



MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION

MEOA Newsletter

Winter 2015 Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

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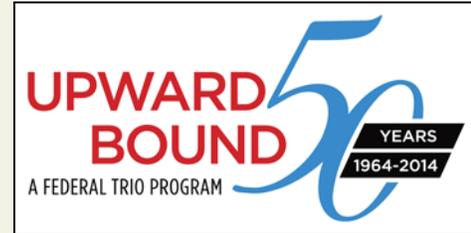
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Upward Bound Celebrates 50 years with Anniversary Symposium!

Upward Bound turned 50! Nearly 400 Upward Bound alumni, professionals and supporters came out to Boston University on November 8th, 2014 to celebrate the program’s many achievements, reflect on past experiences, and keep a watchful eye on the future of Upward Bound. The event featured many alumni, elected officials, college officials, TRiO professionals, and a “who’s who” of UB and TRiO celebrities. They all came together to celebrate the impact and importance of Upward Bound and to emphasize the continued need for equal opportunity in the world of higher education.



The day began with an exceptional welcome from Kenn Elmore, Dean of Students at Boston University, who is a strong advocate of TRiO Programs and their efficacy. Following his address, the audience was treated to a viewing of the Academy Award nominated documentary “A Space to Grow”, a wonderful film documenting UB programs from Chicago. A sensational panel followed the film, including Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President Emeritus of the Council for Opportunity in Education; Stan Salett, author and architect behind Upward Bound; Dr. Betty McCue-Herlihy (UB ’71) Assistant Director of Cornerstone, University of Maine at Augusta- Bangor and moderator Thomas Putnam, Director of the John F. Kennedy Library.



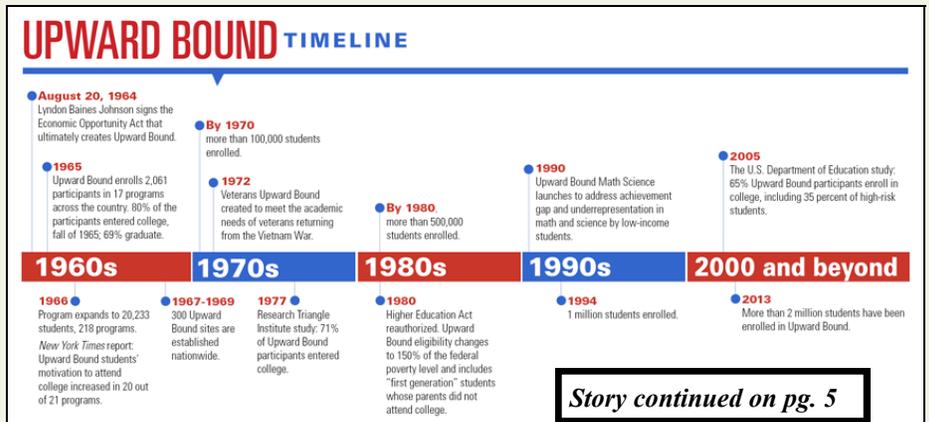
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http://twitter.com/MEOA_Online



Story continued on pg. 5

(Figure Courtesy of COE)

MEOA Hosts Professional Development Event Preventing Youth Suicide and Financial Aid Seminar

On December 8th, 2014, MEOA hosted a very informative and well attended professional development event on the Clark University campus.

Our morning session *Preventing Youth Suicide: What Educators Need to Know*, which was presented by Barry Feldman, Ph.D. Dr. Feldman is a nationally recognized researcher and educator in the field of suicide intervention and prevention. He specializes in suicide-related training and stabilization services for schools, military personnel, police officers, emergency medical responders, firefighters, correctional officers and health-care providers. His workshop focused on addressing situations both in and out of typical school settings regarding youth suicide prevention. Workshop attendees learned how to recognize warning signs, how to intervene, and how to access help for youth. Participants left with knowledge that could truly help make a difference in the lives of the young people they work with every day!



