



Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

Illinois | Indiana | Iowa | Michigan | Minnesota | Missouri-Kansas-Nebraska | Ohio | Wisconsin

I am writing this edition on my 5:20 AM flight from Wichita to Chicago, in route to the [National Girls in STEM \(NGIS\)](#) conference being held in Indianapolis, IN. I am traveling with four young women from the TRIO Upward Bound Math Science Program that I direct. While I am excited about what awaits me in Indianapolis, I have to admit that I had some trepidation about yet more air travel (O'Hare and I have developed a love hate relationship)... until I arrived at the airport to meet my girls. The pure enthusiasm and excitement is palpable.

I can barely hear my fingers on the keyboard for the girlish squeals behind me. TRIO UBMS and MAEOPP has just afforded four young women the opportunity to fly for the first time! I remember my first solo flight... I was a new TRIO director on my way to Legs and Regs training... scared to death. No one in my immediately family had ever flown... at least not that I knew of... and it was a big deal. Every one of my senses was awakened. I literally was introduced to a whole new world via that one flight.

This morning, I witnessed the beginning of that experience for my students.

Young women with great minds, powerful passions and big dreams. This morning they each got closer to realizing that their current circumstance is not a life sentence, but a temporary experience that will make them resilient in ways their competitors won't understand. This morning, just like me, their first flight introduced them to experiences they have no idea are coming their way.

As I walked my girls through their first flight, first professional conference and for some their first real exposure to what their lives could look like as scientist, I am reminded of our calling as professionals to build people via experience and exposure, along with academic acumen and resilience. I am so proud to lead an Association that builds, with intention, experiences that further develop our participants from many vantage points. I have never seen my girls so proud, standing so tall and so excited to represent themselves, their families, our programs and even me! The cultural capital that they are developing is priceless.

Many thanks to Roxanne Gregg, MAEOPP President Elect and Misty Williams, GIS Co-Chair, for building an opportunity for our participants to grow and to be ushered into a professional existence. NGIS is just one opportunity that MAEOPP offers to inspire participants. I can't wait to experience the MAEOPP 100, scheduled to take place in July at Bowling Green State University, and the National McNair Conference this fall.

Our students stand taller because of our service!

Kaye



The inaugural **National Girls in STEM (NGIS)** was held last weekend in Indianapolis, IN on the campus of Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. Many thanks to the planning committee (Lydia, Mattie, Jenalee, Alyssa and others), under the leadership of President Elect Gregg and Misty Williams. 135 girls from eleven states, including Texas and New York were treated to hands-on science experiments involving Informatics, Forensic Science and Energy. A well-attended pajama party, a top-notch fashion show and two different campus tours were also hosted.

Many thanks to the keynote speakers, panelists, table hosts and the faculty and staff at #IUPUI for their willingness to educate and motivate our students. One panelist, Dr. #ErinLAlbert, was so impressed by the effort and the participants that she donated 135 copies of her book, *The Amazing Adventures of the Princessess from Planet STEM*." The weekend was both fun and informative.

MAEOPP will host next year's NGIS at Wichita State University in late-May or Mid-June. Visit the www.maeopp.org for details as they become available.



MAEOPP President V. Kaye Monk-Morgan with NGIS Participants.

Baby girl your a prize!!!
 A career in stem is
 possible! Go on ahead and get
 YOURS! ♡
 #GirlsInStem

I got really interested
 into the construction
 management.
 I sort of was to

So what your young...
 Spread your wings!
 You'll be surprised
 where you end up! ♡
 #GirlsInStem

So what?
 I learned that ~~the field~~ there is a
 broad selection of STEM careers + you
 can mix your interests + get a job that
 makes you happy. Most of all, I have
 learned that STEM needs us girls.



save the date

November 15-18, 2015

Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

Amway Grand Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI

Annual Conference

The MAEOPP Annual Conference

2015 MAEOPP Annual Professional Conference

Call for Presentations

Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP) invites you and your colleagues to submit a presentation proposal for this year's professional conference. Details on the format and process, along with the online link for submitting a proposal, are provided in the [2015 Call for Presentations on MAEOPP's website](#).

