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Leadership Requires Courage...

The 2015 board year is well underway and your elected leadership has continued the work to “upgrade our Association.” I have never worked with a more dedicated group of passionate and engaged professionals. The 2015 MAEOPP Board of Directors is working diligently to position our Association for the next 40 years. While the work is getting done, it is the courageous conversations and willingness to be entrepreneurial that inspire me most.

The desire to engage in a branding campaign for the Association has required the Board and reporting committees to do some in-depth reflection on the purpose of our Association. The Purpose Statement in the MAEOPP Constitution has been our guiding light during our conversations (Article 2). Questions like who are our customers? Who are our competitors? What are our core values? And what does MAEOPP stand for? Are ones that your board has wrestled with over the last two months? I imagine that some of our discussions are repeats of those had nearly 40 years ago at the Abbey. Where do we go from here and what does the future hold are key questions on the minds of those who gather around the leadership table in the name of MAEOPP.

Your Board is confronting issues of race and gender via our student leadership conferences. They are working to diversify funding streams to insure the financial health of our Association for years to come by partnering with like-minded organizations and corporate entities. And they are creating strategies to leverage relationships to increase service delivery to TRIO staff, EOP students and college access and success professionals in our communities.

Your MAEOPP leaders are evaluating current trends and creating opportunities to affirm our position as the thought leader and subject area expert in student access, retention and graduation in the Mid-West.

I am proud of the folks with which I serve. I am appreciative of the ideas and challenges that are shared and I call upon you to thank them for their service and dedication to creating a bright path forward for the next 40 years. We stand on a solid foundation of social justice, civil rights and empowerment for low-income, first-generation persons, abled-bodied and not, who desire a path to a better life. At first chance... take the opportunity to thank them

for doing so.

Proud of my Peeps!

V. Kaye Monk-Morgan

TRIO and the Re-authorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965

The Council for Opportunity in Education has established the following talking points related to Re-authorization. As an EOP community, it is important that we are well versed on the following to educate our congressional leaders.

1. Relieve Regulatory Burden

- The TRIO community proposes that the Act shift responsibility for the tracking of program participants to the Department of Education, which has a far greater capacity to do so.
- The TRIO community also proposes that the Act consider expanding TRIO eligibility to other student aid programs. For example, we support the use of Pell Grant eligibility as an additional alternative means of verifying student eligibility for SSS programs.

2. Clarify Outcome criteria

- Amend outcome criteria for SSS to allow grantees to recognize the positive value of transfer before receipt of an associate's degree.
- Amend outcome criteria to reflect "acceptance and enrollment of students in graduate programs within 24 months of receipt of the baccalaureate degree, separate "continued enrollment" and "attainment of doctoral degrees" into two separate outcome criteria and increase the maximum research stipend to \$4,000 per year.
- Amend the requirement for enrollment of high school dropouts into GED programs to allow for additional time (i.e. 2 years)

3. Simplify the Appeals Process

- Specify that the Secretary shall not deny a second review to eligible applicants that can demonstrate evidence of a scoring error and fell within three (3) points of the final "cut off" score and that the Secretary shall not reserve or otherwise withhold funds during the initial grand award period in order to fund successful appeals.

4. Preserve Congressional Priorities

- The TRIO community proposes that the authorizing Committees include language in the re-authorization bill that prohibits the Secretary from instituting competitive preference or other priorities absent congressional approval.

For more information about Re-authorization, go to the [COE website.](#)



Each month I want to highlight some of the terrific happenings in the chapters that make up our region. Last month, I shared Ohio's webinar from TRIO day.

Take a minute and review the [Indiana TRIO Fact Book](#), shared with congressional leaders at Policy Seminar. Kudos, Shubitha Kever and President Yecenia Tostado.

2015 MKN Hall of Fame Inductee

Congratulations to Dr. Kathleen V. Greene, Director of Educational Supportive Services and the McNair Scholars Program at Kansas State University. Dr. Green was recently inducted into the MKN Hall of Fame during the MKN Annual Conference in Kansas City, MO April 2, 2015.



Emerging Leaders Institute

Have you considered making application to the MAEOPP Emerging Leader's Institute (ELI)? Do you know someone who has learned the ropes of program management, is trained in their job and ready to take on



Planning for the upcoming MAEOPP 41st Annual Conference is underway. The Conference Planning Committee is working to provide an educational and inspiring conference. Registration will go live in April. Hotel reservations can be



Make your vote count. MAEOPP Officer Elections are currently underway. Ballots will be emailed the week of April 6, 2015 and voting will take place until April 20, 2015.