After lunch, Stephanie Wells, Director of Community Outreach at the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA), offered a very informative financial aid seminar. Attendees learned about updates in financial aid, and how to work with their students to complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions about challenging student financial aid cases. An excellent discussion followed with many questions focused on students with difficult immigration statuses. Special thanks to Stephanie Wells and MEFA for sharing this valuable information. MEFA is a great resources for our students and professionals. Visit their website for more information and resources. www.mefa.org

MEOA professional development events are a great way for our members to develop new skills and knowledge and connect with colleagues across the state. As always, it pays to be an MEOA Member! This event was FREE for MEOA members!!



Be informed, connected and support the advocacy mission of MEOA!
If you or a colleague are interested in becoming an MEOA member please head to <http://www.meoasonline.org/about/membership/>
There are many valuable benefits including free professional development opportunities and discounted rates for our fabulous annual conference. MEOA works to advocate for you, your students and your program. Becoming a member supports that work.



MEOA Hosts 30th Annual Conference IMPACT—At UMASS Amherst

On October 9th and 10th, MEOA celebrated our 30th year at our Annual Conference. Thanks to the hard work of MEOA Vice President and Conference Chair, Ralph Hogan, along with the rest of the MEOA Board and committee members, the conference, held on the beautiful campus at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst was a great success!

The theme for the conference was IMPACT, as we focused on deepening our understanding of how we can help increase college access and success. We began with an informative update from the Council for Opportunity in education from Kimberly Jones, Esq. who serves as the Associate Vice President for Public Policy. Following Ms. Jones, featured guest speaker Dr. Dottie Morris, Chief Officer of Diversity & Multiculturalism at Keene State College shared some provocative and enlightening thoughts about how to support and reach all students.



Participants chose from a wide range of fascinating workshop topics including *Immigration Basics: Understanding the American Immigration System*, *You Can Do It: Advising With the Concept of Growth Mindset*, *Overview of Veterans Education Benefits*, *Redesigning the SAT*, and *STRIVE – Mentors and Mentees: Students Impacting Students*, *DREAMing of a Better Future: Helping Undocumented Students Access Higher Education*, *Working with your State Legislature*, *Understanding and Serving Students with Mental Health Concerns*, *New State Learning Standards and the PARCC Assessment Support Success for ALL Students*, *Demystifying Final Aid: Best Practices in a Statewide Comprehensive Financial Aid Outreach Program*.

Members elected new officers at the business meeting which was followed by wonderful Gala dinner. We watched a rousing video address from rising star Senator Elizabeth Warren, enjoyed an update from NEOA President Randy Schroeder, and heard from our keynote speaker State Representative Russell Holmes, a UB '86 alumnus, who is also an ardent supporter of TRiO programs. Several outstanding Trio Alumni were recognized for their accomplishments and they shared powerful stories of their journeys with our members.



Story continued on pg. 4

MEOA Hosts 30th Annual Conference IMPACT—At UMASS Amherst, cont. (From page 3)

On Friday, additional workshops included *Helping Our Students Find Purpose, Foster Youth in Higher Education, An Adventure in Experiential Education and Your Gateway to College: Dual Enrollment Options for Your Students.*



Always a highlight of our conference, our final event was Scholarship Awards presentation. Winners this year include Joseph Akiki from North Essex Community College Student Support Services, Anna Erazo from Bunker Hill Community College Talent Search, Daniel Mahoney from Salem State University Student Support Services, Marie Phillips from Northern Essex Community College Student Support Services, and Nairoby Sanchez from North Essex Community College Student Support Services. Recipients each received an award of \$750, made possible by the Massachusetts Educational

Opportunity Association. Awardees were honored at a luncheon following the conference. The MEOA Scholarship Program was created in 1988 to assist undergraduate students in their pursuit of higher education and is awarded to eligible college students who have demonstrated the ability to overcome great obstacles and strive for educational excellence.



