

KEEPING US CONNECTED



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- April AWEstar
Meryl Soto
- AWEstar Tutor
Christina Baker
- AAC Celebration
- AWE Celebration

APRIL EVENTS

Teaching and Learning FIG, Tuesday, April 10th, 1:00-2:00

AWE Retreat, Friday, April 13th, 12:30-3:00

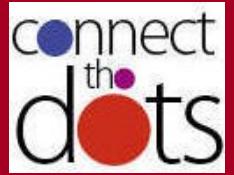
AWE Steering Committee, Fri. April 20th, 9-10:30

AAC Celebration Wed. April 25th, Noon -1:30

April's GPS Tool focused on \$\$ Money \$\$ Management

Check out the [GPS site](#) for more information!

Columbia College's



Academic Wellness Educators

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 8

APRIL 2012

April AWEstar Meryl Soto

As a long-time member of what has evolved into the Academic Wellness Educators, I have been privileged to work with a growing community of peers who recognize the importance of supporting inquiry, new ideas, and innovation, in service to our students' success. As an AWE team member, I was able to take part in a year of reflection on our basic skills programs here on campus, and then a year of exploration of other colleges' programs and approaches.

I have participated in "Connect the Dots," an AWE event that helped all of us to remember who does what around here, and how to access that service. I was also part of the team of presenters to the Hewlett Foundation Representatives, representing our faculty. My

participation in AWE gave me the opportunity to attend the innovative Reading Apprenticeship program, and to share that new and successful approach to teaching



reading with my colleagues in the Career Technical side of the house in their ISW workshop and in an Embedded Skills course.

As an AWE member I participated as a presenter at the Bass Lake

Contextual Basic Skills Workshop, sharing with colleagues in our region the successes of our Basic Skills innovations. For a while, AWE became a community of support for "The Columbia College Spring Review", and most recently, it has been a place for me to find support for an idea that our new VP of Instruction, Leslie Buckalew has helped to bring to fruition with the technical savvy of Wendy Link—our new "[Celebrate Student Success](#)" webpage.

AWE is a place where I have found both inspiration and support for ideas, and a place to support others who are cooking up new and creative recipes for nourishing student success. Great things happen with AWE!

AWEstar Tutor's Corner with Christina Baker

College life here at Columbia has been a terrific experience. I am in my third semester and loving every moment. The campus is beautiful and the instructors are the best! Radiology is my passion, and I am currently completing my prerequisite classes as required to transfer to Loma Linda University.

Most of my coursework is focused in the area of Sci-



ence, requiring various classes in Human Biology; as well

as Mathematics and Computer Technology. Along with my own studies, I enjoy devoting my time as a Physiology S.I. Leader. Working closely with my fellow students has made a tremendous impact on my own personal endeavors. In many ways I have learned as much from them as they have learned from me. It has been both an

AWEstar Tutor's Corner Continued



AAC End of Year Celebration Group Shot

**Success is the
sum of small
efforts, repeated
day in and day
out.**

Robert Collier



AWE End of Year Celebration Group Shot

honor and a pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve in parallel to Columbia College's Vision Statement.

I believe the ability to stay focused and motivated are key factors contributing to my success as a student. For this I would like to thank all of my instructors, as well as the AAC Staff. Everyone has been such an amazing inspiration. I have been blessed with the opportunity to further my

education alongside some very bright and determined individuals; whose attributes I will carry for a lifetime.

My future career as a Healthcare Provider is bitter-sweet in many ways. I truly believe that my experiences here at Columbia have provided me with a strong foundation, as well as the confidence to face the challenges yet to come. My mission in life is to be an inspiration to others, a

message of hope, and an example of peace. As noted by Eleanor Roosevelt, "Many people will walk in and out of your life...but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart."

AAC End of Year Celebration

Every year the Academic Achievement Center celebrates the tutors and supplemental instructional leaders for their hard work. This year was no different and although this has become a tradition at Columbia College for the past 5 years it is still one of the most invigorating and inspiring events on campus to bring the school year to a close.

Many of the tutors and SI leaders will be graduating and

moving on. Their presence and involvement with tutoring and helping students succeed will live on and not be forgotten by the faculty they serve and the students they tutor.

We hope you have enjoyed the AWEstar Tutor's Corner featuring a tutor or SI leader in each edition of the AWE newsletter. Please join us all in congratulating our students on a job well done.

Are you interested in staying connected? Remember to join the [AAC Facebook Group Page](#). Sign in to Facebook and enjoy!

AWE End of Year Celebration

It was a happy AWE ending to a wonderfully, productive 2011-12 awesome year! The spring AWEstars and AWEstar Tutors were honored. FIG reports were beaming with good reports on increased student involvement in FIGs, accomplishments and ongoing plans for the next year.

On a sad note it was also the ending of Adrienne Seegers and Alicia Kolstad's reign as facilitators for the AWE Steering Committee. They will be succeeded by Anne Cavagnaro and Elissa Creighton whom have been active participants in the AWE Committee for several years. We are happy to

be able to have two confident and awesome colleagues step up!

Adrienne and Alicia, still committed to AWE, will leave us with a great leadership team example. Their leadership style exemplified creativity, fun and fulfilled goals. They will be missed!