



**EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

MAKING EDUCATION POSSIBLE

Table of Contents:

Page 1	Interview with the EOA President
Page 2	National TRIO Day
Page 3	Illinois and Indiana Chapter Update
Page 4	Iowa Chapter Update
Page 5	Minnesota Chapter Update
Page 6	MOKANNE Chapter Update
Page 7	Wisconsin Chapter Update
Page 8	Heartland Conference
Page 9	TRIO Achievers
Page 10	COE Events

+ An Interview with the EOA President



What motivated you to seek the Presidency?

I've been a part of the Board since 2009 as President-Elect for Indiana TRIO and then President in 2010. Since then I continued to serve in various ways: Chair of Legal Concerns and Constitutional Issues and as a member on a variety of committees. During this time, I have become even more passionate about the Association and the students we serve. I realized that I had the knowledge, experience, and passion to continue to move the Association forward.

Briefly describe a few of your most important initiatives?

Last year, EOA took bold moves to embark on several new initiatives. It is important to continue to build upon that work. We will continue to host new student leadership conferences: Girls in STEM and Men of Excellence. Both of these conferences anticipate doubling their attendance. We will continue to create and/or develop partnerships by hosting Sphere of Influence events and Alumni receptions held in conjunction with Board meetings. In addition, the Board is focusing on Chapter development, broadening professional development with our webinar series, revamping our Institute for Advancement of Leadership Program Management, re-launching the Emerging Leaders Institute, and enhancing our advocacy efforts.

What are the two things you need the most from the Chapter membership?

Engagement and support, the Association will continue to grow but we need the membership to be engaged and supportive by attending webinars, conferences, and contributing their knowledge and time for the betterment of EOA. Become involved at both the Chapter and regional level. If you would like to be involved at the Chapter level, contact your Chapter president or president-elect. If you are interested in serving at the regional level, please feel free to contact me directly at president@eo.org. We need you!

What is the future for EOA?

Bright! We have been positioning ourselves to be one of the leading College Access and Success associations in the nation. With the help of you all, we will continue to lead.

Roxanne Gregg
EOA President

KEEPING THE
MOMENTUM

+ National TRIO Day

According to the 1986 Congressional resolution, National TRIO Day is meant to direct national 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."*

TRIO Day has been proclaimed a National Day of Service. Programs are encouraged to perform some sort of community service as a way for TRIO to give back to their community and say thank you for its support.

TRIO Day is the last Saturday during the month of February. This year, TRIO Day was February 27, 2016, but remember events do not need to be limited to that day.

Within this newsletter you will find articles and activities submitted by various programs to demonstrate how National TRIO Day celebrated within the EAO region.



+ ALUMNI

EOA 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

- EOA Alumni Network • National TRIO Alumni Network • EOA Alumni on Facebook • National TRIO Alumni Association (NTAA) on: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn

SAVE THE DATE

**2016
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

**St. Louis, MO
November 13-16, 2016**



EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY
ASSOCIATION

KEEPING THE
MOMENTUM

+ Illinois – Chapter Update

President – Aaron Cortes

President Elect – Misty Williams

+ Indiana – Chapter Update

President – Rosa Acevedo-Villarreal

President Elect – Shubitha Kever

2016 National TRIO Day South Celebration Hosted by the Southeastern Illinois College Student Support Services

"DARING TO DREAM,
DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE"

Saturday, February 20, 2016
9:00 am- 3:00 pm
3575 College Road
Harrisburg, Illinois 62946

In honor of National TRIO Day, The University of Notre Dame TRiO Programs partnership with our Presenting Sponsor, [Teacher's Credit Union](#), was proud to host our 14th Annual Student & Parent Leadership Conference on Saturday, February 27, 2016.



Under this year's theme -- "*Work Harder, Get Farther*" -- participants enjoyed two concurrent interactive workshop sessions on issues pertaining to the following areas: educational access, student leadership, parental engagement, financial aid, college admissions, and personal finance among other topics.

We welcomed our distinguished keynote speaker -- [Danielle L. Green](#) -- University of Notre Dame alumna, Purple Heart recipient, combat veteran, and ESPN Pat Tillman Award recipient.

Nearly 300 students, parents, community members and partners attended the college fair and conference. We were excited that they were able to join us this year as we continue the tradition of commemorating National TRIO Day!



