



MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION

MEOA News

Winter 2012 Newsletter

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The Future is Now! - TRiO Day 2012

By Genesis Burke, Site Coordinator - Bruce Wells Upward Bound Scholars

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Every year, students and staff from New England's many TRiO programs convene for a two-day conference that stresses college access and educational opportunities. This edition of TRiO Day, sponsored by NEOA, happened on February 22-23, 2012 in Cromwell, CT. Included in the festivities were college tours, guest speakers, workshops and a college fair. All of which were very helpful to the many juniors that the Y.O.U., Inc. programs brought. Below are some of their impressions from the event.



Students and staff from the Bruce Wells Upward Bound Scholars Program at TRiO Day 2012 in Cromwell, CT.

On her visit to Yale University:

"It was the perfect school for me! The beautiful campus, the picturesque buildings and the top notch curriculum, all of it! I can definitely see myself as a student there! I just need to get in first!"

- Julissa Frias-Perez, Clairemont Academy '13

On the Keynote Speaker, Kevin Booker:

"He was really inspirational and the presentation was very interactive and fun. I liked his messages that listening is knowledge and that the people you keep in your inner circle have an impact on your future. Great advice for me, for sure."

- Solomon Ikeachumba, Abby Kelly Foster '13

On the networking opportunities:

"It was great to meet other students from the area. Networking with them was very important, even if it was on the dance floor! I spent a lot of time talking to students that just might be going to the same school as me in a few years!"

- Anthony Boame, South Community High School '13

On the speech by U.S. Congressman Christopher Murphy, CT:

"Having a young Congressman speaking about the importance of TRiO programs is a great sign for our future. I hope that other new politicians begin to realize how helpful these programs are. I made sure to tweet at him and thank him for his work."

- Ethan Desseta, North High School '13

Program Peek: Salem State University Upward Bound

This installment of Program Peek takes a look at the Salem State University Upward Bound program. The program serves students from Lawrence Public Schools. Recently, as Program Director Wendy Porter-Coste reports, the program partnered with a local Community College and was awarded a prestigious grant. More details below:



SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY UPWARD BOUND AND NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNER TO WIN NATIONAL GIRL'S COLLABORATIVE MINI-GRANT

Wendy Porter-Coste, Salem State University Upward Bound Director, collaborated with Dr. Ethel Schuster, Chair of the Northern Essex Community College Computer Science Department, to submit an application for a STEM-based mini-grant through the National Girl's Collaborative. The grant application was approved during the fall of 2011 and a VIVA Apps workshop was offered to twenty-five young ladies on November 9th.

The participants were selected from the SSU Upward Bound Program and the Raytheon Stand and Deliver Program. Activities included careful examination of various mobile applications, discussing their advantages, costs, interface, usability, reliability, etc. All aspects of the featured apps (presented to the students at the beginning of the day) were brought forth for the students to look beyond their use issues such as programming, logic, human-interface and design. The goal was to have the students understand what is behind getting an app ready from its conception up to identifying the needs required for its implementation.

Based on the tremendous success of this workshop, Dr. Schuster facilitated a series of five workshops based on "Gizmos & Gadgets with Artbotics" for SSU UB students during the month of December with funds provided by Northern Essex Community College. These workshops kicked off "Computer Science Education Week" December 5 – 9, 2011.

Taking Advantage - Professional Development

By Marsha Forhan, Director - Worcester Educational Opportunity Center



Colleges of Worcester Consortium Inc. Higher Education Access staff members **Deborah Ferraco**, CACG education advisor; **Kathia Gonzalez**, EOC education advisor; and **Melissa Foley**, ETS advisor, recently participated in the annual **Just the Facts** (JTF) training sponsored by MASFAA.

Building on the success of prior years, MASFAA once again offered this annual comprehensive, fundamental and inexpensive training to its newest members. The training is designed to meet the needs of financial aid professionals with less than two years of experience.

