



MAEOPP HAPPENINGS

Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

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JUNE 2014

A Message from the President Organized TRIO

Dear Members of the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel:

When I think about what's happening at this time of the year for educational opportunity programs, summer programming and grant writing are our two primary concerns. For our Mid-America Association, summer is the time we ramp up our preparations for fall student and professional development conferences. Further information and registration is on the website and will be updated as we move along to finalize the events. I hope you start planning now to bring your students to the precollege, adult student or McNair conferences and to attend the 40th annual professional conference. I am excited to share with you our opening plenary on the **40 Years of Advocacy as Organized TRIO**.

In April and May, I had the privilege to visit with members at seven of our eight chapter conferences. Amazing work is being done across our region with leaders in college access and degree completion. In this newsletter, you will find highlights of State/Chapter initiatives and their expanding communication efforts to more effectively share the message of college access and success throughout and beyond the TRIO community.

Illinois TRIO held their 40th conference, April 6-8, 2014, "Back to Basics: Achieving Educational Access, Opportunity and Success in Illinois. They invited members to bring non -TRIO personnel from their institutions and provided certificates to participants who completed the training. A special training was held for institutional teams on strategies for writing the SSS grant, post-conference.

Indiana TRIO held their conference, May 20-21, 2014, "Facing Challenges, Creating Opportunities. In conjunction a COE Priority 4 Training, "Financial Aid, Admissions, and Financial Literacy," was held May 22nd at Notre Dame.

Iowa TRIO held their conference, April 9-11, 2014, “Partnering to Provide Students a Path to Academic Success,” with the goal to expand their chapter by recruiting professionals with a similar vision. Key partners at the conference were from ACT Aspire, ACT Profile, and Skilled Iowa (Iowa Workforce Development and National Career Readiness Certificate).

Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel held their conference, April 24-26, 2014, “MI-CAPP and TRIO: Seizing Our Role in a Changed America.” There was an effort to bring together college access professionals and organizations from around the state to engage in support of student success for the purposes of advocacy and exchanging best practices. Free pre-conference workshops focused on the Michigan College Access Portal and MI Department of Veteran’s Affairs. A keynote address was given by Aaron Payment, Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, a 2013 Sergeant Shriver Award Recipient, PhD ABD, and Upward Bound alumnus.

Minnesota TRIO held their conference, April 7-9, 2014, “Reignite, Reunite: Envisioning a Grand View Together,” featuring several speakers from outside TRIO and an aide from Senator Franken’s office who met with conference attendees. Northland Foundation President and MnSCU Board of Trustee Thomas Renier was a keynote speaker. In preparation, he was provided TRIO facts, Policy Seminar data sheets on TRIO funds across the state, a MN TRIO brochure with program success data, and website links to several success stories. Consequently, he has invited MN TRIO to present to the Board.

MO-KAN-NE held their conference, April 2-4, 2014, “MO-KAN-NE: Contributing to Goal 2025.” Also highlighted during the conference were themes to stay informed on national education initiatives, reaching out to other organizations to alert them that Goal 2025 will not be achieved without TRIO and other college completion programs. Participant evaluations indicated this was one of the best conferences with several student speakers and relevant concurrent sessions. Two particular notes were 1) program accountability and OIG audit presented by an Assistant Regional Inspector General for Audit and 2) loan default prevention and financial education presented in collaboration with another grant program outside TRIO. Vaughn Robertson was inducted into the MKN Hall of Fame for being actively engaged in the work of the Association, and is being considered a frontrunner to assist TRIO at chapter, regional, and national levels.

Ohio TRIO held their conference, April 3-4, 2014, “Building Capacity, Creating Community, and Increasing Capital.” They had three goals in mind: 1) build a cohesive membership that works collaboratively to improve the effectiveness of the association, 2) increase visibility in the TRIO community and forge new partnerships to strengthen our voice, and 3) create more opportunities for growth in revenue. OH TRIO assigned past presidents as mentors to aspiring leaders, connected and shared knowledge with Ohio Education Research Center, and went to their State House to hold a learning session with legislative aides. They then made visits to legislators to educate them about TRIO.

