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Why We Can't Wait Revisited

By Jeffery A. Faulkerson

In 1963, Harper and Row published *Why We Can't Wait* by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Dr. King dedicated the book to his four children – Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter and Bernice – holding on tightly to a dream that saw them living in an America where people were judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. Dr. King used the book to recount the story of Birmingham, tracing the history of the struggle for civil rights back to its beginnings three centuries ago and looking to the future. He also offered an assessment of the work to be done beyond Birmingham to bring about full equality for African Americans.

President Bush's proposed elimination of the Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search and GEAR-UP projects did not come as a surprise to

most of us. The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is quick to let us know about any and all threats to the Civil Rights Movement's second wave. However, as I reflect on the life and times of Dr. King, and what his legacy means to people of all hues, I wonder how he would assess this most recent threat.

As you all know, his contemporary, Lyndon B. Johnson, signed the Higher Education Act of 1965 into law because he was intent on making post-secondary education both accessible and affordable to low-income Americans, ultimately winning the *War on Poverty*. But we must remember that the precu-

rior to this legislation was the Supreme Court decision (i.e., *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*) that called for the desegregation of public schools. Thus, I believe Dr. King would give President Bush a failing grade. Not because his heart is in the wrong place – in word, he does say he is committed to leaving no child behind – but because he seemingly is turning a deaf ear to his forebears, as well as history, opting instead to not use "all deliberate speed" to place low-income Americans on equal footing with their more affluent counterparts.

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MEOAonline.org

I am very happy to announce the launch of MEOAonline.org we are ecstatic to have the site up and running. I would like to thank my lovely wife Shino and Reggie Jean for their hard work in helping to get the site up and running. MEOAonline will as President Faulkerson said, "give our association a presence on the web," it now also allows us the ability to get information out to the MEOA membership, visitors and potential funding sources in a manner that is accessible, clear and timely.

We intend to utilize the site much more in the coming months. Around May 20, 2005 we will be posting on-line registration for the 21st Annual MEOA Conference which will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, Massachusetts on October 3rd and 4th, 2005.

The site will also be used to post the quarterly Newsletter, which will still also be sent out on the list serve. As the Marketing Chair I will now be publishing the newsletter. If you have submissions for the newsletter submission deadlines will be posted on the site. Any news submissions that are

timely will be posted on the site under "News" on the menu as soon as possible.

If you should have any questions or concerns about the site please contact me. We welcome your suggestions as the site is new and we are still monitoring it to see how to best utilize this tool to help serve the Association.

Please take a moment to visit us at <http://www.meoanline.org>

Best regards,

Kevin Johnson
Marketing Chair

Laptop Grant

The Beaumont Foundation of America has awarded 2 laptops to MEOA. One laptop will be awarded to a pre-college student; the other will be awarded to a student who is currently enrolled in college. To be considered for one of these laptops, a Massachusetts TRIO student, along with his/her program director, must fully complete the application form. The laptop awards committee, headed by MEOA President Elect, Robert Blaney, will evaluate the student's applications on the basis of need, an assessment of the student's higher education goals and the program's ability to support the student's technology needs. The laptops will be awarded to the two chosen recipients at MEOA's annual Conference, which is scheduled for October 2005. It is an-

anticipated that students will use the laptops to complete coursework, apply to college, apply for financial aid, apply for student achievement scholarship and programs, develop resumes, secure reference letters, communicate via e-mail and access the Internet.

Each grant application must include: **1.** A technology training "Plan of Action" completed by the TRIO program director that specifically addresses how they intend to provide training on the Microsoft applications that come installed on the computer and on utilizing the Internet; **2.** A letter of recommendation from the TRIO Program Director; and **3.** A student essay addressing their educational goals and the role a laptop will play in accomplishing those goals.

The Council and State Association President will require the

TRIO Program Director to provide a bi-yearly assessment of student achievement during the first year and annually in the following two years. The student will provide similar assessments of the TRIO program director's commitment to the "Plan of Action."

**Application Deadline:
June 13, 2005**

**Applications should be mailed to: Robert Blaney
Upward Bound, M-3-706
University of Massachusetts
Boston : 100 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Robert Blaney at 617-287-5845 or Robert.Blaney@umb.edu.

download application form at <http://www.meoanline.org>



Jeff Faulkerson making an announcement at TRIO Day 2005



Student Requesting Info at College Fair at TRIO Day 2005



Guided Tour of the University of Rhode Island.

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Letter from the MEOA President: Why We Can't Wait Revisited

By Jeffery A. Faulkerson

Most of us in the TRIO and GEAR-UP communities would agree that no child should be left behind. But scrapping projects that have served as a banner for the federal government's *deliberate* acts in righting the inequities in our society does not make practical sense. President Bush's High School Initiative should be an augmentation of these projects, not a replacement. It, the High School Initiative, has not withstood the test of time. More importantly, it makes no assurances that more low-income Americans will be served. Nationally, only 7 percent of the eligible population benefits from our services (10 percent in the state of

Massachusetts).

