

A message from the President

Thank you for electing me to serve as your president. This isn't a role I take lightly.

This past year has been a season of change and growth for me. I became director of a new TRIO Student Support Services program at North Central State College in December 2010. Since then, I have worked tirelessly building a program from the ground up. And while there have been challenges, I did not back down. Instead, I planted my feet firmly into the ground and met the challenges head on. The most important thing to remember when building anything is to have a strong foundation. When the foundation is solid, things may sway with the wind but they won't give way. My foundation is God and I pray He keeps me strong through this journey.

Ohio TRIO, I share my story with you because Ohio TRIO must also have a strong foundation. Bonita Bemby used *The Building Blocks of TRIO* as her theme over the past year. I believe she has a clear understanding of what it means to have a strong foundation. Further, Sidney Childs developed a theme for MAEOPP to remind the membership of the importance of planning and progressing into the future. The theme is "Charting Our Course Envisioning Our Future Leading beyond the Horizon." I believe Sidney is a visionary leader who understands that leaders must focus on today while keeping an eye on what is to come in the future.

Members of Ohio TRIO, we stand on the shoulders of many wonderful past leaders who have helped to get us to where we are today. **We** have a rich legacy of trend setting and difference making. Now, it is up to us to take Ohio TRIO to the next level.

Please mark your calendars for **Friday December 9, 2011**. On that day, I will host a planning meeting for the membership in **Columbus at DoubleTree by Hilton-Columbus/Worthington**. The meeting will begin promptly at **10am and should last until 3pm**. The address to DoubleTree by Hilton-Columbus/Worthington is 175 Hutchinson Avenue Columbus, OH 43235. This is the hotel that will host both the Student Leadership and Annual Professional Conferences.

Ohio TRIO will provide lunch for meeting attendees therefore, it is requested that you email Lindsey Mickler (l.mickler@csuohio.edu) to RSVP no later than close of business Monday December 5, 2011. At the bottom of the email are the three meal options.

Please choose one and identify any special dietary requirements. If you do not identify a meal choice, one will be selected for you.

During the meeting, the membership will discuss Ohio TRIO's goals for the year which are:

1. To regain Ohio TRIO's momentum in building state partnerships and strengthening our impact on state and national policies.
2. To develop a strategic plan that will lead Ohio TRIO into 2017.

3. To transform Ohio TRIO's message by revamping Ohio TRIO's website and using social media.
4. Work to align Ohio TRIO's Constitution and Bylaws with the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP) Constitution and Bylaws.
5. Engage newly grant funded programs and new directors of educational opportunity programs across the state.
6. Reengage past and current Ohio TRIO members.
7. Meet or exceed our fair share goal.
8. Research funding opportunities for the Ralph J. Pruitt Scholarship fund.

The above goals are reflective of this year's theme: Back to Basics: The Beginning of a New Tomorrow. We are setting course to remember the rich history of Ohio TRIO while also forging ahead to provide a tomorrow for first generation, low-income, disability and veteran students. Before you leave the meeting today, I request that each of you sign-up to participate on a committee. Your contribution is vitally important to the continued growth and development of great organization.

Ohio TRIO, what legacy do you want to leave behind?

Meal options for the meeting – Please select ONE and ONE drink choice (bottled water or Coke product)

Turkey Avocado Swiss Cheese

Oven-Roasted Turkey Breast, Avocado, Swiss Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato on Croissant. Includes Mayonnaise and Mustard on the Side.
Includes Chips, Chocolate Chip Cookie, and a Piece of Whole Fresh Fruit.
Choice of Bottled Water or Soda, Utensils and a Moist Towelette.

Boar's Head®Ham and Havarti Cheese

Boar's Head ®Ham, Havarti Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato on Wheat Bread.
Includes Mayonnaise and Mustard on the Side, Chips, a Chocolate Chip Cookie, and a Piece of Whole Fresh Fruit.
Choice of Bottled Water or Soda, Utensils and a Moist Towelette.

Vegetarian Wrap

Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Fresh Red Peppers, Vegetables Coleslaw, and Fresh Spinach with Traditional Hummus Wrapped Inside a Spinach Tortilla.
Includes Chips, Chocolate Chip Cookie, and a Piece of Whole Fresh Fruit.
Choice of Bottled Water or Soda, Utensils and a Moist Towelette.

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"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence." Unknown