+ Iowa – Chapter Update

President – Trudy Strain-Ahrens

President Elect – Cindy virta



Iowa TRIO Day at the Capitol

TRIO Day at the Capitol was held on February 17th, 2016 in Des Moines, Iowa. Attendees from programs across the state from Council Bluffs to Davenport joined in a day of Celebration, Advocacy, & Community Service. We had another year of record attendance with many of our groups meeting one-on-one with their local representatives to educate them about the work of the TRIO programs in Iowa. Students also engaged in a postcard campaign sharing their own personal stories of what TRIO means to them. The postcards were hand delivered to Congressmen and Senators during the Policy Summit day on the Hill in Washington, DC on March 8th. Programs rounded up the day by taking campus visits in the area or volunteering at Meals from the Heartland. Thank you again to our TRIO Day Committee for planning such an eventful day! Brittany Rigdon, Kim Campbell, Tabitha Lamb, and Hailey Kamps.

By Brittany Rigdon, ETS, Iowa State





+ Minnesota – Chapter Update

President – Andrew Cseter

President Elect – Kelli Steggall

CONGRATULATIONS:

Darlene Freeman (*Itasca Community College Upward Bound & Talent Search Director*) retired.

Kathy Glampe (*St. Olaf SSS Director transitioned to a new position at St. Olaf as Director of Academic Support & Advising*).



+ A Warm Smile and a Soft Voice

The Minnesota chapter would like to recognize and honor Debra Carrow, former Director of Southwest Minnesota State University Upward Bound, who passed away in August 2015.

Debbie had passion for education, often telling others “Education is the key to success.” After nurturing her own children, Debbie became a first generation college student. The year her youngest child entered kindergarten, Debbie entered college. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall and continued on to receive a Master’s Degree in counseling from South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.

Her dedication to helping others and her commitment to education motivated Debbie to introduce the Upward Bound program at SMSU in 2008 by writing the initial grant. The program allowed her to nurture more than 100 first-generation college students — beginning in 9th grade — into college.

As she did with her own children, Debbie gave a little piece of herself to each student in her program, making sure they had the tools necessary to be successful in life.

+ MO-KAN-NE – Chapter Update

President – Kristi Bolen

President Elect – Corinne Neilson



Omaha-area TRIO programs, including Creighton University celebrated their successes and gave back to the community with a week full of events culminating on February 27th, National TRIO Day.

An assemblage of student services and outreach programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education, TRIO serves intermediate, secondary and post-secondary students who identify as first-generation, low-income or disabled. TRIO programs like Upward Bound and Talent Search help students reach their full potential academically, with an eye to improving not only the students' economic standing, but also helping students inspire others in their communities.

Creighton hosted the #IAMTRiO Conference on Feb. 27, pulling in all TRIO participants and organizations to talk about such topics as scholarships, the college admissions process, selecting a college, transitioning from middle to high school and creating a résumé. Ean Garrett, an author and chief innovation officer of the Infinite 8 Institute, an Omaha-based educational and social impact consulting firm, delivered the keynote address at the conference.

“Creighton is proud to be able to host our fellow TRIO participants in what is sure to be an excellent, inspiring conference after a week of uplifting events,” said Shannon Teamer, TRIO director in Creighton Student Support Services. “All week, Creighton TRIO students are going to be connecting with the next generations of college students, talking with lawmakers and spreading the word about how TRIO programs are at work in their lives.”

TRIO Week began Feb. 22 with the kickoff for the TRIO Donation Drive, taking place through Feb. 26 and gathering necessary items to benefit five area community organizations: *the Open Door Mission, the Heart Ministry Center, the Salvation Army, the Nebraska Humane Society and the Heartland Hope Mission*. Several area middle and high schools were involved in the drive, along with Creighton University, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Metropolitan Community College and Nebraska Methodist College.

The week also featured a Twitter and letter-writing campaign to government officials on Feb. 23, engaging policymakers on how TRIO has made a difference. Feb. 24, a #IAMTRiO Selfie Day encourages TRIO participants to connect on social media and celebrate TRIO Programs. On Feb. 25, TRIO Works Day featured TRIO college students who visited high schools and middle schools to talk about their experiences. There was also a visit to the Nebraska State Capitol to visit with lawmakers.

On Feb. 26, the donation drive wrapped up and the final donation numbers were announced at the #IAMTRiO Conference.

