



Kentucky Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

KAEOPP President's Report April 2006

Lake Cumberland State Park - Jamestown, Kentucky

The National and Legislative Scene:

Congratulations to the TRiO Community! Who says our “voice” doesn’t matter?? The Novice Provision of HR 609 the HEA Reauthorization (recommending the set-aside of 10% of appropriate for new applicants) has been “killed.” Two hundred twenty-five (225) members of Congress signed onto the Cole/Payne letter, evidencing their support for the elimination of the Novice Provision languages and their support for the TRiO Programs. Because of the grassroots efforts of the TRiO community, this provision was removed and no House floor vote was needed. Kentucky Congressmen Ben Chandler and Ed Whitfield were among the 225 to sign on to this letter.

In February 2006, President Bush released his 2007 budget recommendations, which once again proposed zeroing out funding for Upward Bound and Talent Search. And, again, Congressmen Tom Cole (OK) and Donald Payne (NJ) are circulating their 2007 “Dear Colleague” letter requesting the Members of Congress to sign on and evidence their support for both the restoration of funding for Upward Bound and Talent Search and a \$100 million increase for the TRiO Programs. As of Friday, April 21, 2006, Kentucky Congressmen Ed Whitfield and Ben Chandler have signed onto this letter pledging their support. If you reside in their district, please be sure to send these representatives a “thank you.” Otherwise, please contact the Member for your district and request them to sign onto the Cole/Payne letter. (A copy of the letters being circulated in the House and Senate as well as sample letters to send to your representative are attached)

Please call your Member today and request that they sign onto the Cole/Payne letter evidencing their support for the TRiO Programs.

Ron Lewis (R), KY-2 – Contact: Megan Spindel (202-225-3501)

Anne Northup (R), KY-3 – Contact: Meredith Brown (202-225-5401)

Geoff Davis (R), KY-4 – Contact: Armstrong Robinson (202-225-3465)

Harold Rogers (R), KY-5 – Contact: Michael Higdon (202-225-4601)

We must continue to be vigilant and as well as keep our Members of Congress informed about TRiO in general and the great successes of these programs. Continue to encourage your students, their parents, institution presidents, business leaders, and members of your larger communities to write and call congressional members to voice their concern and support for the TRiO programs. And...more important...please provide your Member of Congress direct quantitative evidence that your program is successful and making a difference! Remember...the TRiO programs have a 40+ year proven track record ...and...it is an election year!! ***Every Member of the U.S. House of Representative is up for re-election!!***

U.S. Department of Education News:

The Talent Search grant applications have been read and the Educational Opportunity Center grant application reading is underway. The Federal TRiO Programs at the U.S. Department of Education still estimate a late Spring or early Summer notification.

Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) News:

The Council will be hosting 2006 McNair and Upward Bound Proposal Writing Workshops. Information can be found on the Council's web site at www.coenet.us.

26th Annual Policy Seminar:

Sixteen Kentuckians attended the 2006 Policy Seminar held March 26-28, 2006, in Washington, DC, and this delegation made visits to all Kentucky Congressional offices on Tuesday, March 28, 2006. This year, the focus of the TRiO Community's advocacy efforts will be to have the funding restored for Upward Bound and Talent Search, and also to request a \$100 million increase for the TRiO Programs. A one-page fact sheet created by COE and entitled, **"WHY A \$100 MILLION INCREASE FOR TRIO IS A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR AMERICA"** can be found at the end of this report.

SAEOPP News:

The 2006 SAEOPP Scholarship Recipients have been announced!! Three students from Kentucky will receive \$600 scholarships as a result of outstanding scholarship applications and essays! The recipients and the individuals who nominated them are:

Nicholas K. McDermott, Educational Talent Search, Morehead State University

Nominated by: Suzanne Mantooth

Rachel N. Mansfield, Educational Talent Search, Eastern Kentucky University

Nominated by: Beth Thompson

Rachel L. Miller, Educational Talent Search, Western Kentucky University

Nominated by: Rich Sanchez

Congratulations and best wishes for academic success to the winners from the KAEOPP Board!!

KAEOPP News:

Congratulations to KAEOPPian Anna Leasure of Madisonville Community College, who has accepted the role of Co-Chair for the 2007 SAEOPP Conference to be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in February 2007. This is a wonderful (but busy!!) honor, and the KAEOPP Board extends its appreciation to Ms. Leasure for volunteering to serve her state in this capacity!

