

# Role of the ASPIRA Student Advisor

## **The ASPIRA Student Advisor**

ASPIRA Advisor's main function is that of an educator and facilitator. They help prepare young people to meet life challenges through a coordinated series of activities. They provide information, present options, encourage responsibility, support creativity, and challenge youth to think and grow.

While their roles will vary, the following provides a brief overview:

### **As Student Advisors:**

Advisors assist youth in realizing their full educational potential and in their social, psychological and spiritual development. Specifically they:

- Assist students in the career exploration, decision-making, and goal setting processes.
- Ensure that students are taking the pre-college courses; develop and maintain the student academic history for four years.
- Utilize college and career planning information to help students sound career decisions.
- Assist students in understanding the college admission process, and how colleges make admissions decisions.
- Provide assistance and support to parents and families so that they can make more informed decision about their children's education.
- Assist students in the financial aid process.
- Assist parents in completing financial aid forms; reviewing tax documents, and in exploring all possible options.
- Assist students in improving their test taking skills.
- Dissemination information to students, parents and community.
- Conduct workshops in areas such, as test taking, application procedures and financial aid.
- Refer students when appropriate
- Serve as liaisons between ASPIRA and the schools, parents, and organizations served
- Make public presentations related to ASPIRA's mission, goals and objectives.
- Serve on external committees and advisory boards.
- Document and monitor the progress of students served.
- Collaborate in evaluation of program services and report writing.

### **As ASPIRA Club Advisors:**

An advisor's actual role will vary depending on his or her style of leadership and the needs of the Club. The advisor generally advises ASPIRA Clubs in planning projects, events, or programs, specifically they:

- Work directly with ASPIRA Club officers in developing individual skills like parliamentary procedure and public speaking
- Advise the Club when they believe the group is likely to make a poor decision
- Review the treasurer's books on a regular basis
- Check all correspondence before it is sent
- Serve as custodians of official Club files
- Inform the Club of infractions of their bylaws, and ASPIRA regulations.

**As Group Facilitators:**

As group facilitators the Advisors focus on enhancing the development of individual and group skills in areas such as, problem-solving, decision-making, consensus building and conflict resolution.

Useful Websites for Counselors:

<http://ub-counseling.buffalo.edu/centers.html>

<http://www.counselingnetwork.com/> <http://www.counseling.org/>