The candidates are:
President Elect: Valdis Zalite (MKN) or Jeremiah Wright (IL)
Treasurer: Mike Conley (MKN)
Secretary: Jasmina Nolan (OH) or Ellie

training for future leadership roles in your chapter or region? If so, it's time to nominate that person to be an 2016 ELI.

ELI is the formal mechanism for leadership development and succession planning for the Association. ELI participants get exposure to current board happening, training on topics related to chapter and Association operations, and personal and professional development opportunities.

The Emerging Leaders Institute is perfect for persons who envision a career that includes service to their professional association. Contact your chapter president for details.

made now at the beautiful Grand Amway Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, MI.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Steve Perry, a 2010 National TRIO Achiever and Principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School in New Haven, Connecticut, will open the conference during a community-wide occasion. Dr. Perry is a regular contributor to CNN, Oprah's Master Class and MSNBC.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear from this national, education leader. Your registration covers admission to this event.

Burns (IL) or Ce Merrigan (MKN) or Corinne Nilsen (MKN)

Those persons elected will be installed in November of 2015 at the Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI November 15-18, 2015.

The MAEOPP Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the passing of Wardsey Gates, the Director of Tri-C's Veterans' Upward Bound Program. Wardsey died while attending the National VUB Conference. His life was celebrated on March 28th. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wardsey's family, colleagues and students.



**It's about the MONEY!
Restoration before Innovation!**

The activity on the Hill this week indicates, in no uncertain way, that it is budget time in Washington, D.C. The President's Budget, recently released, requested a \$20

Policy Seminar

I am writing this note while flying home from the 35th Annual Policy Seminar

Hosted by our Council for Opportunity in Education. I was inspired, just like last year and the year before that, by the professionals who give of their time and resources, some of them personal, in order to take our case and that of our students to Capitol Hill.

Thank you to the 150 + professionals that represented the students and families of the MAEOPP region.

Thanks too to Illinois President Aaron Cortes for this video highlighting our day of advocacy.

Everyone isn't able to attend Policy Seminar, but everyone is able and to be an advocate. It's nice to have a show of force on the Hill, but the commitment to that force is demonstrated at home, in the districts by the voters. I encourage you to engage in the advocacy part of EOP professionalism. Your MAEOPP Contingent visited 97 or 112 legislators from our region.

* Eighty-four of those legislators agreed to visit a TRIO/EOP program in their district

* 43 agreed to join to TRIO Caucus.

* And several agreed to support an increase in funding for TRIO.

Call to hold them accountable for those words. If you are unsure how to help with advocacy at this level, contact your chapter Legislation and Education Chair or MAEOPP Legislation and Education Co-Chairs Maggie Burkhead

Million dollar increase for TRIO. The increase would reportedly fund innovation opportunities, research and demonstration projects.

The TRIO Community, with the support and guidance of the Council, is asking Congress for a \$65 Million dollar increase in the FY 2016 budget. We want full restoration of TRIO funding, back to Bush Era levels, prior to an investment by the Obama Administration in innovation of projects.

Where does the \$65 million go?

- \$33 Million will provide a 4% increase to current projects. This will help restore funding to Bush Era days and lessen the damage to students in underfunded programs.
- \$12 Million will allow for some expansion of both Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers during the upcoming fall competition.
- \$20 Million will support the Administration's initiatives related to demonstration projects, innovation and research.

Letters to both Senate and House Appropriators were circulated in Congress with hopes of getting tens of signatures of support. Check to see if your congressional delegation signed the letter to support a funding increase for TRIO of \$65 Million today!

(mburkhead@maeopp.org or Tallie Sertich (L&E@Maeopp.org) for ideas on how to get involved.

The list of Appropriators in MAEOPP is listed here for your information and use. [US House Senate](#)



Fair Share and Institutional Memberships

The Spring Campaign for COE Institutional Memberships is coming. Programs whose memberships expire prior to December 2015 are encouraged to pay their memberships early in order to get a \$300 discount.

The deadline for meeting our Fair Share is June 30th. Have you done your part to keep our national office funded and working on your behalf? Please consider a personal donation today.

Did you know that competitions for Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers will be held this year? Per the information shared at Policy Seminar, Talent Search applications will be due in mid-November. Don't let your grant writing stop you from attending the conference. Grant writing workshops sponsored by the Council are underway and Technical Assistance workshops by the Department of Education will be advertised soon. Check the MAEOPP website for information related to the competitions as updates become available.