Wisconsin (WAEOPP) held their conference, April 23-25, 2014, “Ready Set, Go! Get EneRgized, Gain Strength, Get Moving,” focusing on staff resiliency, TRIO involvement, advocacy, and an update from their ELI on their Leadership Summit experience. A keynote address on changing mindsets was given by Dr. Victor Schuller, and a tribute was given to retired director Reilly O’Halloran for his many years of service to TRIO (he continues serving MAEOPP as part of the Institute faculty.)

2014-2015 election results are as follows:

- o Roxanne Gregg – President Elect
- o Ce Merrigan – Secretary
- o Robert Jenkins – Treasurer

Additionally, the **Emerging Leaders** class did an outstanding job assisting, while simultaneously participating in the Educational Opportunity Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. on March 22-23, 2014, as part of their curriculum this year.

"Thank you so much for your support and giving us (MAEOPP ELI's) the opportunity to attend COE's Leadership Summit. It was definitely a valuable experience and we gained a tremendous amount of knowledge." – 2014 ELI Participant

There are also other opportunities for leadership and professional development through the **Institute for the Advancement of Leadership Program Management**. Registration is now open and materials are available on the MAEOPP website under services. Additional information about The Institute can be found on page 11.

Lastly, details will be coming soon about MAEOPP sponsored webinars which are NEW TO MAEOPP.



Annette Horvat
2013-14
MAEOPP President

It brings me great pleasure to thank everyone who has put forth their time, talents, and treasurers to help us reach our Fair Share goal for contributions to support the work of the **Council for Opportunity in Education**. As a sitting board member of our national advocacy organization, I am proud to represent you and our students' interests at the COE table. In May, Past President Trent Ball, President-Elect Kaye Monk-Morgan, and I conducted follow up meetings to key Congressional leaders to provide TRIO updates since your Policy Seminar visits. Your advocacy at Policy and all year round truly makes a difference!

Over 140 MAEOPP members attended the **COE SSS Innovative Practices and SSS Grant Writing Workshops** hosted in our region in Chicago on May 7-9, 2014. If you were not able to attend, another set of sessions will be in San Diego, August 8-9th. Be sure to keep your Institutional membership active—only COE members can attend the grant writing workshop as a free service from the Council.

Please extend a congratulations with me to **Past President Trent Ball** who has been elected to serve as the **2015 COE Board Chair Elect**. As such, he will join the list of many MAEOPPians who have risen from our membership to lead at this level.

Be sure to read further into the newsletter about additional COE updates, upcoming 50th anniversary celebrations of Upward Bound and details on the 100% restoration of lost funds from sequestration.

As I end my updates for this edition of the MAEOPP Happenings, I wish you the best this summer in all that needs your attention to keep your students persisting to earn a degree, to advance yourself in your own professional endeavours, and to maintain a life in balance.

Sincerely,

Annette Horvat,
President

State Activities

Iowa

Central College SSS student receives Fulbright Award to teach in Malaysia

Gregory Teets, a December 2013 graduate from Central College and a TRIO Student Support Services student, received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Malaysia in 2015.



Gregory will begin his 10-month English Teaching Assistant position in Malaysia in January 2015. He is eagerly anticipating this incredible cross-cultural experience.

Steffi Lee: SSS student studying abroad in Poland on Gilman Scholarship

As an out-of-state student, Steffi Lee didn't know what to expect when moving to the Midwest. However, SSS kept her focused on her academics, and the mentors in the program were so incredibly supportive about helping her find and pursue her passion.



Jessica Chickering: Iowa TRIO alumna finds passion as TRIO professional

TRIO program participated in as a student: Central College Upward Bound 1987-1988

Education: A.A., Indian Hills Community College; B.A. Elementary Education, Buena Vista University; Secondary English endorsement, William Penn College; Ed.S. Educational Policy & Leadership Studies, University of Iowa



Professional Experience

Current: TRIO Student Support Services Director, Indian Hills Community College

Past: Upward Bound Director, Indian Hills Community College
Academic Counselor, Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa, IA.
English Instructor & Guidance Counselor, Davis County Community Schools, Bloomfield, IA