The theme for the year is, Take Charge of Change, Traditions in Transition. The 2015 MAEOPP Annual Professional Conference will be held November 15 – 18, 2015, at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Your timely submissions will ensure a meaningful professional development opportunity for college access and

success professionals.

Thank you again for your commitment in making a difference in the lives of thousands of students in your state and communities around the Midwest region. We look forward to seeing you at the 2015 MAEOPP Annual Professional Conference!

The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, July 17, 2015.

Room Block

The Annual Conference room block is open! A dedicated booking website has been created for our event so we will be able to make, modify and cancel your hotel reservations online, as well as take advantage of any room upgrades, amenities or other services offered by the hotel.

To preview the website, please click the following link:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=13757094

Attendees are welcome to make reservations by phone. Please use the following dedicated Group Reservations phone numbers in order to make you are able to access special block rates and ensure you book within the block.

Reservations Toll Free: [\(800\) 253-3590](tel:8002533590)

Reservations Local Phone: [\(616\) 776-6450](tel:6167766450)

The Amway Grand Plaza may not be able to accept reservation inquiries on certain non-group reservation phone numbers.



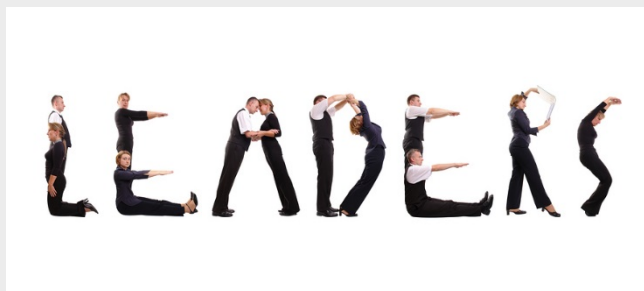
Registration remains open for the MAEOPP 100:Men of Excellence Conference to be held on July 23-25, 2015 at Bowling Green State University.

This conference is for pre-college, college and new professional men who are looking to BE R.E.A.L. Foci for the experience will include keynote speakers, small group workshops, an oratory competition and networking opportunities. Applications should be sent to mconley@maeopp.org.

Presidents Aaron Cortes, Kaye Monk-Morgan and Yecenia Tostado at the IL/IN TRIO Conference in South Bend, IN May 18, 2015.



Congratulations to MICAPP for their Paul L. Spraggins Award! The Spraggins award is a \$500 matching award from MAEOPP and COE to chapters who are involved in advocacy. Applications can be submitted until October 31, 2015.



2015-2016 Officers

Congratulations on the election of the 2015-2016 Officers for the Mid-America Association of Education Opportunity Program Personnel. The following will comprise our Executive Team:

- President **Roxanne Gregg**
- President Elect **Valdis Zalite**
- Past President **V. Kaye Monk-Morgan**
- Secretary **Cecelia Merrigan**
- Treasurer **Mike Conley**

Thanks to all who accepted nominations for the slate. Leadership is what sustains our membership. Please reach out to support these officers as they continue to transition MAEOPP for the future.

Did you know the 9th Edition of CAS Standards is due out this Fall. Come learn about the Council for Advancement of Standards for higher education and TRIO at the annual conference, November 14-18th, 2015. Go to [MAEOPP Institute for Advancement of Leadership and Program Management](#) for more information.

The MAEOPP board is moving forward with the branding campaign. As I shared with you at your chapter conferences, the decision to change the name of the Midwest Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel is not one that was entered into lightly. After consultation with several MAEOPP Past Presidents, three branding/marketing companies and three membership surveys, the MAEOPP Board of Directors has submitted a request to the Legal Concerns and Constitutional Issues committee to amend the MAEOPP Constitution changing the MAEOPP name to the:

**Educational Opportunity Association (EOA):
A Midwest Association of TRIO
and
College Access and Success Professionals.**

Your board believes that the recommended name, proposed by the Association Planning and Development Committee (Chaired by Wilfred Johnson (IA)), pays homage to our roots while providing a stronger identity, allowing for a stronger branding strategy to emerge.