- **SSS Grant Competition - Results due August 10, 2015**
- **EOC Grant Competition - Nov/Dec 2015 deadline (ED to hold 5 on-site and 5- on-line trainings)**
- **Talent Search Grant Competition - Dec/Jan 2016 deadline (ED to hold 5 on-site and 5- on-line trainings)**



Policy Seminar 2015 - Fist bumps, Vines and Selfies Galore!

SCIENCE — TECHNOLOGY — ENGINEERING — MATHEMATICS

**GIRLS
IN STEM**

Atom symbol, Pi symbol, Rocket, Gear

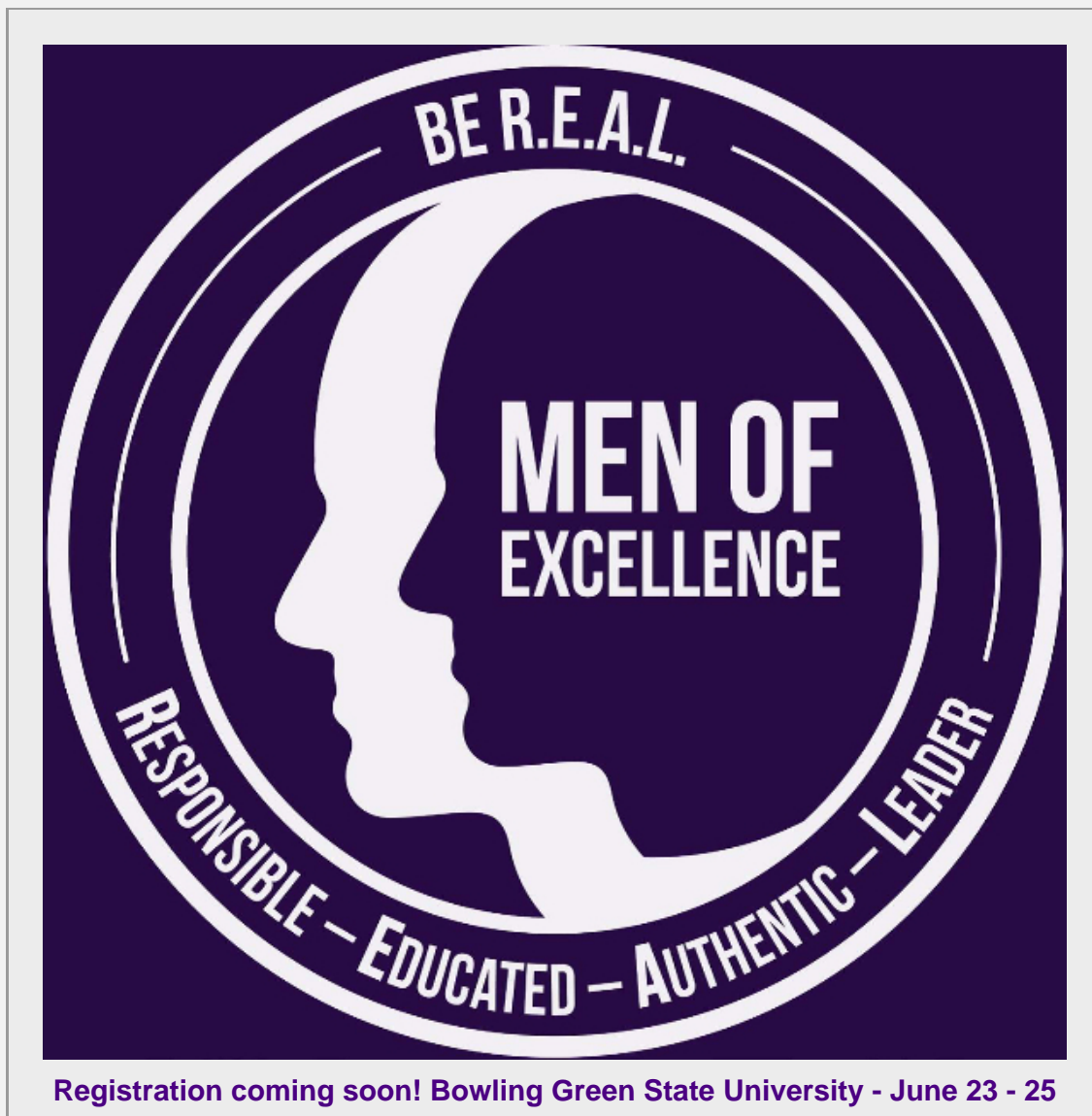
TRIO **MAEOPP**

Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

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

**Registration is Live! GIS - Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
May 29th - 30th**

COMING SOON!
MAEOPP Membership Management System!
Watch your email for you invitation to set up your profile.



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