Bruce and
Sharyn Schelske
MAEOPP Honorary
Membership

Minnesota

MN TRIO has been busy over the last few months. In February, Mesabi Range Community and Technical College hosted Northern Tier TRIO Day. The students attending began their day with a letter greeting from Senator Franken and a video from Senator Klobuchar. Throughout the day, 615 postcards were written and collected to be sent to MN legislators in support of TRIO. March began with the Adult Leadership Symposium hosted by Minnesota State University – Mankato. Those in attendance were welcomed with videos from Senators Franken and Klobuchar. Southern Tier TRIO Day was held at Hennepin Community and Technical College. Students there began their day with videos from both Senators Franken and Klobuchar and then proceeded to write 800 postcards throughout the day to legislators in support of TRIO. March ended with 26 MN TRIO staff and alumni attending Policy Seminar.

MN TRIO's Annual Conference was held in April. The 50th Anniversary of Upward Bound celebration began with the unveiling of the Upward Bound banner, which will travel around the state collecting signatures from all of the Upward Bound programs across the state. Three TRIO Achievers were honored at the conference and, Bruce and Sharyn Schelske were presented with their MAEOPP Honorary Membership.

MN TRIO has also been in the news, and several articles have been posted to the MN TRIO website. One article highlights the opportunity two University of Minnesota Upward Bound students had in meeting Senator Franken as a part of a college affordability roundtable (<http://www.mntrio.org/the-news>). Shelly Siegel also wrote an Op Ed highlighting how TRIO programs assist students to study abroad (<http://www.startribune.com/opinion/letters/253974391.html>) and Augsburg College received coverage about the 11th Annual Private Scholars at the Capitol event (<http://www.augsburg.edu/mcnair/research/>).

MN TRIO continues its efforts supporting the low-income and first-generation students, and has chosen to be listed as a supporter of two new college access and affordability bills of Senator Franken's: The Housing for Homeless Students Act and the Net Price Calculator Improvement Act of 2014. We continue our advocacy for all TRIO students and programs.

Senator Franken
Roundtable



Michigan

Michigan moved from 75% to 99% of Fair Share. Our goal is to have every institution with Student Support Services projects become Institutional Members. Then we will work to increase the number of institutional memberships among Michigan's other host institutions.

Despite not having an active, functional State Executive Board until late December of 2013, we have successfully accomplished/completed the January Board Meeting in Chicago, the Policy Seminar, preparing and submitting the Upward Bound APR's, and planning and conducting the MI-CAPP Conference. The active members of the Michigan Executive Board want to express our gratitude for all the attention and support that MAEOPP (especially Mesdames President and President-Elect) and COE have been providing us as Michigan starts, again, to re-build itself. Words cannot convey how deeply your support is appreciated.



Second to the left,
Ce Merrigan, Western
Nebraska Community
College (WNCC) TRIO
VUB Director

MO-KAN-NE

Student veterans at National American University (NAU) campus in Rapid City, South Dakota have a new place to call their own.

Thursday, March 13th, 2014, veterans of several generations were on hand to cut the ribbon on the Freedom Room at National American University's Rapid City campus.

The room was created as a tribute to military service and as a place for veterans to gather, to study, and to inspire one another.

Himself a veteran, NAU Senior Campus Director John Terry says he created the room to honor and show gratitude to those who have served their country, *"We want to be able to do more than just say we are military friendly; we wanted to show how we support that segment of our student population," he said.*

The Freedom Room was dedicated to the memory of veteran and former NAU student Terry Kirkhart, whose family was in attendance for the ceremony.

Additionally Ce Merrigan, Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) TRIO VUB Director; Rick Rhode, WNCC Black Hills Area VUB Program Advisor; and Cathy Payne, South Dakota School of Mines and Tech Veterans Resource Center Director and VUB Instructor, were on hand. WNCC TRIO VUB has been present in the South Dakota Black Hills area and has partnered with NAU since 1999, as well as co-sponsoring the space.

Ohio

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TRIO McNair **RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

Friday, September 26 and
Saturday, September 27, 2014
University of Cincinnati

From a ripple to a wave...

CHANGING THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)

ELI is an innovative program designed by MAEOPP leaders who recognized the need to strengthen the association by developing potential leaders.

The Emerging Leaders Institute is a year long leadership development program that is designed to inspire and cultivate strong leadership within the association. The program's design combines professional development, networking opportunities, and hands-on experiences that prepare participants for greater involvement in MAEOPP and their respective chapters.

