

## **Presidential Report from Bonita Bembry**

**November 2011**

### **GOALS FOR 2011**

1. Alumni support for the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Annual Policy Seminar.
2. Conduct two student (pre-college and college) and two professional development conferences with support from membership and alumni
3. Expand use of the new logo through branding and marketing for the association, which includes a new website and banner
4. Development of a strong alumni database and alumni association
5. Strategic plan for 2011-2015
6. Increase the membership of the chapter
7. Align the Ohio Chapter Constitution and Bylaws with the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP) Constitution and Bylaws
8. Fundraising for Fair Share contribution and state scholarships
9. Increase outreach to and participation from membership

### **ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**OHIO FUNDED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTERS  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

Cuyahoga Community College

Educational Partners, Inc.

Shawnee State University

Cincinnati State Technical and Community College

University of Cincinnati

Eastern Gateway Community College (new award)

Tammy Tucker and Phyllis Swanigan helped Ohio TRiO make any day a day of service during the month of February 2011 – thank you. This year Ohio TRiO celebrated, reflected and initiated actions that would focus the attention of a community around the need for increased access to high education for disadvantaged students FOR TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS. Participating programs – Baldwin Wallace UB, Bowling Green State University UB, Central State University UB and SSS, Eastern Gateway SSS, University of Akron UB and Wittenberg University UB.

A special thank you to Terry Webb for designing and compiling our 2011 Ohio TRiO At-A-Glance Fact Book. The book was delivered to eighteen Ohio Representatives, Senator Sherrod Brown and Senator Rob Portman by Ohio TRiO professionals during the Council for Opportunity in Education Annual Policy Seminar, March 6-9, 2011. And a second special thank you to Bari Ewing for organizing our visit to the Hill. Seventeen professionals were in attendance, including TRiO Achiever Kimberly Fields (University of Akron Upward Bound Math Science).

Much appreciation to Terrie Cook and Tonya Colbert, and their committee members for an outstanding 29th Annual Ohio TRiO Student Leadership Summit. The summit convened on March 25-27, 2011. This gathering of 168 student leaders and staff took place at the Crowne Plaza North in Columbus, Ohio. Our theme was The Building Blocks of Ohio TRiO. The foundation building blocks are the seven Ohio TRiO programs. Additional blocks were created and added with each event or activity during the year. The Student Leadership Summit featured non-athletic and academic SKILL CHALLENGE OLYMPICS. The challenges gave all student attendees the opportunity to work together as a team and individually. The non-athletic experience was held at The Ohio State University on Friday. The skills of each student leader were tested as they completed challenges and earned points for their team. The academic experience was titled JOTS – Jeopardy Ohio TRiO Style. Student leaders competed with students from other programs to earn individual points in a unique answer-and-question format, using the Ohio Graduation Test curriculum. Another feature of the Student Leadership Summit highlighted the 2011 Ohio TRiO Achievers at each plenary session. Students had the opportunity to be encouraged by program alumni as they shared their TRiO story.

Seven nominations were received, and three 2011 Ohio TRiO Achievers were elected and received an award.

1. Jasmine Jackson – University of Akron UB – Breakfast plenary speaker
2. Judge Myron C. Duhart – Bowling Green State University UB – Lunch plenary speaker
3. Hazel Rountree – Central State University UB – Dinner plenary speaker

Outstanding job Ohio TRiO Past President Dorlisa Coe – Your worked added to the success of our Student Leadership Summit.

A variety of interactive and informative workshop sessions were offered to our student leaders. An evening off-site entertainment was planned for Saturday at Skate Zone. And finally student leaders represented their TRiO program and placed building blocks during individual presentations on Sunday.

Much appreciation to Brenda Dewberry and TyAnn Stewart, and their committee members for an outstanding 37th Annual Ohio TRiO Professional Development Conference. The conference for seventy professionals gathered on May 1-3, 2011, at the

Crowne Plaza North in Columbus, Ohio. Our theme was The Building Blocks of Ohio TRIO. The foundation building blocks are the seven Ohio TRIO programs. Additional blocks were created and added with each event or activity during the year. The Professional Development Conference featured an UB/UBMS/VUB/McNair pre-conference professional development forum, a Dollars for Scholars dinner-on-your-own, which raised \$102.49 and a message from MAEOPP President Sidney Childs. Additional plenary speakers included Alvin Phillips, Associate Executive Vice President-Council for Opportunity in Education, Ohio Senator Charleta Tavares, who continues to sponsor Ohio Senate Bill 32 which would financially support Ohio TRiO programs and Melinda Osman, Senior Account Executive for Turning Technologies. A bar-be-que lunch took place under the sun. A variety of interactive and informative workshop sessions were offered to our professionals. During the Presidential Banquet, Dr. Joseph D. Lewis (1930-2010) Faculty Emeritus of Central State University and founding Director of the Upward Bound Program at Central State University was honored with a very special Ohio TRiO remembrance and the Lewis Trailblazer Award was presented. The concluding highlight was the recognition of past and present Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) participants, with David Young (ELI Class of 1997) as the plenary speaker.

2011 Joseph D. Lewis Trailblazer Award – Phillip Cathey

2011 Louis M. Brownlowe New Professional Award – Christopher Welch

2011 James A. Rankin Award – Dorlisa Coe

Thanks Thomas Jefferson for your continuing Fair Share success. Ohio TRiO concluded the 2010-2011 Fair Share with a 108% contribution level. Currently for the 2011-2012 Fair Share, Ohio TRiO is at a 21% contribution level. These fair share levels were accomplished in part with the sale of sixth-one Ohio TRiO professional bags at \$30.00 each. This fundraising activity also expanded the Ohio TRiO brand.

The 2011 Partners in College Access and Success Policy Breakfast was held on May 18, 2011 at the Athletic Club in Columbus, Ohio. Ten Ohio TRiO professionals had the opportunity to hear remarks from Ohio Chancellor Petro and other Ohio education policymakers.

Thanks to Sherice Freeman for your work in selecting four outstanding Ohio TRiO scholarship recipients.

Bradley Ullman – Ralph Pruitt Scholarship, Washington State Community College Upward Bound, Tiffany Laipply - nominator.

Taleitha Varner – Silas Purnell Scholarship, University of Akron UBMS and TS, John Vesalo -nominator

Kabrea Welch – MAEOPP Board Scholarship, Sinclair Community College Upward Bound, Camille Patty – nominator.

LaNeika Cason – Ohio's Louis Stokes \$500 scholarship, Columbus State Community College SSS student who is currently enrolled at The Ohio State University, Alexis Sherman – nominator

Currently Ohio TRiO has 109 active paid professional members.

Valda Bronson was selected as the 2012 Ohio Emerging Leaders Institute from Ohio TRiO.

Quick and efficient job Amonica Davis. Ohio TRiO conducted an annual election for the 2011-2012 Board of Directors through EVote Online – President (one year term), President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Continue developing a new website design for Ohio TRiO

Continue working to complete the Ohio TRiO 2011 – 2015 Strategic Plan

Continue revisions of the Ohio TRiO Constitution and Bylaws

Continue efforts to establish an Annual Seminar for Ohio TRiO College Students