

Ohio TRiO Chapter Report

Gary Williams, President

Date: October 2-3, 2009; Final Report 2009

As Ohio TRiO looks forward to the fall transition of new leadership at our Annual MAEOPP Conference, we can reflect on the progress made over the past year and look at the challenges ahead. It should be noted that the Ohio TRiO Strategic Plan put in place for 2005-2009 is expiring and must be reviewed along with our Constitution, last amended in 1998. While much has been accomplished, much work remains for Ohio TRiO to remain a dynamic and relevant organization. The accomplishments and challenges listed below attempt to highlight some of the work that has been done and some of the work that lies ahead:

Accomplishments

1. Ohio TRiO has worked hard to advocate for first generation/low-income students and this work has resulted in TRiO participation in decisions affecting our students and members and increased recognition by state and national education leaders and political leaders of the value of TRiO. This work is manifested in participation on a state level access and success planning committee, events such as the Annual Ohio TRiO Policy Day, monthly "Legislative Update" newsletters, participation in state level Access and Success committees, strong member participation in the COE Annual Policy Seminar and co-sponsoring the annual Access and Success Breakfast for state legislators and education leaders. For these efforts of many Ohio TRiO leaders over the year, our chapter received the "Exemplary Practices" award in the area of State Advocacy at the 2009 Council of Opportunity in Education 39th Annual Conference in San Antonio.

Challenge

As the political landscape and governance structure of Ohio's education policies continue to evolve, Ohio TRiO will need to continue to push hard in making our leaders aware of the need for and opportunities provided through TRiO program services. As new access and success programs continue to emerge on the state and national stage, we need to insure that our history, our mission and our accomplishments continue to set us apart from others, while at the same time remaining open to forming new partnerships with other organizations for the benefit of our students. Ohio TRiO must continue to nurture key relationships with elected leaders such as Senator Sherrod Brown, our to-be-elected U.S. Senator replacing Sen. George Voinovich at the end of his current term, and with state agencies such as the Ohio Board of Regents and Ohio Department of Education.

Accomplishments

2. Efforts to organize Ohio TRiO Alumni have begun and we are seeing local alumni groups starting to become active. An ad-hoc committee on Alumni Relations was organized with the charge of developing our alumni base for the purpose of advocating on behalf of our programs and students and providing financial support for student scholarships. The first Ohio TRiO Alumni Newsletter will be sent out in October, 2009.

Challenge

TRiO Alumni remains a great untapped human capital and financial resource for our students. We will need to focus on developing a state strategy for developing grassroots alumni involvement throughout the state. With over 44000 Ohio TRiO students moving through our programs at any given time, the potential for alumni growth and involvement is significant.

Accomplishments

3. Our organization's name change and 50 c3 status became official in 2009, changing from The Ohio Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (OAEOPP) to Ohio TRiO. The achievement of non-profit status and name change and marketing plan was a culmination of deliberate and thorough efforts begun under the administration of OAEOPP President Sidney Childs, continued under the administration of OAEOPP President Dana Lawless-Andric, and completed under the current Ohio TRiO administration.

Challenges

The process of changing our organization's name, creating a marketing strategy and moving to non-profit status, while necessary, was expensive. Ohio TRiO will need to develop a short and long-term income strategy to provide income other than member dues and income from professional and student leadership conferences. Membership will need to increase and the membership dues structure should be revised to reflect our changing organizational structure, program and membership needs. Ohio TRiO should continue to look at possible program enhancement opportunities and funding to be made available through state agencies as a result of federally funded stimulus programs administered by the state.

Accomplishments

4. Communication efforts this year have resulted in quarterly membership newsletters, student alumni newsletter (coming in October), newsletters (Legislative Update) to our state and national legislators and educational leaders, and use of the Ohio TRiO Listserve and website to communicate scholarship opportunities, grants alumni and member information.

Challenge

Current budgetary constraints are holding back the potential for the re-structuring of the Ohio TRiO website. This website will be critical as the state-wide effort to organize as Ohio's TRiO Alumni takes root. The new administration will need to work on possible funding to fulfill this part of our new marketing plan. One possible source of untapped revenue would be the selling of webpage advertising to approved TRiO vendors.

5. Leadership Development remains a primary mission of Ohio TRiO. Our 2008-2009 ELIs have been engaged and we look forward to their leadership in the future. We have submitted the names of four ELI candidates to MAEOPP for the 2009-2010 year. Ohio TRiO elections were held in July and August for the 2009-2010 year with the following results:

President-Elect: Bonita Bemby
Secretary : Alexis Sherman
Treasurer : Amy Reed

These individuals will join current President-Elect Dorlisa Coe in forming the Ohio TriO

Leadership Team in 2009-2010. Gary Williams will be serving in the capacity of Past-President.

Ohio TRiO successfully conducted a Professional Development Conference and Student Leadership Conference in March 2009. Dates for the 2010 Conferences are as follows:

Ohio TRiO Professional Conference, April 18-20, 2010 Crowne Plaza North, Columbus, OH.

Ohio TRiO Student Leadership Conference, March 5-7, 2010, Crowne Plaza North, Columbus, OH.

Ohio TRiO student membership grew significantly during 2009. Current Ohio TRiO Professional membership stands at 128.

Challenges

Increasing Professional memberships remains a challenge as we need to find new ways to communicate the mission and value of Ohio TRiO to all TRiO professionals and host institutions. Increasing student membership remains both a challenge and an opportunity. Ohio TriO programs serve 44000 students and adults annually. We need to significantly increase the number of Student memberships and correspondingly increase the leadership and member services opportunities available to our student members at the state and regional levels. The level of support for Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) members should be increased in conjunction with MAEOPP support to allow full participation in the COE Policy Seminar.

Summary

It would be impossible to thank all of the many people who have served Ohio TRiO this year. We remain a 100 percent volunteer organization. This is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of Ohio TRiO members, but it is also a challenge as we strive to move forward with a busy agenda in the coming years. Accomplishments and progress made in addition to what is previously listed includes:

- Increased partnerships with organizations such as the Ohio Diversity Officers Coalition and College Goal Sunday
- Meeting 146% of our Fair Share Goal
- Successful Professional and Student Leadership Conferences. Completed contract negotiations for the 2010 and 2011 Ohio TRiO Professional and Student Leadership Conferences
- Receiving COE grant funding for our State Initiative efforts (Ohio TRiO Policy Day)
- Published 5 editions of Legislative Update as part of our ongoing advocacy efforts
- Completed name transition from OAEOPP to Ohio TRiO and gained 501c3 approval
- Supported 2 ELIs for 2009 and selected 2 ELIs for 2010
- Initiated statewide fundraising campaign-\$90 in 09.
- Sponsored the Annual Ohio TRiO Policy Day and co-sponsored Annual Access and Success Breakfast for Ohio legislators and leaders
- SSS Grant Writing Workshop
- Successful Audits of finances.
- Revised Fiscal Policy and Procedures Manual
- Initiated discussions on participating in stimulus funds