

EOA Update

Fall 2017

Special Edition



EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY
ASSOCIATION

A Note from the President

EOA Membership,

Serving as your President over the past year has truly been one of the most rewarding experiences in my lifetime. As a region, we help create national trends and provide tremendous support for the national advocacy initiatives that support TRIO, GEAR UP and College Access & Success programs. We have a lot to be proud of within EOA – we are strong, confident, supportive, and collaborative. Ultimately, we produce top-tier leadership more than any region in the country.

This has been a challenging year with grant competitions, budget related issues and real threats to the TRIO and College Access & Success community. However, we have met said challenges head on and will no doubt continue to do so as we move forward. Our career field is not easy but we continue to push the boundaries on behalf of the vision and mission of our work paired with the impact we have on students, staff, administrators, and faculty.

That being said, “Congratulations!” to all programs throughout our region that were refunded. You earned your grants and we all congratulate you!

In addition, for all Chapter leadership, please make sure to contact and congratulate all newly funded programs. Encourage and welcome them to be an active part of their Chapter and Regional Association here in EOA.

I must share a sincere “**Thank You**” with the following:

- Thank you to the EOA Board of Directors for an amazing year. We have all grown together, challenged each other and learned from our experiences.

Continued...

- Thank you to this year's ELI Class of 2017 Trainer, Mr. Trent Ball. You have done a stellar job working with and preparing this year's ELI for their opportunities ahead.
- Thank you to all of our Committee Chairs and Committee Members. Committee work is the foundation of our Association. You have all helped move our Association forward.
- Thank you to President-Elect Cseter. You provided strong support throughout the year and you are ready to assume your new duties as EOA President in November.
- Thank you to Past President Gregg for your unrelenting guidance, encouragement and willingness to share in direct conversation throughout the year. You were always there when I needed you.
- Thank you Madame Board Chair Monk-Morgan. We all look forward to a year under your leadership. Know that your EOA region is behind you every step of the way!

It has been a privilege to serve as your President and I am looking forward to future service on behalf of our great EOA region!

Respectfully shared,

Valdis Zalite, President

Educational Opportunity Association (EOA)

A Midwest Association of TRIO and College Access and Success Professionals

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Highlights from EOA Chapters

Illinois

- Revival of Student Leadership Conference at Eastern Illinois University
- Collaborated with COE for Alumni Celebration at DePaul University
- Collaborated with COE and DePaul University for STEM Fair
- Reinstated a 100% Full Board for the Year
- Installed Charter Members of the New Past-President Advisory Board Developed a *New Staff/Program Welcome Kit* to increase membership

Indiana

- First TRIO Alumni Picnic attended by over **100** alumni, students, families, and staff.
- Coordinated successful professional conference, student leadership conference, and policy seminar.

Iowa

- Exceeded participation goals for TRIO Day activities, the Iowa TRIO Spring Conference, Drive-In and the Student Leadership Conference.
- Increased membership by 17.5%. Our goal was 5%.
- New members resulting from outreach to professionals outside of TRIO programs.
- The Iowa TRIO Board utilizes a strategic plan for the first time.
- We did a mid-year review and most goals were met for the year

Michigan

- Two Chapter legacy Upward Bound projects celebrated 50 years (Oakland University and Michigan State University).
- Alignment of MI-CAPP' s Constitution and Bylaws with the rest of the region.
- 2017 Student Leadership Summit with attendance 300 and \$7,500 in scholarships was awarded, an inspiring keynote from Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President Emeritus of the Council for Opportunity in Education, and an introductory workshop by COE President-Elect Kaye Monk-Morgan and MI-CAPP Past President William Tandy.
- Created a chapter strategic plan.
- Exceeded COE Fair Share -119%.
- Hosted the 2017 EOA National Girls in STEM Conference at Central Michigan University

Highlights *(Continued)*

Minnesota

- This year's main focus was on maintaining MN TRIO as a strong chapter within the Association.
- There are 172 active members as of 10-29-17.
- Resources development activities and key initiatives such as MILES are currently being evaluated.

MO-KAN-NE

- MKN Strategic Plan for the next four years.
- MKN annual conference with 143 in attendance.
- MKN Adult Student Leadership Conference, with 61 in attendance.
- MKN Pre-College Student Leadership Conference with 242 in attendance.
- MKN McNair Heartland Conference with 124 student sessions, 12 poster presentations and 38 graduate fair exhibitors.
- Developed the MILE Program (Members Involved in Leadership and Engagement).
- Inducted Trent Ball, former COE Board Chair; EOA President and MKN President into the 2017 MKN Hall of Fame.

