High School  
Sprague High School  
Springfield High School  
Springwater Trail High School  
St. Helens High School

Stanfield Secondary School  
Straub Middle School  
Summit High School  
Sunset High School  
Taft High School  
Taft Middle School  
The Dalles High School  
Thurston High School  
Toledo Jr./Sr. High School  
Triangle Lake Charter  
Triangle Lake Charter MS  
Trinity Lutheran School High School  
Trinity Lutheran Middle School  
Tualatin High School  
Upper Rogue  
Waldport High School  
Walker Middle School  
West Salem High School  
Westview High School  
Willamette High School  
Wilson High School  
Wilsonville High School  
Winston Middle School  
Woodburn High School  
Yamhill-Carlton High School

# Staff List & Resources

## ASPIRE Staff



Juan Baez-Arevalo  
Director- OSAC



Catherine Conklin  
ASPIRE/Outreach  
Technical Specialist



Rochelle Farris  
ASPIRE Access  
Specialist



Nomi Pearce  
ASPIRE Access  
Specialist



Kurt Reeser  
Training and Development  
Specialist



Stacey Stonesifer  
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Specialist



Gordy Toyama  
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Specialist

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For more information about ASPIRE please visit our website: [www.OregonStudentAid.Gov/ASPIRE](http://www.OregonStudentAid.Gov/ASPIRE).

