

MEOA NEWS

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dear colleagues,

You are cordially invited to attend the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association's 21st Annual Conference from October 3-4, 2005 at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, Massachusetts. This theme for this year is **United We Stand: Ensuring Quality Programs, Expanding Networks, and 40 more years of educational opportunity.**

Designed for educators who are dedicated to assisting our youth in accessing educational opportunities, this year's conference will pay special attention to changes in education, including policies, funding and student demographics. In light of the continuing battle faced by several TRIO programs, this con-

ference and its theme could not be more appropriate. We are facing many changes, and we must unite and build bridges across programs in order to continue offering access to higher education to our most at-risk students. It is imperative that we stand united if we are to stand at all.

Other changes this year will include a special pre-conference session open to all attendees on Sunday, October 2nd. In addition to the luxury of early registration, those who arrive on Sunday may participate in additional evening workshops. We will also be presenting a Presidential Award to a key member of the educational community during our

luncheon.

Come to the conference prepared to share your knowledge and meet other educators and professionals who possess your same dedication and commitment to making education accessible to ALL individuals. Moreover, the workshops and sessions that are being planned are designed to arm and inspire participants with the practical information they need to be most effective in the workplace.

On behalf of the 2004-2005 MEOA Board, we look forward to seeing all of you in Danvers. If you have any questions, please feel free to telephone me at (617) 840-9571. I can also be reached electronically at jodi.digregorio@meoonline.org.



photos

MEOA President, Robert Blaney; MEOA Past President, Joan Becker; North Shore Community College Upward Bound Alumnus, Magnolia Contreras; and MEOA Past President and NEOA President, Michael Dennehy in front of the State House after meeting with Mitt Romney's Office

MEOA President, Robert Blaney; MEOA Past President, Joan Becker; North Shore Community College Upward Bound Alumnus, Magnolia Contreras; and MEOA Past President; and MEOA State Liaison and Membership Chair, Reggie Jean, in front of the State House after meeting

Letter from the MOEA Past President - Jeff A. Faulkerson

to my colleagues in meoa and neoa

It is with great regret that I inform you of my resignation (effective August 15th) as Director of the Bruce Wells Scholars Upward Bound Program. It has been a wonderful ride, as I have seen so many of my participants graduate from high school to thrive on college campuses.

Believe me when I tell you that I learned more from them than they from me.

As most of you know, I have been on leave since April 25th. My wife Regina was recently selected to participate in her company's Career Leadership Program, and, as a result, she had to complete a four-month Team Leader detail assignment in



Memphis, Tennessee. My son Caleb and I were present with her in Memphis the whole time, serving as her emotional support during the fulfillment of this requirement. We got our fill of some down-home country cooking, especially those barbeque ribs served up at Issac Hayes' restaurant.

While away from the office, I did a lot of soul searching. In the end, I made the hard decision to resign from my job because I wanted to take a more active role in Caleb's formal development, serve as his Mr. Mom, if you will. In a little over a year, he will be in preschool, and Regina and I want to do everything we can to prepare him for a lifetime of learning. I ask that you pray for the three of us as we embark on this new and amaz-

ing journey.

I also want to thank each of you for your friendship, the warm welcome I received upon entering the TRIO ranks back in 2001. I have enjoyed serving with you on both the MEOA and NEOA boards, and spending time talking shop at the respective conferences and policy seminars. We did great things together. I wish you well in your ongoing fight to preserve the integrity of the TRIO and GEAR-UP programs. I look forward to our paths crossing again in the not-so-distant future.

Take care, and best of luck in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Jeffery A. Faulkerson

please contact your representative to oppose the foxx language in hr 609

by arnold mitchem

I would like to bring to your attention a Dear Colleague sent out to ALL Members of the US House of Representatives asking for their support of language, introduced by Representative Virginia Foxx (Republican-NC), which would put unrealistic accountability measures in TRIO. While we support accountability in TRIO, this amendment would unfairly judge programs across the country by national standards and harm the TRIO community. It is important that you (and all of your TRIO colleagues, parents, friends, and students) contact your Representative immediately (as early as this afternoon) to express your concern about this language.

Specifically, * The Foxx language would require a significant increase in the regulatory and reporting burden on colleges and agencies administering TRIO programs. * The language replaces an accountability system which takes into account state and regional variation for one national system. This national system requires the Secretary to define one set of "expected program outcomes." Specifically, in five places, the amendment specifically requires the Secretary to include in these "expected program outcomes" the college going rates of participants served by the program." Since the college-going rates of young people from the South and West are lower than those of other sections of the country, the amendment has the

potential to seriously disadvantage colleges and agencies located in Southern and Western states. * The language attempts to apply accountability measures that have no relevance to the programs to which they are applied. For example, the amendment specifically requires the Secretary to evaluate two programs (Student Support Services and McNair) that can only serve individuals already enrolled in college by the "college-going rate of the participants." * The language in HR 609 establishes an all or nothing penalty for not meeting these standards. Furthermore, the monitoring and assessing of the performance of the TRIO programs

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would be entrusted to a Division within the Department that has been cited on at least two occasions in the last several years by the Inspector General for inaccuracies in data and failures in its monitoring.