Ohio

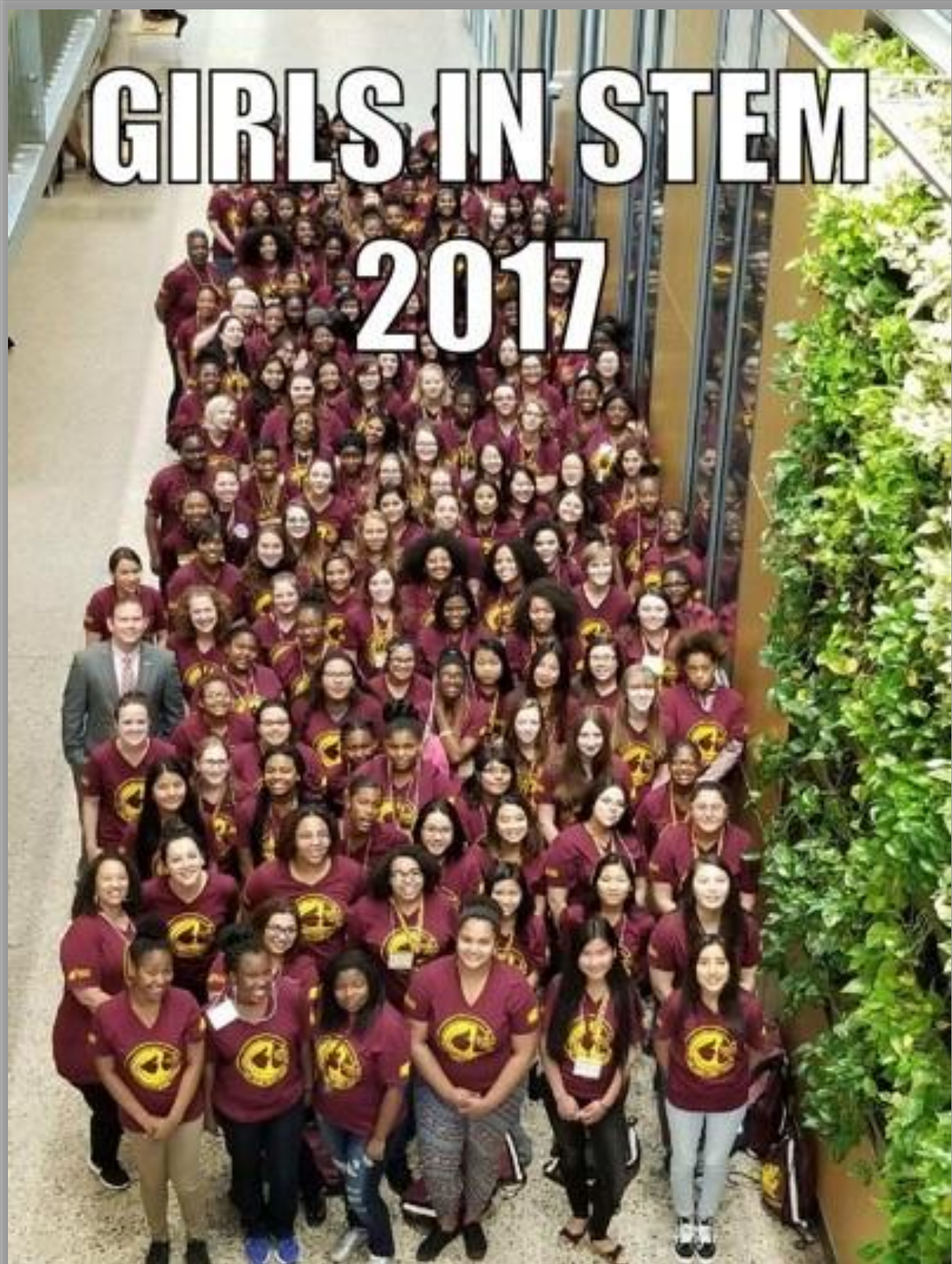
- This year both professional and student conferences were successful. Our Theme for both conferences: "Advocacy is our Legacy: Next Generation".
- Wittenberg University's Upward Bound program had its funding restored.
- Increased the number of new professionals who attended the state professional conference.
- Met fair share.
- Finalized the update of the constitution.
- Completed a strategic plan.

Wisconsin

- Thirty members attended the Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Sixty members attended our spring conference, which earned revenue over expenses.
- More than 300 students participated in the McNair/SSS retreat. This event continues to be the major source of revenue for our chapter.
- Chapter's Constitution and Strategic Plan were approved earlier this year..



GIRLS IN STEM 2017



Leadership Institute at Princeton

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Executive Leadership Institute for College Opportunity Professionals was held at Princeton University September 28 – October 1, 2017. Five chapter leaders from the EOA region were able to attend the Institute.

