

## + Message from the MAEOPP President

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**T**he last quarter has offered me many opportunities to travel throughout the region learning best practices, envisioning the growth of the Association and celebrating TRIO Alumni. Thank you to all the conference chairs and chapter leadership for their hospitality.

During each opportunity to address the membership, I reflected on the mission of our Association and our strategic plan. The two are intrinsically tied together and both highlight the role of advocacy. Advocacy, at its best, is telling the TRIO story and soliciting support for the work of college access and success and for our students. This edition of our Association newsletter will highlight advocacy work throughout the Association, with a special spotlight on TRIO Day.

Established in 1986 by a Congressional Resolution, National TRIO Day is meant to focus the nation's attention to "the needs of disadvantaged people aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made."

Thanks to those programs and chapters that provided information for this edition. The effort you make to share the life-changing work of our members is important. Congressional leaders, campus administrators and community members alike should hear these stories. You are telling the good news, which is advocacy!

**Kaye**



## + MAEOPP Region

- **The original Region V was composed of seven states, which defined the geographical area of MAEOPP: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.**
- **The addition of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska (MO-KAN-NE) in 1979 nearly doubled the size of the region. This also led to a diversification of the region. The region now serving, not only the urban poor, mostly African-American and Hispanic individuals, but also the rural poor, increasingly non-black and female individuals.**
- **MAEOPP now represents Regions V and VII and is the second largest EOP/TRIO association in the United States.**





## + Illinois – State Chapter

*President – Aaron Cortes*

*President Elect – Laura Dayton*

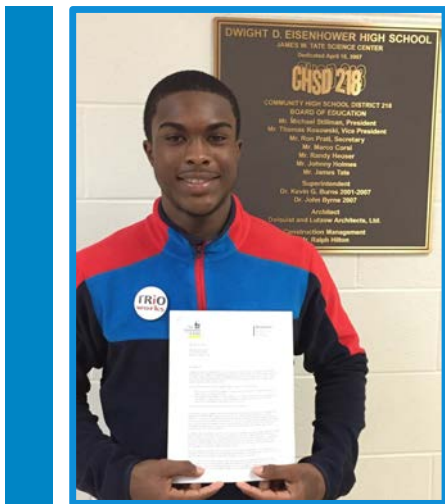
### Illinois State Chapter Update

**M**y decision to attend Iowa was a choice I could not have imagined a year ago. The University of Iowa was nowhere on my radar. I decided to apply my senior year because a few of my friends had been accepted. A few weeks later I received my acceptance letter and a few months later I received my financial aid package, which to my surprise was a full ride! At that point it was a decision of whether to attend a smaller college or go to Illinois, a much larger school. Visiting Iowa sealed the deal. From the moment I stepped

onto campus I knew this would be my home for the next four years. It had a cozy setting, a select body of students and Engineering faculty that seemed to be working to boost the college's diversity. A sad fact about the field of engineering is that men of color are disproportionately under-represented. Only 3 percent of the 1.5 million male engineers in the United States are black. These statistics can be discouraging, but I use them as motivation to break barriers in the profession.

Looking back on my experience in the Upward Bound (UB) program at Dwight D. Eisenhower High School, this is one experience I would not trade for the world. I'll be honest, as a freshman I took many of the opportunities that UB presented to me for granted. I hadn't come to appreciate what the program was doing for me and other students. I believe that without UB, I

wouldn't be where I am today. The program helps by providing free services designed to improve ones academic, career and personal skill set; to help complete high school, prepare for college and the workforce. The UB program also helps with personal development and cultural awareness. Through this program I have been fortunate to travel places that I otherwise might not have ever seen. But what I respect most are the UB staff. It takes a special person to help young adolescents during such an important and confusing time in their lives. I commend people like Mr. LeRoy Peters and Ms. Misty Williams. The world would be a million times better if we had more people like them and more programs like TRIO Upward Bound. They really help students to succeed, and I am very happy to have participated in this program. TRIO does work!