The KAEOPP Board and committees continue in the process of updating our current Policy and Procedures Guide, last revised in 1999-2001, to make it more reflective of the Association today. A draft of this revised document was expected to be complete in April 2006; however, we are still in the process of collecting and assembling information and revisions. A draft will be presented to the KAEOPP Board at the June 2006 Board Meeting.

Goals for the coming year include building an active alumni association and database, finalizing the KAEOPP Strategic Plan, continuing to increase KAEOPP membership, increased participation in the emerging leaders institute, leadership roles, and student initiative activities, and a solid slate for KAEOPP offices for the 2007 KAEOPP election.

TRiO Alumni: Congratulations to Northern Kentucky University (Susan Mospens and staff) for being selected as one of the four recipients nationwide for the COE's TRiO Alumni mini-grant competition, "New Models for Engaging TRiO Alumni." We look forward to hearing more about their efforts!!

TRiO Day: The TRiO Programs at Morehead State University have expressed an interest in hosting the 2007 Kentucky TRiO Day and Academic Competitions. They are currently investigating the availability of facilities and dates (in late February and early March), so nothing is definite. Once again, the Scholars Bowl, Academic Bowl, and SSS Debate will take place concurrently with TRiO Day activities. For more information, contact: Student Initiatives Chair/SSS Debate Chair, Chris George at chris.george@wku.edu, Academic Bowl Chair, Odelsia Torian at Odelsia.Torian@MurrayState.edu, or Scholars Bowl Chair: Tamika Dobbins at tamika.dobbins@wku.edu.

KAEOPP Committees: Committee Chair previously received a description of their responsibilities as a KAEOPP Committee Chair as well as a description of their specific committee responsibilities. Last year, KAEOPP President charged each Committee Chair with one additional responsibility: that of updating the specific committee responsibilities description and creating a timeline for activities to be performed by the committee chair and members. This coming year, each committee chair's input will be incorporated into the Policy and Procedures Guide and the Strategic Plan. This input will assist with the timely and successful completion of committee activities and to allow for smooth transition of committee chairs.

2007 Fall Conference: The KAEOPP Board looks forward to seeing you at the 2007 TASP/KAEOPP Annual Joint Conference which will be held October 17-20, 2006, at the Read House in Chattanooga, Tennessee! Details will be forthcoming! Please contact Shawn Stokes (shawnk.stokes@kctcs.edu), KAEOPP Conference Member-at-Large, for additional information or if you would like to assist in the planning of this event.

Important Upcoming Dates to Remember!

- September 6-9, 2006 – 25th Annual COE Conference, New York Marriott Marquis, New York, NY. (*Early bird registration deadline: June 6, 2006*)
- October 17-20, 2006 – TASP/KAEOPP Annual Joint Conference, Read House, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- February 11-14, 2007 – SAEOPP Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- March 10-14, 2005 – 2007 COE Annual Policy Seminar, Washington, DC.

Respectfully submitted:

Gera Lynn Drake

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KAEOPP President (2005-2007)
April 25, 2006

WHY A \$100 MILLION INCREASE FOR TRIO IS A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR AMERICA

- Immediately following World War II - with the GI Bill and later the Higher Education Act of 1965 - America surged ahead in the percentage of its population earning college degrees. However, since the late 1970's this percentage has remained almost static.
- At the same time, other countries are following the American example and making significant investment in higher educational opportunity for all their citizens. As a result, our corporate leaders and leaders in scientific research forecast major problems for our economy. (Note, for example, the 2005 publication by the National Academy of Sciences, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, that points out that today while the United States graduates 70,000 engineers each year, while China graduates 600,000 and India 350,000.)
- America can't close this divide simply by providing a better education to children of upper- and middle-income families. For example, in the United States in 2003, there were only 700,000 young people from families in the top quartile of the income distribution who did not earn a college degree by the time they were 24 (roughly 25% of young people in this age group). Yet there were more than four times that number - 2.8 million young people in the bottom quartile - because 91% of low-income youth do not earn degrees by age 24.
- At the same time, our efforts to assist low-income young people and adults get into college and succeed there have fallen behind.
- Due to stagnant funding, TRIO programs are able to serve 33,000 fewer students now than they were in 2002.
- **AND**, since, the number of young people 12-24 eligible for TRIO has grown by 23%, more than 1.7 million youth.
- **TRIO** provides a proven, cost-effective and immediate way to increase successful college-going among low-income students, and other students whose parents have not gone to college.
- A \$100 million investment will enable 100,000 more low-income and adults to receive TRIO services.