

ASPIRE ...

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Dinkins is currently seeking a variety of volunteers from the valley. Once he has a small core of volunteers he can move them toward training and then pair them with students.

Volunteers do not need previous counseling experience, nor do they need to have attended college themselves. They simply must want to assist students with all aspects of their post-high school plans and have a few hours each week to give.

They do however, need to be at least 20 years old.

"We want volunteers with some life experience," he said, noting he particularly hopes to recruit men advisers. "I would love to see male involvement in this program," he said.

The goal is to train six to 10 volunteers by the first of the year, Dinkins said. However, he noted that he would schedule a training if at least three persons were interested.

Volunteers are required to go through a short training session and agree to a background check before they begin working with students.

All student-adviser meetings will take place at the high school.

Dinkins, who had constant interaction with students last year as IVHS schoolwide assistant, is hopeful that role, and his familiarity with the community, will benefit his ASPIRE efforts.

"I don't want to just establish programs for the sake of establishing programs," he said, noting sustainability is key.

As the program grows and more volunteers are trained, more students from other grades will be served, he added.

While ASPIRE advisers play a significant role in helping students research schools, fill out applications, look for scholarships and more, Dinkins stressed they will supplement the guidance of Don Farmer, IVHS counselor.

"ASPIRE advisers do not replace staff," he said.

ASPIRE funding is through a grant from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, a state agency that administers various student financial aid programs.

Dinkins is also an AmeriCorps member and receives an education award and living allowance for serving one year at IVHS.

Also designated as an Oregon GEAR UP Network school -- the GEAR UP program strives to ensure that Oregon's low-income middle and high school students are prepared for and pursue post-secondary education -- IVHS is able to access specific grants to draw in programs like ASPIRE.

Dinkins was also GEAR UP coordinator for IVHS last year, which is how he learned about ASPIRE.

There will be an introduction to ASPIRE presentation at IVHS in Room 6 at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 23.

Community members and parents interested in becoming involved with ASPIRE can attend. For more information about ASPIRE phone Dinkins at 592-2116.

THURSDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule for October 16, 2003. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and program titles like 'Home Improvement', 'Friends', 'The Sopranos', etc.

FRIDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule for October 17, 2003. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and program titles like 'Perfect Match', 'Boston Public', 'Walker, Texas Ranger', etc.

SATURDAY MORNING/AFTERNOON TV schedule for October 18, 2003. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and program titles like 'Saved by the Bell', 'Dawson's Creek', 'The Simpsons', etc.

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