## + Indiana – State Chapter

*President – Yecenia Tostado*

*President Elect – Rosa Acevedo-Villarreal*



### Indiana State Chapter Update

**E**ric Mahmoud was at the zoo with his grandson when he stopped at the impala habitat and noticed the east-African deer were separated from freedom by just a 3-foot-tall fence. Mahmoud knew from TV nature programs that an impala has a remarkable 10-foot vertical leap, yet these animals dutifully stayed inside their enclosure, seemingly unaware of their own abilities.

The same attitude often applies to bright yet underprivileged kids who don't reach their potential. On Saturday, February 28, 2015, Mahmoud, the founder of a successful network of Minneapolis charter schools, spoke to youths and parents who were gathered for the

University of Notre Dame's annual TRIO Parent & Student Leadership Conference on the Notre Dame campus. The conference has marked National TRIO Day each year since 2003.

"Are you behind a 3-foot fence because you have a fixed mindset, not a growth mindset, thinking that because you were born with a certain intelligence, that's all the farther you'll get?" Mahmoud asked in a challenge to the students.

Mahmoud drew attention in Minneapolis as the founder of several highly successful charter schools that dramatically raised test scores among low-income students by requiring them to spend 35% more time in the classroom than conventional schools. But on Saturday, he told would-be college students they will need more than just academic knowledge to succeed, listing five less-tangible ingredients for success: resilience, willingness to "break the rules," the ability to compensate for

shortcomings, an "unreasonable" attitude and a "growth mindset."

All those traits, Mahmoud said, encourage students to be revolutionary innovators instead of settling for mediocrity. And the ultimate goal is for the students to enter college, find jobs and bring those skills home with them.

"We really want to teach, motivate and inspire our children, that once they get these college degrees, get jobs, use those skills to come back and help the community," he said.

### + Interesting Facts

- Before public schools, families pitched in to build a log schoolhouse and each student's family paid a few dollars toward the teacher's salaries.
- The state constitution of 1816 directed the legislature to establish public schools, but it was not until the 1850s that state government was able to establish a public school system.





## + Iowa – State Chapter

*President – Ellie Burns*

*President Elect – Robert Kuennen*



## Iowa State Chapter Update

**I**owa TRIO has been active in advocacy this spring. TRIO Day was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the State Capitol. More than 65 TRIO students and staff visited the Capitol and spoke to local legislators about the importance of TRIO Programs. Each student wrote a postcard to their Congressmen and Senators in Washington D.C. More than 200 postcards were collected.

During the afternoon students also had the opportunity to package meals.

Meals packaged for families in Iowa and abroad were in excess of 8,600.



On Tuesday March 31, 2015, Senator Charles Grassley spent two hours at Graceland University with students, faculty and administrators. He provided an open-forum with a question and answer session.



*Senator Grassley with Graceland University Staff: Cathie Hosie, Judy Badder and Tracey Dale.*

Senator Joni Ernst visited the next day on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. Graceland's TRIO program directors, Cathie Hoise and Judy Badder were there to remind both senators of the important contribution the TRIO programs make to Iowa students.



**T**he Iowa TRIO Annual Conference was held in Iowa City, April 15 – 17. Over 60 members attended the conference and heard from a variety of speakers. The most notable event was the banquet where five scholarship winners were able to speak to the impact TRIO programs have made on their lives.

## + Interesting Facts

- Iowa State University is the oldest land grant institution in the United States.
- Herbert Hoover, a West Branch Native, was the 31<sup>st</sup> President of the United States and the first one born west of the Mississippi.

## + Michigan – State Chapter

*President – Robert Newton*

*President Elect – Darryl Taylor*



## Michigan State Chapter Update

**C**ongratulations to the 2015 Student Leadership/TRIO Day Summit Committee for the highest-attended student conference MI-CAPP has hosted since 2011! Over 200 attended, including 29 adult learners, 145 pre-college students, and 40 TRIO professionals. In fact, it was so well attended that there wasn't enough meeting space by the time everyone arrived at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. Thank you MI-CAPP!