The FACTS (Financial Aid Core Training Seminar) uses NASFAA's CORE training materials to provide training in the basics of the financial aid process from A to Z. The training begins with a description of the federal financial assistance programs and concludes with valuable information regarding the various resources available to financial aid professionals. Although the focus of the training is on federal needs analysis and programs, the JTF training committee was pleased to also offer training on Institutional Methodology (IM) this year.

The training is offered one day per week for five weeks and at no cost to MASFAA members. Trainers are seasoned financial aid professionals from a variety of higher education institutions in the state (public, private, 2-year, 4-year, graduate or undergraduate) who have extensive experience in the administration of federal financial aid at various types of institutions.

Checking In: U.S. Senator Scott Brown (R-MA)

United States Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) visited the Colleges of Worcester Consortium on Monday, January 9, 2012. In attendance were Educational Opportunity Center clients, along with Educational Talent Search and Gear Up students from Burncoat High, North High and South Community High Schools in Worcester, MA.

During his visit, Sen. Brown discussed the ongoing budget negotiations in Washington, D.C. He also spoke candidly about his journey as a disadvantaged student growing up in Massachusetts; a topic that many students in attendance can relate to.

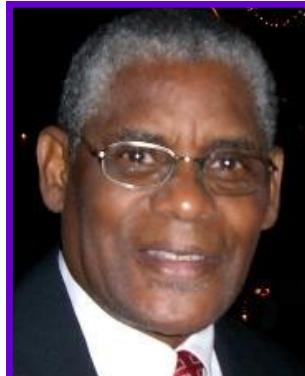
A few of the TRIO and Gear Up attendees asked him about his commitment to Pell grants and other federal financial aid programs. In response, he spoke of the importance of college affordability. In addition, there was a discussion on the EOC's new emphasis on serving Veteran's and their families.



MEOA Awarded Paul T. Spraggins State Initiative Grant

In January, Massachusetts was awarded \$950 to help fund a TRIO Advocacy Event thanks to Council of Opportunity in Education. The Paul T. Spraggins State Initiative Grant program awards TRIO state and chapter associations matching grants for work in building their capacity with an emphasis in advocacy, alumni development and communications. The COE Board's State Leadership Committee selects the recipients of these grants from the pool of applicants.

On a sad note, on January 3, 2012, the community lost Paul T. Spraggins to a long battle with cancer. Paul T. Spraggins will always be remembered as a tireless advocate for equality including devoting much of his career to the efforts of TRIO and underrepresented youth. His vision led to the creation of the State Initiative Grants over a decade ago. His legacy will live on through the efforts of the states and chapters throughout the country.



Paul T. Spraggins, Jr.

Benefits of TRiO Touted on ABC News in Boston

On January 22nd, "CityLine", ABC channel 5's award-winning urban news magazine program presented a show about educational outreach programs, featuring two of Massachusetts' TRiO programs.

Dr. Oscar Santos, Superintendent of Randolph Schools, represented the Student Support Services program, Options Through Education, at Boston College. Beginning in 1990, under the leadership of Dan Bunch, Santos, the Dorchester native, credits TRiO for preparing his socially for success in college. Santos noted that what "most stands out to [him] is the 100% commitment to ensure that every single young person will succeed and graduate from college."

Representing the Boston University Upward Bound program was Emmanuel Lamour, an electrical engineer, and currently a Manager for Raytheon Technical Services Company, who participated in Upward Bound between 1997 and 2000. Mr. Lamour discussed how the program helped him prepare for college and how he was influenced by program director, Mike Dennehy.

After coming from Haiti as a child, Mr. Lamour credited Upward Bound for "the exposure of being at a college campus" as a way of "preparing [him] for the next level of education." Mr. Lamour earned a degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Both alumni spoke of the importance of education and the impact that their respective TRiO programs had on their future. Dr. Santos noted that "education is the avenue to success...the higher a person's education level is the higher [their] happiness level." Mr. Lamour also recognized the "incredible" work that BU's TRiO programs continue to provide and urged fellow TRiO alumni to make their voices heard at the legislative level and ensure TRiO services be provided long into the future.

