



OAEOPP 2007-2008
Policy, Politics & Partnerships
2007-2008
Association Updates
November 15, 2007

Dear OAEOPP membership:

I am very excited to step into the role as your President! I believe I have been guided and prepared well by those who have come before me to take on this endeavor and help lead us collectively forward on behalf of our students, families, and members.

This year's theme has been put forth by Dr. Mitchem's remarks at the MAEOPP conference – *Policy, Politics, & Partnerships*. As outlined below, Dr. Mitchem called on TRIO to move beyond the margins of our institutions and states to actively engage in the *policy, politics, and partnerships* that affect the students we serve and the social movement that is TRIO. I believe strongly in this message for the year and the call placed on all of us to actively engage in the business, activities, and events of OAEOPP to achieve these goals.

We are at a critical time as we hold meaningful conversations across the state and federal level about our role and goals as a state association. The input from all of our members is needed as we make decisions to strengthen OAEOPP's ability to leverage resources, input, and expertise on behalf of our students and families.

Please take time to review the dates for the year and get involved by attending events and/or serving as a committee chair or member. We truly need you if we are to impact and engage in *policy, politics, and partnerships* across the state and nation. Specifically, please join us on Friday, December 7 as we plan, strategize and organize for the many great events we have in store this year. The meeting will be held in Columbus with specific details to come.

Please find below several updates regarding Association activities, the MAEOPP conference, and upcoming dates. I appreciate feedback and suggestions at dlawless@kent.edu or 330-672-8681. I look forward to a dynamic year as we move OAEOPP collectively forward on behalf of first-generation, low income families in Ohio!

Sincerely,

Dana Lawless-Andric
President, Ohio Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel



Important Updates

OAEOPP Board Meeting Updates held Monday, November 5:

- ↳ **Job Well Done!** Congratulations President Sidney Childs! He led us well and gave much of his own professional and personal time. Thank you hardly seems enough! Also, a sincere thank you to Sherice Freeman and John Vesalo for their service as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Their contributions have been truly appreciated and will be missed. Finally, big congratulations to our ELI's – Kendra Preer & Dorlisa Coe – Job well done! We expect big things!!
- ↳ **Executive Board:** Dana Lawless-Andric, President; Gary Williams, President-Elect; Sidney Childs, Past President; Ralonda Ellis-Hill, Secretary; Amy Reed, Treasurer; and, Rose Nelson, Parliamentarian.
- ↳ **Key discussions and decisions:**
 - Discussion: Consideration for OAEOPP name change, Ad Hoc committee put together, chair Brenda Payne-Riley to discuss potential names and implications with recommendations provided by the January OAEOPP Business meeting.
 - Decisions: OAEOPP will become a member of the Ohio College Access Network; OAEOPP will provide \$500 to the Ralph Pruitt fund.
 - Discussion to identify Public Relations Firm to represent OAEOPP, please send any referrals to Dan Schneider as we plan to solidify a firm by December 7.

MAEOPP Updates:

- ↳ Dr. Mitchem from the COE spoke at the conference and highlighted the information below:
 - **FY 08 Appropriations:** TRIO funding increased with HR 2669; if Labor-HHS bill overrides the President's veto, TRIO may get additional \$30million in addition to increases for GEAR-UP & Pell monies.
 - 15 Bi-partisan Senators sent letter to Inspector General regarding questionable practices during the Talent Search/Educational Opportunity Center grant review. The Inspector General is investigating the concerns and a review is underway by COE regarding the UB grant review process.
 - **Absolute Priority** –“Direct assault on who we are as a community of professionals.” 25 years ago the Educational Amendments of 1980 (HR5192) was established to govern the services, functions, policy of TRIO so as to protect against the Department of Education using discretionary ruling to implement things like the Absolute Priority. The Brown-Harkin Bill (go Ohio Senator Brown) will suspend/kill this measure.

- UB Evaluation – the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act includes language to disallow the evaluation as we know it.
- The College Cost Reduction Act is our Educational Amendment act from the 1980's and allowed TRIO to use money from Student Loan lenders via a reconciliation vote to fund down the UB slate and fund defunded UB programs! UBMS, VUB, and McNair slates were announced past the date to qualify for money from this Act. COE on behalf of TRIO were able to secure this money because of the strong voices of the entire TRIO community!
- Lessons Learned & Looking Forward:
 - TRIO needs to think differently - *Policy, Politics & Partnerships* key as a conceptual theme.
 - TRIO needs to work to erase our marginal status at an institutional, state, regional, and federal level.
 - TRIO needs to stay rooted in our cause as a Social Equality and Awareness movement
 - Resources need to be used wisely to work toward impact and conscious changing
 - ALUMNI – our best untapped resource
 - Partnerships are critical
- ↳ Opening MAEOPP Speaker – Rebecca Leets, Public Relations:
 - Message Matters and we need to learn to communicate in revolutionary ways! Develop strategic messages that meet the needs of the people we are talking with to get the results that we are working toward.
- ↳ New MAEOPP Board took office:
 - President Joe Flores, Treasurer Bob Jenkins, Past President Mary Moore, Secretary Jameta May, President Elect Ngondi Kamatuka, Parliamentarian Don Campbell.

State Updates:

- ↳ Key meetings have been held and attended by OAEOPP representatives details and updates will be provided at the December 7 planning meeting

Upcoming dates and planning:

- ↳ December 7: Critical Ohio state-wide planning day
 - Goals for the year outlined
 - Revisit to Strategic Plan
 - Committee and Ad Hoc work time
 - Lunch and networking with your TRIO colleagues
- ↳ January 18: OAEOPP Business Meeting
- ↳ February 13: TRIO Policy Seminar
- ↳ February 22-24: TRIO Student Leadership Conference with the American Management Association
- ↳ March 9-12: COE Policy Seminar and Department of Education Seminar
- ↳ April 9: Ohio Access Partners Legislative Breakfast
- ↳ April 20-22: Professional Conference