**MI-CAPP** honored Mr. Glenn McIntosh, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Oakland University, as its **TRIO Achiever**. As luncheon keynote speaker, he challenged students to establish high standards and goals, to eliminate distractions, and focus on the prize. With a foundation from Upward Bound, this is a formula he used to "RISE" from poverty and a seemingly hopeless environment to become an author, competitive body-builder (*Mr. Michigan*, *Mr. Ironman*), counselor, husband, mentor, and university executive. The long line waiting to speak with him after lunch was a testimony to the effectiveness of his remarks.



Mr. Aaron A. Payment was the keynote speaker at the MI-CAPP Educational Foundation Banquet. Mr. Payment is chairperson of the 42,000-member Sault St. Marie (MI) Chippewa Indian tribe. Initially

a high school dropout he later earned his G.E.D., is currently working on his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, and served for 16 years as an Upward Bound summer counselor at Lake Superior State College. He encouraged students not to give up on themselves and to take advantage of all of the resources that TRIO provides.

In addition to the 16 Chapter scholarships awarded at the banquet, MAEOPP's Silas Purnell Scholarships were awarded to Janae Chunn and Carolina Brito; ELI Scholarship to Lauralee Redmond, and Board of Directors Scholarship to Cindy Ramirez. Each was for \$1,000.

Kudos to **SLS Chair Nicole Clements** and **EFSC Chair Josh Brandsen** and their committees for working diligently to make the Summit and the scholarship process a success.

## + Interesting Facts

- Michigan was the first state to guarantee every child the right to tax-paid high school education.
- Michigan was the first state to provide in its Constitution for the establishment of public libraries.





## + Minnesota – State Chapter

*President – Tallie Sertich*

*President Elect – Leslie Albers*

### Minnesota State Chapter Update

**T**he 2014 – 2015 academic year was especially busy for the Minnesota Chapter of TRIO. Minnesota hosted the 41<sup>st</sup> annual MAEOPP Professional Conference, November 9 – 12. Held at the DoubleTree Hilton in Bloomington, MN, the conference featured TRIO alums and guest speakers who espoused the conference theme—“Traditions in Transition: Take Charge of Change.” The event culminated with a rousing speech by Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison, who represents the state’s 5<sup>th</sup> District, urged conference attendees to continue cultivating relationships with congressional members. He also reminded those in the audience that, in this era of monumental change to the landscape of education, TRIO members must fight for their students and programs with renewed vigor.



The University of Minnesota hosted the Adult Student Leadership Symposium on February 7,

2015 at Coffman Memorial Union, organized by the U of M’s Student Support Services staff. The theme “Honoring our Past, Owning our Future,” drew more than 125 TRIO students from colleges and universities from across the state, all to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Upward Bound.

The College of St. Scholastica hosted the Northern Tier TRIO Day on February 21. Then, on March 7, North Hennepin Community College hosted the Southern Tier TRIO Day.

The busy Minnesota TRIO schedule ended with the annual conference, held at Chase on the Lake in Walker, MN, April 13 – 15. This provided another opportunity for MN TRIO professionals to plan, network, and further the individual and collective successes of their respective programs. Guided by the theme, “Building Partnerships,” a premise fostered and extended by guest speakers, including MAEOPP President Kaye Monk-Morgan and Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith.

The members of MN TRIO left the conference better prepared to lead students toward success.



*Lt. Governor  
Tina Smith*

## + MO-KAN-NE – State Chapter

*President – Mike Conley*

*President Elect – Kristi Bolen*



## MO-KAN-NE State Chapter Update

**W**ichita State University's Office of Special Programs (OSP) hosted its annual National TRIO Day celebration on February 12, 2015 with more than 200 people in attendance. This TRIO Day celebration, led by Ms. Deltha Q. Colvin, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, opened with a welcome to the audience and Colvin commended the "outstanding work" that OSP programs have accomplished with students. She also acknowledged their impact on a national level. Colvin then recognized the Upward Bound program, which was founded in 1964 and is celebrating 50 years.