Here is what they had to say about their experience:



"The Institute was a wonderful experience! I especially appreciated the opportunity to work in partnership with COE staff and other professionals from around the nation who have made it their mission to advocate for students to have access to and success in postsecondary education. I was excited to learn about additional opportunities available to our students to help them maximize their strengths. The theme of leadership development was evident throughout, and I returned with a renewed vigor to assist in providing leadership to the MKN Chapter, to advocate for the students we serve, and to be fully engaged in this important work. A huge thank you to those who made it possible for me to attend!"

Julie Cayton, MKN President-Elect

"The Executive Leadership Institute hosted at Princeton University in September was an amazing experience! I truly enjoyed being able to connect with other state leaders and collaborate on ways in which we can each lead our states to better support TRIO on a larger platform. I believe the energy we took away from the conference will propel each of us forward in our own chapters. I look forward to continuing my work and working with others who have the same passion for TRIO. "

Melissa Merkel, MI-CAPP, Incoming President-Elect

"The leadership training was an empowering experience. Princeton University and its partners shared relevant approaches to student success that we can integrate in our daily work as TRIO practitioners. Princeton emphasized the institutional buy-in required to make long-term change and impact for our students. TRIO must be a voice during institutional conversations about admission, enrollment, retention, and graduation. The charge was heard clearly. In addition, professional development opportunities like these allow us to connect more deeply with our colleagues. It's special to share an experience of this magnitude as a cohort of TRIO peers. I look forward to the growth and discovery!"

Catalina Rodriguez, IN President-Elect

"Participating in the Executive Leadership Institute at Princeton University was a phenomenal professional opportunity. This unique partnership between Princeton and COE was rewarding in so many ways. It was my first visit to Princeton University and such a beautiful, historic campus. As I toured the campus, I visited a gallery of Princeton's famous alum and found the photo of the former First Lady, Michelle Obama! The workshop sessions were enlightening, which led to engaging, fruitful discussions and bonding with the presenters, as well as with new and familiar colleagues. I was impressed to learn about the history of Princeton's early connections to TRIO, and how they are providing even more support for first-generation, income-eligible students to attend an elite institution. I was so proud to represent Minnesota TRIO, and I feel even more energized about my important work as a college access and success professional. Thanks so much for the opportunity."

Dr. Jennifer Brookins-King, MN, Incoming President-Elect

"I was afforded an opportunity to join other college access professionals from across the country, to engage in dialogue and activities centered on partnership and leadership development. The Institute led me to expand my thinking regarding partnerships among college access and success professionals. In addition, I learned about unheard of opportunities for low-income/first generation students, available at institutions with selective admissions criteria, such as Princeton University. While the concept of "partnership development" may seem easy to grasp, as a TRIO professional, I've learned that we can unknowingly place limits on our students, our programs, as well as ourselves, although we are meant to reach far beyond the scope of our daily interactions. I am thankful to COE, EOA, Illinois TRIO and my institution, for affording me the opportunity to develop as a leader in college access and success."

Dr. Nayshon T. Mosley, IL TRIO, President-Elect



Emerging Leader Institute (ELI): Class of 2017

By Trent T. Ball – Lead Instructor, Emerging Leader Institute

The ELI Class of 2017 exemplified the changes and evolution of the Institute through the connections, collaboration, projects and passion for mission of leadership exploration, development and commitment.

After taking a hiatus in 2016 the Emerging Leader Institute returned, each Chapter now has one representative, the projects were designed by President Zalite to continue to evolve the ELI planning and processing and collectively we "jumped all in" to preparing the next cohort of chapter and regional leaders.

Using John Maxwell's "5 Levels of Leadership" we explored the core of leadership, the tenets of leading and the importance of "knowing your season". We discussed leading within and beyond the TRIO and College Access & Success field and branding our work within the larger scope of Higher Education and Social Justice.

Three key projects, hosting a ELI Reunion (scheduled within the Annual Conference), presenting a conference panel session on ELI (scheduled within the Annual Conference) and writing an Op-Ed article on Advocacy (being completed in our last session) all challenged and stretched the ELIs to develop individually while working together collectively to continue the tradition of providing opportunities for the membership to learn about "the process" while honoring what has made ELI in EOA the premier leadership institute in the TRIO community.



Moving forward there are ELI that are assuming leadership roles immediately within their Chapter, ELI that are moving into regional roles and committees and ELI that are planning their next leadership level professionally or personally. We definitely exemplified the "trust the process" mantra of ELI and at the graduation the ELI 2017 cohort will move from "emerging" to "taking the wheel".

CONGRATULATIONS!



EOA is extremely excited to have our very own

V. Kaye Monk-Morgan

Installed as

Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Board Chair

for the coming year.



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Thank you
for your service
and for helping to move
EOA forward!
#TRIOWORKS



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