In *Why We Can't Wait*, Dr. King offers these words when defining the phrase "all deliberate speed" saying, it:

"...did not mean that another century should be allowed to unfold before we released Negro children from the narrow pigeonhole of the segregated schools; it meant that, giving some courtesy and consideration to the need for softening old attitudes and outdated customs, democracy must press ahead, out of the past of ignorance and intolerance, and into the present of educational opportunity and moral freedom."

Now is not the time for this country to return to its beginnings, when ignorance and intolerance were the order of the day. We must continue to work deliberately to increase the college-going rate for low-income Americans. Projects with proven records of success must be maintained, while the cost of post-secondary attendance is simultaneously lowered. We recognize that the fulfillment of this task can be somewhat intimidating; it is an issue that intersects all racial and ethnic groups. But in the final analysis, our constituents cannot wait much longer for this issue to be resolved. Attending college is an inalienable right, one that allows them to become productive and contributing members of our society.

Is your TRIO program's website accessible?

If your program has a website and you receive money from Federal government, then you are required by law to make your site accessible.

Here are some areas to consider when looking at the accessibility of your site:

1. If the site contains graphics, make sure that graphics also give alternative text. For Internet Explorer users, put your mouse cursor on top of the graphic. Does it give you a pop up yellow box? For Netscape, right click on an image, then go to Properties and see "Alternative Text".
2. If the site contains graphics, does it give a page without text?
3. Does it contain animation that

can't be controlled? Like some gif animation that you can't stop?

4. Does menu control appear on top or left then at the bottom?
5. Can you surf all the links for the site by tab buttons only?

If you said no to any of above questions, your site may not be accessible.

There are more internal coding practices that your web developers and programmers should be aware of, but for those of you who don't know the first thing about programming can examine the accessibility of your site by asking the above questions. As education opportunity programs it is critical to ensure that all web-based information distributed for or about our programs are usable and accessible to all!

For more information on the issues of web usability and accessibility please go to the following reference links below. Or feel free to contact me, Shino Ito Shino@pinksoft.net

<http://www.section508.gov> Government site offering guidelines on Section 508 and web accessibility

<http://useit.com/> Jakob Nielsen's Website with information on web usability and accessibility.

<http://www.w3.org/> The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) develops interoperable technologies to lead the Web to its full potential.

TRIO Staff Member
Bringing the Crowd to a
Frenzy



TRIO Day 2005 Co-Chairs
Melissa Guariglia and Jeff



Listserv

The MEOA Listserv provides a venue for professionals in Massachusetts who work in programs that serve disadvantaged students to 1) get advice on best practices (a virtual roundtable) in education and government relations, 2) Trio jobs available in MA, and 3) find out about upcoming events and opportunities for students and professionals.

Listserv participants would need to refrain from using the listserv for private correspondence, advertisements that have not been approved by the MEOA Membership Chair, the MEOA Marketing Chair or the MEOA President; or are deemed unprofessional. Once you are an MEOA listserv subscriber, you can send email to the listserv members, by using the email address: meoa@listserve.vtc.edu

To subscribe to the list, send a message to lyris@listserve.vtc.edu lyris 'at' listserve.vtc.edu . In the body of the message (no subject) put:

Subscribe meoa YourName

That's it! Any problems with subscribing, or with the functioning of the listserv itself, contact Charles Castelli, the list maintainer, at charles.castelli@vtc.edu charles.castelli 'at' vtc.edu.

SAVE THE DATE!

October 3-4, 2005 will be the 21st Annual MEOA Conference: **United We Stand: Ensuring Quality Programs, Expanding Networks, and 40 more years of educational opportunity in Massachusetts.**

The Conference will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, Massachusetts. Registration Information will be available in mid-May. Check back with <http://www.meoanline.org> for more information

Membership

Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association

Promoting Educational Access
and Opportunity in the
State of Massachusetts

To become a member,
contact Reggie at:

Phone: 617.353.5195

Email: reggie.jean@meoonline.org

Article Submissions

The MEOA News wants to share different perspectives on educational opportunity, upcoming events, and program stories. If you have a story idea or photo for the MEOA News, send it to

Kevin Johnson at
kevin.johnson@meoonline.org
or 617.287.7417.

MEOA News follows the Submission Deadline Schedule below.

Quarter Submission Deadline	
Winter	December 1
Spring	February 28
Summer	May 30
Fall	September 15

TRIO Day photos on this newsletter were submitted by Jeffery A. Faulkerson. Thank you Jeff! To view larger images, please visit <http://www.meoonline.org> and click on photos.

About MEOA

Founded in 1984, the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization made up of educators, policymakers, professionals in the private sector and other individuals committed to ensuring that secondary and post-secondary educational opportunities are appropriate and accessible to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

MEOA currently has 110 members from across the state and is affiliated regionally with the New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA) and nationally with the Washington, DC-based Council for Opportunity in Education (COE).

Board Member 2004 - 2005

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