Vice President for Student Affairs Wade Robinson, Ph.D. provided remarks on behalf of the University and congratulated Colvin for the success of the programs. The Honorable Carl Brewer, Mayor of Wichita, read the City Proclamation declaring February 12, 2015, National TRIO Day. Kaye Monk-Morgan, director of Upward Bound Math Science read the proclamation from Wichita State, and Martha Lewis, director of Disability Support Services, read the proclamation from the Governor. Kennedy Musamali, director of Student Support Services, recognized special guests including legislative aides from the offices of Senator Pat Roberts and Senator Jerry Moran.

After dinner, LaWanda Holt-Fields, director of the McNair Scholars Program, introduced the keynote speaker Viradena Gilkey, executive assistant to the mayor. Gilkey's speech was motivational, encouraging, and inspirational. She congratulated the students who were being honored and told them to not let anything get in the way of their dreams. Her message was powerful and many attendees could not hold back their emotional responses to her words.

Frances Ervin, director of Educational Opportunity Centers, and Rhonda Hicks, director of Upward Bound Wichita Prep, presented the TRIO Student Achievement Awards. Eleven students were recognized for their accomplishments and received a medallion as a keepsake.



*Office of Special Programs Staff*

The event ended with attendees gaining a better understanding of what TRIO means to the students, university, community and the nation. Hopefully, these good feelings will translate into new advocates who can speak highly and knowledgeably on behalf of the programs.



## + Ohio – State Chapter

*President – Thomas Jefferson*

*President Elect – Valda Bronston*



### Ohio State Chapter Update

**T**o celebrate “**National TRIO Day**,” Central State University, Sinclair Community College, University of Dayton, Wittenberg University and Wright State University joined forces to focus the nation’s attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives. Our goals were to inform the community of the existence and success of all TRIO programs and to help them develop an appreciation for the services of these federal programs.

We converged on the campus of Wright State University on Saturday, February 28, 2015 to hear the messages of fabulous, energetic and powerful speakers. Additionally, students participated in four breakout sessions highlighting the theme: “**I am...Advocacy, Membership & Leadership**”.



**Mrs. Ebony Speakes-Hall**, an alumni from Wittenberg University and Social Worker, engaged the students with her personal story as an Upward Bounder; what a powerful testimony that “TRIO Works!”

She challenged students to make a commitment to give back to their community.



**Ms. Omope Carter Daboiku**, Folk Artist, Wordsmith & Storyteller, shared her magnificent talents. Everyone was intrigued by her ability to keep storytelling within the

traditional societies and create a unified, non-threatening, enjoyable environment.

**Dr. Julius Bailey**,

Wittenberg Professor/Author and Hip-Hop Pedagogy, presented his award-winning hip-hop philosophy. Dr.



Bailey has been interviewed on CNN, Fox, B.E.T., and ABC Nightline. His publications include *Cultural Impact of Kanye West and Jay-Z: Essays on Hip-Hop's Philosopher King*. Students were mesmerized by Dr. Bailey's knowledge of the hip-hop culture.

National TRIO Day was truly a day of celebration, reflection and call to action to increase access to higher education for disadvantaged students. All students in attendance received a certificate acknowledging their participation.







## + Wisconsin – State Chapter

*President – Myra Gilreath*

*President Elect – Garry Moise*

### Wisconsin State Chapter Update

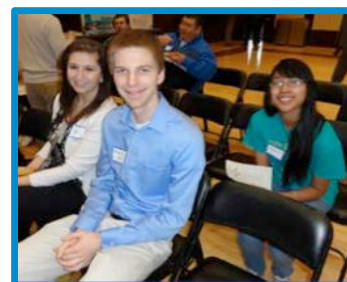
**A**t the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, TRIO Day was celebrated with a week of activities, leading up to the official National TRIO Day celebration. Activities were focused on the gratitude of the TRIO students. Such gratitude was demonstrated by the students signing a banner reading “We are thankful for TRIO because...”