Before we headed out, winners of the 50/50 raffle and silent auction were notified, and amongst much enthusiastic applause, the IMPACT Conference was came to a close. The MEOA Board is already planning the 31st Annual Conference which will take place on Friday October 9th at the Devens Center in Devens. Watch for more information and mark you calendars now to be sure you can attend!



Massachusetts
Educational
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TRIO



Upward Bound Celebrates 50th cont. (From page 1)

Panel topics included *Reflections: 50 Years of Providing Hope and Opportunity*, *The Impact: Continuing to Provide Hope and Opportunity for Success*, *Moving Forward: The Future of Higher Education STEM Opportunities for Low Income Students*, and *Moving Forward: The Future of Higher Education Opportunities for Low Income Students*. Panelists discussed the origins of President Johnson's "War on Poverty" legislation that led to the creation of TRiO programs, and their observations of how the programs have evolved and changed. Alumni in STEM fields shared inspiring stories of their paths towards fascinating careers and the role that Upward Bound played in their success.



Panelists discussed the origins of President Johnson's "War on Poverty" legislation that led to the creation of TRiO programs, and their observations of how the programs have evolved and changed. Alumni in STEM fields shared inspiring stories of their paths towards fascinating careers and the role that Upward Bound played in their success.

Following closing remarks, a reception was held for attendees to network and celebrate, and current Upward Bound students received a complimentary copy of *The Edge of Politics*, signed by author Stan Salett. It was truly a wonderful event that left many attendees feeling inspired to carry on the energy from the event back into their own TRiO programs and lives.

Event Sponsors included the New World Foundation and the American Student Assistance. Special thanks to Reggie Jean of Boston University for his role in coordinating the truly special event.



Panel Members and Speakers Included:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deborah Becker, Reporter and Host, WBUR • Michael Dennehy, Director, Boston University/Boston Public Schools Collaborative Office, Boston University • Dr. Charles F. Desmond, Chairman, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education • Kenn Elmore, Dean of Students, Boston University • Dr. Patricia A. Gentile, President, North Shore Community College • Dr. Scott Giles, President, Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC) • Dana Hilliard (UB '91), Mayor and School Principal, Somersworth, NH • Russell E. Holmes (U B '86), State Representative, MA 6th Suffolk District • Emmanuel Lamour, (UB '00), Project Manager, Raytheon Company • Tin Le (UB '97) Country Agency Manager, IFSA • Dr. Patricia A. Marshall (UB '90), Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Worcester State University | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Betty McCue-Herlihy (UB '71) Assistant Director of Cornerstone, University of Maine at Augusta- Bangor • Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President Emeritus, Council for Opportunity in Education • Heather Pixley (UB '98), IRB Administrator, Harvard University; Managing Editor, Brain Imaging and Behavior • Tom Putnam, Director, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum • Stan Salett, Author, Architect behind Upward Bound and Headstart • Katyanne Zink (UB '04), Nurse Informaticist, Elliot Hospital • Fatima Siad (UB '04) Model and Activist • Dana Hilliard (UB '91) Mayor, Somersworth, NH School Principal |
|---|---|

MEOA Announces Policy Seminar Scholarship Recipients

Each year in March the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) assembles TRIO and GEAR UP Alumni and professionals from across America to go to Washington, DC and advocate for the continued support of TRiO and GEAR UP programs. The annual COE Policy Seminar, being held March 15-17, 2015, is one of the best ways in which we can give strong support to these powerful education programs. This year's Policy Seminar is particularly important as failing to act to keep TRiO and GEAR UP a priority with lawmakers could spell cuts that continue to shrink these valuable programs.

In support of these efforts, each year MEOA awards scholarships to send two Alumni to take part in the advocacy efforts of the Policy Seminar. The recipients of this year's Alumni scholarships are Lucia Alfaro (Upward Bound—Clark University Bruce Wells Scholars Program) and Heather Hume (Upward Bound—Northfield Mount Herman).