Components of the ELI training experience:

- Leadership Styles
- Team Building
- Time and Project Management
- Parliamentary procedures
- MAEOPP Constitution and History
- MAEOPP Board operations
- MAEOPP Education Foundation
- COE history
- Advocacy efforts

ELI Application Deadline

ELI Applications were to be submitted to State President's by June 1. If you are still considering applying for the 2015 ELI Class, please contact your State President to see if applications are still being accepted. State Presidents have until July 15 to submit two nominees to the MAEOPP ELI Committee. The ELI class of 2015 will be approved at the August MAEOPP Board Meeting and announced shortly thereafter. If you have any questions about the ELI application or timeline, please contact Professional Development Chair, Ellie Burns at burnse@central.edu or 641.628.7651.



Dr. Celerstine Johnson
MAEOPP President
1990-1991

Past President's Corner

Dr. Celerstine Briggs-Johnson was elected President of MAEOPP in 1990 after having served a term as President of the MO-KAN-NE chapter.

During her tenure as President (1990-1991) she addressed final establishment of the MAEOPP Education Foundation (MEF); the placement of the MAEOPP archives in the Pope Pius XII Library at St. Louis University, St. Louis Missouri; refinement of the process for managing finances for our annual regional conference; and the founding of the Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI).

Much of the work for beginning MAEOPP Education Foundation had been done by previous Presidents, but finalizing the process presented a challenge for her board that resulted in final approval for establishment of MEF.

ELI's purpose is to identify and prepare MAEOPP members to assume leadership positions at the chapter and regional levels, to help those individuals grow personally and professionally and to strengthen the Association.

The St. Louis University Archivist, John Waide agreed to organize the records of the association and to preserve them for prosperity. The archives have been used by researchers interested in the history of TRIO. St. Louis University has maintained the archives for these many years at no cost to MAEOPP.

One of the challenges in any organization is the development of new leadership. Hence, The MAEOPP Institute for the Advancement of Leadership and Program Management was initiated.

MAEOPP members were interested in providing leadership for the Association. Deltha Q. Colvin, from Wichita State University, was asked to serve as the first trainer. This vision has spanned the years, engaged many Presidents, had many trainers, developed many leaders, and has been replicated by several national TRIO regional associations.

My emotions at that time were mixed: Surprise...Pride...Humility...Gratitude. However, I was thankful for the opportunity to serve the people of MAEOPP. I was impressed by the work of my predecessor Presidents and marveled at their contributions to the TRIO profession.

-Dr. Celerstine Johnson

The MAEOPP Institute for the Advancement of Leadership and Program Management

The 29th Annual MAEOPP Conference once again hosted a spectacular Pre-conference Institute led by Dr. Celerstine Johnson. Over the four days of training, eight participants and seven faculty members enjoyed an exciting exchange of ideas and knowledge. After learning about CAS standards, we discussed TRiO leadership in the context of mission statements; human relations; ethics; organization and leadership; diversity, equity and access; campus and external relations; assessment and evaluation; technology, financial resources, facilities and equipment; law, policy and governance; and ended with how to develop an action plan. Lively discussions and sharing of best practices created a very cohesive group and made the time go quickly. We also enjoyed the camaraderie and good food together. Participants left feeling good about going back to their programs with some great ideas for assessment.

Institute participants were:

- Cliff Adams – Kansas
- Val Bronston – Cincinnati
- James Griffin – Illinois
- Mulu Negash - Kansas
- Rouzell Porter – Missouri
- Kenny White – Illinois
- Nicci Wiltse – Kansas
- Heidi Witucki – Michigan
- Joe Zerbst – Michigan



We also welcomed a new faculty member, Mr. Reilly O'Halloran. Reilly recently retired from many years in Wisconsin-TRiO and brought his wisdom and spectacular sense of humor to the institute.

We hope to see you and your colleagues at the November 2014 institute and MAEOPP conference in Bloomington, MN – a wonderful city!