Later that week, the display of gratitude continued as staff of the SSS program placed a booth in one of the campus halls, where TRIO students completed gratitude notes. These notes were given to mentors, faculty, administrators, and anyone who inspired and made an impact on them.

The week culminated in a volunteer effort with students and staff from SSS at the WAFER Food Pantry, helping to organize for the afternoon.

**T**he University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire recognized National TRIO Day with a program and awards ceremony on March 31 in the Davies Center. Awards were presented to outstanding TRIO students and UW-Eau Claire staff members who have provided exceptional service.



UW-Eau Claire operates four TRIO projects: Upward Bound, McNair Scholars Program, Student Support Services and Disability Student Support Services Program (*Project AIM*). These projects receive more than one million dollars in federal funding and serves 500 students annually.

TRIO Day is an opportunity to draw campus attention to the achievements of TRIO programs and their participants.

**T**he University of Wisconsin-Superior celebrated TRIO Day on Friday, April 17.

Students and faculty were honored at the TRIO Achiever Award Presentation. The theme was “Reflections of TRIO.” It focused on the accomplishments of the program participants of Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and the McNair Scholars Program.

Josh Berlo, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, University of Minnesota Duluth, was the keynote speaker, and State Representative Nick Milroy delivered the closing remarks. [Pictures from the event can be viewed here.](#)

## + Changing of the Guard

Following the retirement of Mary Alice Lyon, TRIO-SSS Director since 1985, Chris Beggs will assume the SSS Director role at the University of Central Missouri effective May 16th. Chris has been the program advisor for three years and formerly worked with UCM's Mentorship Program. He has served as MOKANNE parliamentarian and has been a member of the scholarship and legislation/education committees. He is also about to begin his term as the president of the Professional Staff Council. Chris and his wife look forward to their son's first birthday in June.

***Congratulations to Chris for his promotion and Best Wishes to Mary Alice for her retirement.***



*"Mary Alice set a strong example of what leadership looks like in TRIO, so we feel very confident about our future in serving students well at UCM."*

*"I know that I've made a difference in students' lives because they've told me so! I am just doing my job, but what a wonderful feeling to know that it matters. . . all that we do matters!"*



The MAEOPP Association is excited to host the inaugural MAEOPP 100: Men of Excellence Conference at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH. This conference, inspired by President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative, is targeted to young men of color, but open to all young men involved in regional educational opportunity programs. Young men from the region will work with TRIO and other higher education professionals on personal goals, college planning and life skill development.

- 40 young men from pre-college programs,
- 40 young men from collegiate programs, and
- 20 young professionals

There will be "BE REAL" (*Responsible, Educated, Authentic, Leader*) breakout sessions and an Oratory contest for pre-college and college participants. This conference will help to set a standard for how young men can and will interact with one another and the greater society as a whole.

**DATE:** Thursday, July 23 – Saturday, July 25, 2015

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** June 5, 2015

**REGISTRATION:** \$300 per participant (*includes all meals, t-shirt, conference materials, and lodging*)

**QUESTIONS?** Contact [maeopp100@maeopp.org](mailto:maeopp100@maeopp.org) or <http://www.maeopp.org/content>

***Plan for your students to take advantage of this inaugural opportunity.***

## + COE UPCOMING EVENTS: for more information [www.coenet.us](http://www.coenet.us)

Thursday, May 21, 2015	Record Keeping Webinar <i>Designing an Evaluation Plan for Your Program</i>	(webinar full)
May 27 – 28, 2015	TS Innovative Forum	Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC
May 28 – 29, 2015	TS Proposal Writing Workshop	Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC
Tuesday, June 23, 2015	Record Keeping Webinar <i>Utilizing and Monitoring Data for Program Improvement</i>	SSS & McNair 2 – 3 pm (ET)
Thursday, July 7, 2015	Record Keeping Webinar <i>Utilizing and Monitoring Data for Program Improvement</i>	EOC & VUB 2 – 3 pm (ET)
June 15 – 16, 2015	EOC Proposal Writing Workshop	Le Meridien, New Orleans
Sept. 16 – 19, 2015	COE 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	Hyatt Regency Atlanta
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015	Fee Waiver 101 Webinar	2 – 3 pm (ET)