We are also pleased to announce Elizabethe Plante (Talent Search—MassEdCo) and Elsie Zmary Palmieri (GEAR UP—American Student Assistance) are this year's Staff scholarship recipients. These scholarships are designated to help cover the unallowable costs for MEOA members to attend their first policy seminar.

Congratulations and thank you to each of you for representing and spreading the word about the good work of TRIO and GEAR UP programs in Massachusetts!

The New England Educational Opportunity Association Annual Conference is coming soon!

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to network and learn from colleagues across New England.

You can already start to bid on some spectacular online items here!

<http://bit.ly/1EQyAS4>



2015 NEOA Annual Conference
March 31-April 2, 2015
**SHERATON PORTSMOUTH
HARBORSIDE HOTEL**
Portsmouth, NH 03801

TRIO
[tree-oh]
1. A state of being that is forward thinking, upward moving and ever positive: *I will succeed because I am TRIO.*

SAVE THE DATE!!

New England
NEOA
Educational Opportunity Association
www.necoaonline.org

For more information or for reservations, [click here.](#)

TRiO Alumni Spotlight — Heather Hume



Heather Hume, a 1999 graduate from the Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound Program was recently honored at the MEOA Annual Conference as an outstanding Trio graduate. Heather describes UB as a “safe haven” and claims that UB literally “saved her life.” Heather says “For the first time in my life I had a taste of what life was like on my own. I started to find myself, without the fear of judgment and was so willing to participate in everything that was offered in those three summers. Classes were taught in a way that I had never experienced before. I was engaged in learning in a whole new way; open discussions over books with amazing story lines and hands on activities in the science classes. I loved going to class and I found myself wanting to know more. Some of the most lasting things about Upward Bound were the friendships. Many of the friends I still have today I met at UB”.

UB set her on the path to college. “Within two weeks of returning home from my senior summer, entering my senior year in high school I began applying to 12 colleges. I was accepted to UMass Amherst with substantial financial aid and I began a new chapter in my life, learning to become confident in myself and what I offered to others.”

After graduating from Holyoke High School Ms. Hume obtained her Bachelor's of Science in 2005 from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in Political Science and African American Studies and served in the United States Army Reserve as a military intelligence analyst. Heather recently (2013) completed her Master's Degree from the Michael and Kitty Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University with a focus on Transportation Policy.

Over the course of her career, Heather has moved steadily into positions of increasing responsibility. Heather brought her skills to Salt Lake City where she assisted with transportation at the 2002 Winter Olympics. She then worked for the Springfield Area Transit Corporation and then became the Operations Supervisor and Planner/Travel Counselor for a transportation service for seniors in Lynn. Heather then became the Senior Transportation Manager at the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) and she was recently promoted to the position of Manager of Paratransit Programs for the MassDOT Rail and Transit Division. Heather explains her new role, “I will help oversee THE RIDE, coordinate with statewide mobility management efforts, and manage innovative projects designed to ensure the sustainability of paratransit services throughout the MBTA service area”.

We are excited to announce that Heather has been selected to receive a scholarship from MEOA to attend the COE Policy Seminar and she is serving on the conference committee of the MEOA Board. We look forward to watching her continued professional growth at the MBTA and her involvement with MEOA.

TRiO Alumni Spotlight — Uma Chapagain

Uma Chapagain is a former Educational Talent Search student who is currently attending Salve Regina University on a full scholarship. She is enrolled in the Nursing Program. Throughout her senior year, Uma worked hard with ETS to explore her options for college, as well as find and apply for scholarships. She has been awarded the renewable Aquidneck Island Multicultural Scholarship.

Uma has several thoughts regarding her time as an ETS student: “I am tremendously grateful to Educational Talent Search because it has landed me in my “dreamland”! As a senior in High School, I became very in touch with Mrs. Elizabeth Plante, who led me through my college process as an ETS advisor. Mrs. Plante not only introduced me to the college that I am attending now, she also took me there for a college tour. She definitely had a big hand in my attending Salve Regina University, which was once a “dreamland” to me and now it is a reality. As I am continuing my education in college, I question myself if I would be doing the things that I am doing now and be standing where I am today if ETS and Mrs. Plante were not on my side. For all the support and guidance, I would like to thank ETS and the very friendly and supportive person that it employs, Mrs. Plante. Also, I have no doubt that this organization will continue helping other students in the same way it did for me.”