Upward Bound 50th Anniversary

The 50th Anniversary Video Competition

General Purpose: The celebration of the 50th year of Upward Bound is an opportunity for Upward Bound projects everywhere to share with their institutions, communities, and with the nation, their own historic roots, their programs' strengths and legacy, and the unique stamp that their program has imprinted upon the UB model. To encourage Upward Bound projects to do so nationally, COE is inviting your project to participate in the 50th Anniversary Video project.

Who Can Participate: All Upward Bound Projects (including Veterans Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science).

When Does the Contest Begin: If you decide to participate, the creation of the video should take place during the summer 2014 Program as part of your planned curriculum. VUB programs can begin any time after they register for the contest online at COE.

When Does the Video Get Submitted: Videos will be due on **Friday, July 25, 2014**.

What Should Be the Subject of the Video COE is not placing any limitations on the subject of the video as long as each video involves both alumni and students, and is produced by students.

Upward Bound 50th Anniversary Logos

Please place the logos in your e-mail signature, on your websites and Facebook pages, and in other places of prominence as you see fit. There are two different versions — with and without the “A Federal TRIO Program” tagline. We ask that you keep the logos intact when you use them.

<http://www.coenet.us/ub50th/> for the community

<http://www.coenet.us/ub50thpress/> for the press

Department of Education

House Democrats Highlight TRIO During Hearing with Secretary Duncan

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, Education Secretary Arne Duncan testified before the House Education & Workforce Committee regarding the Administration's FY 2015 budget request to Congress. During the hearing, two Democratic Members raised the issue of TRIO funding. First, Congressman Rubén Hinojosa of Texas, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, expressed concern that TRIO, GEAR UP, and HEP/CAMP funding had not yet been fully restored to their pre-sequestration levels. Meanwhile, Congressman Bobby Scott of Virginia, who is next in line to assume the top Democratic position on the full Committee, noted the loss of five Upward Bound projects in his immediate area and questioned whether the U.S. Department of Education took steps to ensure geographic diversity among grant recipients.

COE Update

100% Restoration for TRIO Programs

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) has confirmed that any TRIO program that has made substantial progress and does not have excess carry forward monies will receive 100% restoration in their 2014-2015 budget. What does that mean exactly? This means that TRIO programs will receive the same funding they received in their 2012-2013 allocation — *before sequestration*. TRIO programs had the opportunity to reduce the number of students served this past year. Please note, in 2014-2015, programs will need to return to their original number of students served before sequestration.

Grant Award Notification (GAN) distribution is as follows:

- Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) and Talent Search programs have been sent GANs via e-mail. No hard copies will be mailed.
- Upward Bound programs that begin June 1 should be out; all other Upward Bound programs— July 25
- Upward Bound Math/Science— August 8
- Veterans Upward Bound—August 28
- McNair—by the end of July
- Student Support Services—early June

Latest Legislative Update

The Senate will release its version of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill and will reveal how much funding it will allot for TRIO in FY 15 (Program Year 2015-2016). This is the first step in what will be a long legislative process that will impact all programs—most notably the upcoming Student Support Services grant competition. The time is NOW to reach out to your Senators (particularly if they signed our [FY 15 Senate Appropriations Letter](#)) to remind them of our request for a \$52 Million increase for TRIO programs in FY15. This will support a 10% increase in Student Support Services and 3% increase in all existing TRIO grants for the 2015-2016 program year. Contact your Senators in support of TRIO by going to the [Call to Action](#) section of the COE website.

MAEOPP Membership

Member Online Service

Every current MAEOPP member will receive a MAEOPP Account that will allow access to MAEOPP organizations tools such as documents, training sites, membership directory, and other tools. Our new MAEOPP account is powered by Google under our Not-For-Profit grant service.

This MAEOPP Google Account will replace the current MAEOPP user accounts that previously allowed access to the MAEOPP membership directory and organization documents.

Every current MAEOPP member will receive an individual email to their institutional address with the new user name and instructions on how to use the new services.



The new services will provide our associations with innovative methods for collaboration and communication. The technology committee will be available to support your needs during this transition. In order to serve our members efficiently we will be available for questions and support via our email technology@maeopp.org and for emergencies via our Google voice (708)303-83725-3456. We have also created a resource website that provides tutorials and step by step procedures to use your new Google tools [google-maeopp-apps-learning-center >>](#)