Please watch your email late this summer for information regarding this and other constitutional changes intended to position our Association to continue leading in the college access and success arena.

The board also determined that each chapter will be asked to use a similar tagline, "A chapter of the EOA: A Midwest Association of TRIO and College Access and Success Professionals." Doing so will better align all chapters to the parent Association and provide a more unified branding effort. Visual standards and use guidelines will be provided upon adoption.

Thank you for your involvement on this important Association decision. As Dr. Mitchem said last week at the Council for Opportunity in Education Board Meeting... "Progress has always been difficult. But it must be done, if we want to survive. Our kids depend on not just our survival, but our success."



Changes in the Department of Education

Change is in the air at the Department of Education. Dr. Linda Byrd Johnson is now the Acting Branch Chief of Staff for Higher Education Programs and Dr. Minor's right hand. This move allowed Eileen Bland to move into the Acting Senior Director of Student Services Division.

Additionally, Francis Bergeron retired in March, leaving Kathy Morgan, her long time colleague, to assume her vacated position. We thanks Francis for her dedication to TRIO and it's students and wish her well in her retirement.

Drs. James Minor and Linda Byrd-Johnson were guests at the COE Board meeting last week. I am sharing some of his comments with you because I believe them to be pertinent to our community.

Dr.Minor explained that he had two goals with the COE Board, 1) to establish a relationship with the community and 2) to explore common causes or calls and expand them. He went on to share his thoughts on college access vs. success. "We don't have a college access problem," he stated. "We have a college success problem."

- The state of California has a robust, multi-tiered college and university system. Community college is free. 75% of African Americans and 80% of enrolled Latinos neither finish nor transfer.
- A recent Lumina Foundation report notes that 21.76% of Americans (166M) had some college but no degree while 19.83% have a bachelor's degree.

What can we do as TRIO, as college access and success professionals to address this concern and take those "some college" folks and turn them into bachelor's degrees?

Dr. Minor's goals for 2016 are as follows:

- Provide a full 60 days for all grant competitions
- Improve communications and engagement with grantees

- Improve what is known about the performance and effectiveness of higher education grant programs
- Increase the number of site visits conducted by ED program staff (site visits quadrupled in 2015 and are hoped to double in 2016)

As usual, Dr. Minor posed several questions to the board for discussion.

- Could TX and EOC activities be better aligned with student needs?
- Are there TS and EOC activities beyond those in the statute that merit consideration?
- Are there TS and EOC models that are particularly effective? How would we know if they were effective?
- Are there particularly strong concepts to consider for demonstration and evaluation?

These questions and the discussion that followed allowed the MAEOPP representation to educate Drs. Minor and Byrd Johnson on the activities of the MAEOPP Best Practices Center lead by Dr. David Arendale.

Current plans are to create an opportunity for broader discussion about the Center and the work that could be done to answer the questions posed by Dr. Minor and inform ED practices in the area of college access and success.

Thank you to Myra Gilreath (WI) and Mike Conley (MKN), Co-chairs of the Special Concerns and Affiliations committee for their work on the first Sphere of Influence Luncheon held in St. Louis, MO during the May 2015 Board meeting. More than 35 college access professionals, representing TRIO, private foundations and higher education Institutions came together to discuss opportunities for collaboration and joint ventures. COE Chair-Elect, Trent Ball and MKN Past President Valdis Zalite were instrumental in pulling together the powers that be in the area. As a result of their efforts, MAEOPP has two new institutional members, **St. Louis Graduate** and the **Wyman Foundation**. We look forward to working alongside our new partners.

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