Uma was born to Nepali parents who were living in Bhutan. She says, “They were forced to come from Bhutan to Nepal as refugees. I was born in that refugee camp and lived there the first thirteen years of life in the poorly conditioned refugee camp. Life in the camp was not very safe or peaceful. I remember the days when our tent was blown away by flood in one season and was burned by fire the next season. However, I had my parents to protect me from every bit of the disasters. There I witnessed a lot of pain and it was then I decided to become someone who would help others and get rid of pain.”

She was one of very few from her community who able to attend school and was able to study at a refugee camp at no cost. She did not take it for granted, and still feels immensely grateful to the NGO Caritas Nepal, which funded her education. “I was among a small percentage of children who were gifted the opportunity to have education; not every child from a refugee family was granted to do so.” Following her experience in her refugee camp, Uma was able to emigrate from Nepal to the United States - a life changing event, to be sure. She says, “I am able to attend college, which was rarely possible if I had held myself back in Nepal. Today I feel extremely fortunate to be eligible in furthering my education at the Salve Regina University; this is an honor that makes me feel proud.”

Uma’s goal now that she has become a full time student at Salve Regina is to persist in helping others. “Since I am planning to become a nurse practitioner and help people around me, I have the responsibility to pay it forward to other people who are in need.” Uma plans to share her good fortune and life experiences with others as she continues in her studies in both the Salve Regina community and everywhere else that she may end up. “I will pay it forward through my work, my time, my compassion for others and try to give hope to people who are in pain and suffering.”



TRiO Alumni Spotlight — Dathiel Blake by Elizabeth Plante



Dathiel Blake is a former Educational Talent Search student. He is currently in his first year at UMASS Dartmouth in their Engineering Program.

At scarcely one month old, Dathiel could not have understood as his mother wrapped him up to live in the land of “northern promise” we call America the myriad opportunities that awaited him.

Never the less, these promises of a “better life” completely captivated the mind and heart of his mother so much so, that she left Panama with little more than a suitcase and her new baby.

Their first stop was Atlanta, GA but soon after their arrival, the lure of a better paying job in Worcester pulled mother and Dathiel further north. Once established in Worcester, she worked at various jobs for minimum wage. As years passed, the refrain “Dad will soon come to the US” still played steadily in the background until late in 2002, when, at 6 years old, Dathiel and his mother suddenly packed up and left for Panama. There he was enrolled in kindergarten and lived with his mother and his father for the first time. Soon after, his mother and father married. Dathiel characterizes that time as being happy, perhaps because the people he loved most in the world lived together. This stability was short lived however when inexplicably his father died one year later. Dathiel found himself uprooted once again, landing back on US soil where he was placed in kindergarten for a second year.

That following year was full of tremendous tumult. He recalls being in the hallway at school and experiencing the reality of his father’s death on a visceral level. He began to cry and could not stop. It was then that an uncontrollable anger began to foment and would shadow him through his early teen years. During this time, he became a kind of David, taking on those who he perceived were his Biblical Goliaths and tried to render them helpless. He lashed out at his peers and teachers in equal measure, rarely trusting the people around him. He felt vulnerable and weak. He endured years of teasing; bullied for being black, for being big, and for wearing ugly out-of-style clothing and shoes.

Despite working full-time as a single parent, his mother remained present and supportive in his life. Still, she gradually realized she needed additional help and asked her own mother to step in. Dathiel spent more time with his Grandmother and would eventually come to live with her full time in 2012. During 7th and 8th grade, Dathiel was enrolled in a therapeutic day school called Central Massachusetts Academy. From there he was enrolled in STEP (Structured Therapeutic Educational Program) at South High School in Worcester. After being in STEP for a few years, it was determined that Dathiel was ineligible for Special Education Services in his junior year.