**T**his year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Talent Search program, which has guided more than 11 million students and their families through the college preparation and application process. Talent Search grew out of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Higher Education Act (HEA), with the goal of seeing that "no American talent is wasted." HEA also celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The HEA is arguably the most significant piece of legislation governing American higher education. The year 2015 marks a great milestone in higher education and provides an opportunity for you to share with your institutions and your own TRIO/Talent Search alumni the life-altering contributions that have been made in the lives of the students who have been served.



## LEADERS IN DIVERSITY

**T**he Wichita Business Journal will recognize for the first time local companies, nonprofits and individuals for their efforts to reflect the rich tapestry of the Wichita community. The Office of Special Programs (OSP) at Wichita State University will graciously receive the honor of "Leaders in Diversity" during a luncheon on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency. The OSP is comprised of nine TRIO Programs, the Office of Disability Services and three GEAR-UP programs, which are under the supervision of Ms. Deltha Q. Colvin. Also receiving the honor as one of the individuals being recognized is our sitting president Ms. Kaye Monk-Morgan. This award was established to recognize honorees that have demonstrated respect or inclusive treatment for others, advocacy for underrepresented groups and a commitment to the advancement of cultural diversity in the greater Wichita community.







## + ALUMNI

MAEOPP is excited to work with TRIO and EOP alumni, to assist them in connecting with fellow alumni and staff. We strive to keep alumni up-to-date about upcoming events, legislative issues and other opportunities.

## + Ways to Connect

- MAEOPP Alumni Network • National TRIO Alumni Network • MAEOPP Alumni on Facebook • National TRIO Alumni Association (NTAA) on: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn •
- [http://www.maeopp.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=331&club\\_id=254413&item\\_id=6660](http://www.maeopp.org/content.aspx?page_id=331&club_id=254413&item_id=6660) • <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-America-Association-of-Educational-Opportunity-Program-Personnel/202643546472618> • <https://twitter.com/maeopp> • <https://www.facebook.com/TheNTAA> • <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=76136> •

## + 2014 TRIO Achievers

**MAEOPP** provides awards annually to outstanding TRIO alumni who have made significant civic or professional contributions and whose participation in TRIO programs have had a significant impact on their journey toward higher education and future success.

**Dr. Simon Shannon** - McNair Scholars Alum, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

**Mike Muse** - Upward Bound Alum, University of Michigan

**Kao Kalia Yang** - Student Support Services Alum, Carleton College; McNair Alum, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

**Dr. Amanda Morales** - McNair Alum, Kansas State University



*Honorees pictured at the 40<sup>th</sup> MAEOPP Conference with MAEOPP Past President Annette Horvat.*

**\*\* BE SURE TO NOMINATE YOUR STUDENTS FOR 2015 TRIO ACHIEVERS\*\***

# MAEOPP 41ST ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE



## FEATURING: KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. STEVE PERRY

You may recognize his face from television as the host of the #1 docudrama, "Save My Son" on the TV ONE Network. Or perhaps you have seen him on CNN and MSNBC as an education contributor. Dr. Perry is also the author of *Push Has Come To Shove: Getting Our Kids the Education They Deserve (Even If It Means Picking A Fight)* and *Man Up! Nobody is Coming to Save Us*. And lastly, Dr. Perry is the founder and principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School, in Hartford, Connecticut.

Website: <http://www.drsteveperry.org/>  
Twitter: @DrStevePerry



MID AMERICA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM PERSONNEL

**GRAND RAPIDS, MI**  
**NOVEMBER 15 - 18, 2015**  
**AMWAY GRAND HOTEL**



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