In closing, Dr. Santos noted that the achievement gap is more of an "opportunity gap" and that without programs that target low-income, first-generation students, many capable students can get lost in the mix.

The full interview can be seen at <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/video/30240854/detail.html>

TRiO Student Spotlight: *Radame Jusino - NMH UB '12*



Which colleges are you applying to?

Fitchburg State, UMass Dartmouth, Framingham State, Westfield State, Springfield College and more!

What has been the most exciting part about the college process?

The most exciting part is looking up the colleges that I want to apply to and seeing what kind of colleges there are available to me.

What has been the most difficult part?

Filling out the Common Application

What about college are you most looking forward to?

Meeting new people and moving on to a new environment with different things.

Advice for the rising seniors next year?

Focus on your school work and don't slack off.

TRiO Alumni Spotlight: Luis Kelly, Massasoit CC SSS '08



Five days before September 11th, Luis D. Kelly arrived in the United States from the Dominican Republic. A high school graduate with limited English speaking skills, Luis, his siblings and dad moved into a housing project with his grandmother in Roxbury, Massachusetts in search of a better life. Shortly thereafter, he had to return to DR making life and opportunities in America "A Dream Deferred." In 2003, he came back to America, worked two years to save money for school and to help support his mom in the DR. After 2 years of working full time in fast food restaurants and other jobs, Luis enrolled in Massasoit Community College in Brockton, Massachusetts.

During his second semester, he became a TRiO SSS student. When speaking about his experience in TRiO, Luis stated, "I have been able to develop a critical understanding of how people around me can affect my life and vice versa. One friend that continues to make a positive impact in my life is the TRiO SSS program." While working full time to support himself and family back home,

Luis also got inducted into and became an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges and academic programs.

Luis participated to the fullest extent in the SSS program and has always offered to do whatever he could to help the program and TRiO in general. When specifically asked about how the program helped him, Luis said, "TRiO took my curriculum and together, we developed a plan that kept me on track to graduate, and would also give me the best opportunity to fulfill requirements for other four-year programs. We visited Bentley University, so that I could learn more about the school. After an entire day at Bentley filled with presentations, networking, and info sessions, I said to my counselor, 'you have to get me into this school'. We submitted to Bentley school application, FAFSA, College Board profile, and letters of recommendations. Additionally, we submitted applications for other schools, which my counselor referred to as my plan B. A couple of weeks later, I received a welcoming phone call from Bentley University. I could say that I could not believe it, but since TRiO had built so much confidence in me, I was expecting this call, which served as testament to the fact that hard work pays off."

Luis graduated from Massasoit Community College in 2008 with his Associates Degree. He is currently a two time graduate of Bentley University earning both the bachelors and masters degrees in 2010 and 2011 respectively. He is currently employed by Ernst and Young which is one of the largest professional service firms in the world and one of the "Big Four" accountancy firms, along with Deloitte, KPMG and Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC).

Calling all TRiO Alumni! Find our pages on Facebook!

- MEOA-TRiO Alumni Network

- National TRiO Alumni Association

For more information contact Alumni Board Chair, Alvin Riley



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 Newsletter, send it to:
Adam Shaughnessy at Newsletter@meoaonline.org



Upcoming Events



March 10-13, 2012 - 32nd Annual COE Policy Seminar:

- Where: Washington, D.C.
Why: To Network with TRIO and GEAR UP Professionals
Learn how tom impact funding for your program
See the connection between Congress and your students' success
Advocate for your students and your programs
Who: Welcome to all TRIO Staff and Alumni

New England



April 4-6, 2012

NEOA Annual Conference:

- Where: Stoweflake Resort, Stowe, VT.
Why: Network with TRIO and GEAR UP Professionals
Professional development workshops
Regional board meetings and updates
And much more!
Who: Welcome to all New England educational professionals

*For more information visit www.neoaonline.org.

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