



### *A Note from the President*

EOA Membership,

Happy New Year to everyone on behalf of the Educational Opportunity Association (EOA) Board of Directors!

We hit the ground running this year and completed our first board meeting in St. Louis, Missouri in mid-January. This board meeting just so happened to coincide with a major ice storm with St. Louis right in the middle of the hardest hit area. This prevented some of our Board members from being in attendance in person but they attended via AdobeConnect and conference call. The ice did not stop us – we had a very productive meeting and started the year off strong! We were also able to have the first ELI meeting of the year. This year's ELI Class contains eight uniquely qualified and committed individuals – one leader representing each Chapter. The 2017 Emerging Leaders Institute Cohort is outlined by Chapter below and their location in the photo is found within the parentheses:

Illinois:	Shannon Williams (back row, middle)
Indiana:	Ronnell DuBose (back row, far right)
Iowa:	Tabatha Lamb (front row, right)
Michigan:	Ava McDowell (front row, left)
Minnesota:	Thomas Boylan (back row, second from right)
MO-KAN-NE:	Mark Patten (Not in photo due to inclement weather)
Ohio:	Adam Cinderich (back row, second from left)
Wisconsin:	Richard Emerson (back row, far left)



This year's ELI Trainer, Immediate Past COE Board Chair Trent Ball, has done a phenomenal job working with our regions outstanding ELI!

Moving forward, we have great plans for the year and look forward to connecting with you during upcoming activities and events. Please keep your eye out for our National Girls in STEM and Men of Excellence Conferences. Information promoting these great student-driven opportunities will be shared with all of you in the near future.

We hope everyone has had a great start to 2017!

Good luck to each and every one of you who will be writing and submitting grants in the near future.

Respectfully,

**Valdis Zalite, President**

This year's theme:  
**EOA: Engaging Professionals - Organizing Leaders - Aligning Priorities**



**2017 EOA Board**

Missing from the 2017 Board Photo due to weather: Past President Gregg, Treasurer Conley, Indiana President Kever, Indiana President-Elect Rodriguez and MO-KAN-NE President-Elect Cayton.

### **Policy Seminar - Meet Us on the Hill**

Policy is quickly approaching. This year's theme is *Now More Than Ever*. That being said, we strongly encourage our membership to advocate for TRIO and College Access and Success Programs on the Hill. Policy will occur Sunday-Wednesday, March 19-22, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

For additional information, please visit the following COE website: [http://www.coenet.org/policy\\_seminar.shtml](http://www.coenet.org/policy_seminar.shtml)

We will look forward to seeing you in D.C.!

**berg, Illinois**

## **Important Dates**

COE Policy Seminar: March 19-22, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

EOA Girls in STEM Student Leadership Conference: May 19 -21, 2017 in Mount Pleasant, Michigan

EOA Men of Excellence Student Leadership Conference: June 1-3, 2017 in Kent, Ohio

COE Annual Conference: September 13-16, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

Ronald E. McNair Conference: October 19-22, 2017 in Schaumburg, Illinois

EOA Annual Professional Conference: November 12-15, 2017 in Schaum



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