**NATIONAL
TRiO
Day**



+ Wisconsin – Chapter Update

President – Garry Moise

President Elect – Rivi Hatt

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse celebrated TRIO during a week of events from February 21-27. The SSS Leadership Council sponsored activities to celebrate the positive impact of TRIO programs, reflect on the importance of educational opportunity, and act to protect and further access to higher education for first-generation, low-income and students with disabilities. Highlights of the week included a snow tubing trip to Ft. McCoy, documentary showings of “A Walk in My Shoes: First Generation College Students,” a first-generation student panel, a brown-bag discussion: Supporting and empowering students with disabilities, letter writing to **Ron Kind** and **Jennifer Schilling** in thanks and support for TRIO programs, and a volunteering opportunity where students and staff volunteered at the WAFER Food Pantry. It was a week filled with learning and fun opportunities!



The University of Wisconsin-Superior celebrated TRIO Day on Friday, April 22. The 2016 theme was “TRIO: A Tradition of Respect, Integrity, and Opportunity.” A panel discussion featuring students in SSS and McNair gave UB students insight on college life. Additionally, UB students took part in a mock college class with Dr. Khalil Dokhanchi and discussed topics from foreign policy to tax law. Numerous students and faculty from McNair, SSS, and UB were recognized for their dedication to TRIO. UWS Professor of Legal Studies, Dr. Maria Cuzzo, delivered the keynote address, highlighting why Tradition, Respect, Integrity, and Opportunity are integral to TRIO now and into the future.

Upward Bound at UW-Superior joined other UB programs in Brainerd, Minnesota, for TRIO Day 2016. Students participated in workshops focusing on social media, studying abroad in college, and tips to reduce stress. Our students enjoyed meeting other students like themselves and visiting the regional college fair with a dozen campuses represented. Additionally, the yearly postcard campaign let students share with our elected officials how TRIO has impacted them and why continued funding is so important. The highlight of the day was gaining leadership skills from motivational speaker **Rick Rassier**. Playing 4-way tug-of-war and 10-person jump rope, Rick brought students outside their comfort zone and helped them “take it to the next level.” They learned about perseverance as well, how not to give up in the face of impossible odds.





MCNAIR HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

MCNAIR SCHOLARS:

- Present their research
- Support with graduate school application
- Network with graduate programs and peers
- Professional development

ONLY \$505.00
INCLUDING LODGING & MEALS

<http://mcnair.ku.edu/heartland-mcnair-conference>

+ TRIO Achievers

EOA 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. TRIO Achievers for 2015 were:



Dr. Vicki Gier
Associate Professor of Psychology
at Mississippi State University



Tracie Leix
Michigan Department
of Transportation

**** BE SURE TO NOMINATE YOUR ALUMNI FOR 2016 TRIO ACHIEVERS****

Time to start thinking about
who to nominate and
Recommend for this year's
TRIO Achiever Award at the upcoming
EOA Annual Conference



**Applications
Out Soon**

+ COE UPCOMING EVENTS: for more information www.coenet.us

June 11 – 16, 2016	27 th Annual National Student Leadership Congress	Georgetown University Washington, D.C.
August 14 – 15, 2016	McNair Innovative Forum	The Roosevelt New Orleans
August 15 – 16, 2016	McNair Proposal Writing Workshop	“ “ “
August 17 – 18, 2016	UB & UBMS Proposal Writing Workshop	“ “ “
Aug. 31 – Sept. 3, 2016	35 th Annual Conference	Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, CA
October 9 – 10, 2016	Upward Bound Proposal Writing Workshop	Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
October 11 – 12, 2016	McNair Proposal Writing Workshop	“ “ “
March 19 – 21, 2017	37 th Annual Policy Seminar	“ “ “

▼ ▲ ▼ TRIO Works! ▲ ▼ ▲ ▼ ▲ ▼ ▲ ▼ ▲ ▼

+ TRIO Advocacy

To welcome in the 2016 New Year, Council for Opportunity in Education's Board Chair, Trent Ball and Educational Opportunity Associations' President-Elect, Valdis Zalite attended an event at Harris-Stowe State University to participate in the VIP program for the 30th Annual Statewide Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Kick-off Program for Missouri.

Both Mr. Ball and Mr. Zalite planned on thanking the congressional leadership in attendance for their support of TRIO and EOP. During their visit, they were able to thank Senator Blunt, Representative Cleaver and Representative Clay for their support of TRIO and EOP programs in addition to taking a few photos. During the discussion, Representative Clay reminded them that he has always been a TRIO supporter!

We greatly appreciate our congressional leaders that support and advocate for TRIO and EOP programs and this is a great way to start our 2016 advocacy efforts!