Along with the termination of the IEP, Dathiel enjoyed a marked improvement in many other aspects of his life and was enjoying life more. Perhaps it was through the natural process of maturation, or the relative stability of living with Grandma or just being told the truth about his father’s untimely death from AIDS that finally he was able to turn those balled up fists that were forever smashing, pounding, driven into open hands that allowed him to “touch things easy with them.” Most likely however, it was the simple fact that he found a true advocate; someone who possessed an unflappable belief in him.

Funny as it may seem, people live up to the expectations we have for them.

It was the words of Ms. Horan who reminded him day after day of his goodness, of his progress and hard work, and praised him for his gentle presence in the classroom. With this kind of encouragement, Dathiel was able to turn down the decibel level on the negative voices. Anger gave way to resolve. No longer shackled with this designation, Dathiel enrolled in Honors and AP courses. This transition has not been easy, as little is expected or demanded in the STEP classes. While his peers outside of STEP were learning how to manage time and multi task, he was sitting in a room talking, playing games and even (at times) doing nothing. This past year he claims the most difficult task has been to train himself to concentrate in class and to complete all the homework on time.

I met Dathiel toward the end of September when the adjustment counselor said “This kid is a good one. Help him go far.” We have been meeting regularly ever since. He is the type of student who calls you from home when he is sick to say he can’t make the appointment. He is also the student who will say “thank you” when you least expect it. He is coachable, polite and humble. He incorporates feedback. He shows up and follows through. All of those non-cognitive competencies so important for success at college like GRIT, determination, hope, and resilience? He has them and I am not the only one to stand by him and take notice. When I informed the Principal of South High I would nominate Dathiel for a scholarship, she said “Oh he is perfect!”

This fall Dathiel will pack up and move again, only this time it will be of his own free will. This time he has a clear vision for his life. This time he brings with him a kind of knowing confidence. He eagerly awaits his future no longer branded as a feared presence so much as a fierce presence. He has refashioned those hands into tools that will aid him in achieving his dreams.

TRiO Alumni Spotlight — Andre de Souza Licht



Ever since he was a young child, Andre de Souza Licht knew that he was going to become a doctor. Since learning about the unsettling nature of cancer and leukemia at a young age, Andre had dedicated himself to becoming a doctor to help others - in fact even using it as his motivating factor to go to college. Andre has always been inclined to help others, and as an immigrant, living with his hardworking mother and two siblings in tight quarters helped to show him just how much hard work and determination could help him to reach his goals and improve his life.

As a result of his academic successes, Andre achieved the designation of a Goddard Scholar: The Goddard Scholars Academy (GSA) is an academically accelerated magnet program for highly-motivated, high-achieving students of the Worcester Public Schools. The GSA is an Innovation School located within the Dr. Arthur F. Sullivan Middle School. The school has historically served grades 7-8. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the school expanded to serve grades 6-8, with approximately 48 students in two class groups in each grade. However, once Andre was in the position to begin applying for college, he felt as though he was lacking focus and direction. Thankfully, someone was there to help!

Andre credits his Educational Talent Search Counselor, Elizabeth Plante, with giving him the focus he needed to progress through the application process. “Because of her I am attending a four year university in the United States, something many of my family members could only dream of.” Andre also was awarded the honor of an Abigail Adams Scholarship, thanks to his hard work and diligence in his studies.

Throughout high school, Andre had changed his focus throughout the medical field. Shifting his sight from potential careers as a plastic surgeon to a neurologist, in the end he decided to focus on becoming a trauma surgeon. Despite the hefty amount of work such a career demands, Andre says “I refuse to let time and cost hold me back, trauma surgeons may have a lot to learn, but they also have a critical value to society for preventing untimely deaths every day and every night.” Currently, Andre is attending UMASS Amherst as a second year student, in the Pre-Med Track. Never one to forget his roots, he also has given back to TRiO by actively participating in State Advocacy Day to help spread the word of programs like Educational Talent Search.