* It also includes requirements that would make it impossible to verify the performance outcomes it seeks to impose. For example, it prohibits the reporting of any "personally identifiable informa-

tion about an individual student" such as their name or Social Security number.

This is not a vote to aid TRIO. It is a vote against ALL TRIO pro-

reauthorization update

This week the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness is scheduled to mark-up its version of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965, HR 609. This bill, as introduced, contains language that requires that – in every TRIO competition – 10% of the entire appropriation be set-aside for new applicants. Of course, this means that at least 10% of existing TRIO programs would be discontinued in most TRIO competitions and in many situations the numbers discontinued would be much higher.

Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) and Donald Payne (D-NJ) are circulating a letter that registers opposition to this provision. We need to ensure that a majority of the members of the House sign on to this letter. Please call the Washington office of your member of Congress and make sure that he or she signs on to this letter no later than Tuesday, September 1, 2005. Since the House is in recess, many Members are in their Districts and you may be able to make personal contact with your member through his District office. To sign on to the letter, Members

should contact Brad Watson in Congressman Cole's office (202-225-6165) or LaVerne Alexander in Congressman Payne's office at 202-225-3436.

Should you have any questions or if your Member of Congress agrees to sign on to the Cole/Payne letter, please contact Heather.Valentine@coenet.us or Maureen.Hoyler@coenet.us.

be sure to register for the 21st annual meoa 2005 conference as it is quickly approaching!

by Kevin Johnson

Be sure to register for the conference at www.meoaonline.org/register. If you have yet to renew your MEOA membership for 2005-2006, renew it now and receive a discounted member conference rate of \$125.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, MA. Please also be sure to call the hotel directly at 978-777-2500 if you

haven't already done so to reserve a room and be sure to tell them that you will be attending the 21st Annual MEOA 2005 Conference to also receive a special room rate.

The Conference entitled: **United We Stand: Ensuring Quality Programs, Expanding Networks, and 40 more years of educational opportunity** will be

a time of celebration and reflection for it has recently been announced that the Senate Labor/ Health and Human Services/ Education Appropriations Subcommittee voted to restore funding for the TRIO programs.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Advertise in this year's MEOA official conference program. Whether you are from an educational program, a school, a friend of MEOA or local neighborhood businesses, you can advertise! For a full page ad at \$40, the price cannot be beat!

Download Advertisement forms at www.meoaonline.org/ad

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[robert.blaney@meoaonline.org]
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[jeff.faulkerson@meoaonline.org]
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[wesaline.gadson@meoaonline.org]
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[jodi.digregorio@meoaonline.org]
The Education Resource Institute (TERI)
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[pati.gregson@meoaonline.org]
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[sonia.higginbottom@meoaonline.org]
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[renee.lopespocknett@meoaonline.org]
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[adaline.mirabal@meoaonline.org]
Boston College

NEOA State Liason and Membership Chair

Reggie Jean
[reggie.jean@meoaonline.org]
Boston University
Upward Bound

Marketing Chair

Kevin Johnson
[kevin.johnson@meoaonline.org]
University of Massachusetts - Boston
Talent Search

about meoa

Founded in 1984, the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization made up of educators, policy makers, 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 120 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).

membership

To become a member, contact Reggie at: 617.353.5195 or reggie.jean@meoaonline.org
More info: www.meoaonline.org/membership

article submission

The MEOA News wants to share different perspective on educational opportunities, upcoming events, and program stories. If you have a story idea or photo for the MEOA News, e-mail them to Kevin Johnson : Kevin.johnson@meoaonline.org (or 617.287.7417 for more info). The quarterly submission deadlines are as follows: fall sep 1 : winter dec 1 : spring mar 1 : summer jun 1

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) announce Trio jobs available in MA, and 3) find out about upcoming events, pertinent news, important action steps, 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 unprofessional. The new MEOA listserv software is very sophisticated and has more features than ever. To subscribe to the listserv, send a message to lyris@listserve.vtc.edu.

In the body of the message (no subject) put:

Subscribe meoa YourName

If you experience any problems with this list, contact the list owner, Charles Castelli at charles.castelli@vtc.edu.

credits

Photos on this newsletter were submitted by Reggie Jean. Thank you! To view larger images, please visit www.meoaonline.org and click on photos.