Please Join Us For This Exciting Professional Development Event!

*Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association
Professional Development Event*

Government Relations for TRIO Professionals and Alumni Get excited! Get informed! Get connected!

Monday, April 13, 2015
9:30-2:30

Suffolk University, 1st floor Conference Room
73 Tremont St. Boston, MA 02108

Join us for an exciting training opportunity with state and federal experts. Participants will leave with tools to strengthen their own programs as well as valuable skills for future state and federal policy events. This training is appropriate for TRIO staff and alumni at all levels.

Kimberly Jones, Vice President for Public Policy at Council for Opportunity in Education

Current issues facing TRIO programs, getting your voice heard, understanding the federal legislative process, effective strategies for engaging your legislators

MA State Representative Russell Holmes (6th Suffolk) Massachusetts Legislative process

MA State Representative Paul Mark (2nd Berkshire)
Comprehensive higher education bill which addresses student debt, lowering college costs, savings plans for low-income families and many other components that impact TRIO students

Free to members and TRIO alumni
Lunch will be provided
\$35 for non members

For more information contact Breyana Roman,
broman-ub@nmhschool.org or 413-498-3416
Register here by 4/6/15
<http://goo.gl/forms/4PuFRNLtvn>

One More Upcoming Event For College Access Professionals and Alumni:
We need your voices!



Mark your Calendar!

MEOA State Advocacy Event for Professionals and Alumni

Celebrate the Impact– Bring your voices!

Building relationships with our MA State Legislators

Monday, May 11, 2015

7:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m.

Light breakfast and team preparation for meetings with legislators

Suffolk University, 73 Tremont St. Boston, Kings Chapel Room

9:30-2:30 Mass State House - Grand Staircase

Networking, Speakers and Refreshments

Team visits to legislators

Your legislators want to hear from you and learn about your programs and concerns! Bring your alumni, staff and supporters to this important event. We will provide the materials and preparation you need.

RSVP here <http://bit.ly/1M9LPxH>

For more information contact eplante@massedco.org

News From The Board

Greetings to all of our members!

We are so excited about our board accomplishments so far! Our vision is to continue to provide all the great services and opportunities we have always provided while launching a long term initiative to engage our state law makers in the important mission we share. Our hard working board is well on its way! I will share lots more detail at our mid year meeting at the NEOA conference. I hope to see many of you there and at our upcoming professional development event as well as at our State Advocacy Day. See pages 12 and 13 for more details about these important events.

Our most pressing concern it that we need to fill the president elect seat on the board and we need your help. Please consider serving or encourage your colleagues to step up. The position is extremely rewarding and our dedicated (and fun!) board will support you the whole way. Our organization can only exist because of all the volunteers who make it happen. Might this be your turn? Please call or email me to learn more.



In the spirit of opportunity,

Gisele Litalien, President

413-824-6601 or glitalien@nmhschool.org

2014–2015 MEOA Board Members



Pictured above from left to right (front): **Rubens Dort**, Research and Planning Chair; **Lecia Sligh**, MEOA State Liaison; **Gisele Litalien**, President; **Patrice Lincoln**, Treasurer; **Rachel Mullins**, Vice-President/Conference Chair; **Ellen Linzey**, Membership Chair; **Angele Goss**, Past President 2013-2014 (back) **Adam Keese**, Newsletter Chair; **Ralph Hogan**, President Elect; **Jesse Derleth**, Secretary; **Sharmese Gunn**, Alumni Chair; **Breyana Roman**, Professional Development Chair.

Not Pictured: **Elizabethe Plante**, External Relations Chair; **Adam Edgerton**, Past President; **Valerie Laporte**, Scholarship Chair; **Ricky Frazier**, Technology Chair



Thank you to our very
generous sponsors!

