



Kentucky Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

KAEOPP President's Report February 2006 Greensboro, NC

The National and Legislative Scene:

Recently, the TRiO community received both good and bad news on the legislative scene. First, FY 2006 funding for Talent Search and Upward Bound was restored in late 2005 at the \$836.5 million level. However, after the passing of the Defense Appropriations bill, a 1% across-the-board cut in discretionary spending was passed by Congress, bringing the 2006 TRiO Appropriation to \$828.2 million. It is expected that President Bush will release his budget recommendations for FY 2007 to Congress on February 6.

The Higher Education Act of 1965, which was to expire December 31, 2005, has been extended by Congress until March 30, 2006. While two of Kentucky's Congressmen (Chandler (D) and Whitfield (R)) have graciously signed onto the Cole/Payne letter opposing the 10% Novice Provision of HR 609, we still need the signatures of the following Kentucky Congresspersons:

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: Sarah Paff (202-225-4601)

Please contact your Member today and request that they sign onto the Cole/Payne letter evidencing their support for the elimination of the Novice Provision language and their support for the TRiO Programs.

In addition to contacting our Members of Congress regarding the Novice Provision, we must continue to be vigilant and keep them informed about TRiO in general and the great successes of these programs. Continue to encourage your students, their parents, 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!

U.S. Department of Education News:

The Talent Search grant competition closed on January 6, 2006, and the deadline for submission of Educational Opportunity Center proposals is February 15, 2006. This round, both programs have utilized or will utilize Grants.gov to submit electronic applications.

Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) News:

26th Annual Policy Seminar:

One way to help keep TRiO in the forefront of our legislators' minds is to join your fellow KAEOPPians and TRiO professionals from across the nation in Washington, D.C. for the Policy Seminar! The 26th Annual Policy Seminar is scheduled for March 26-28, 2005. Congressional visits will be made on March 28, 2006. **If you plan to attend the Policy Seminar, please let me know no later than February 22, 2006, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for the Capitol Hill visits!** Please email me at: g.drake@moreheadstate.edu or call my office at (606) 783-9177.

Fair Share:

Fair Share is vital to supporting COE, who acts as our own eyes, ear, arms, voice, and political strategists in Washington, D.C. The fact that TRiO continues to act as a cohesive force, both in good times and during challenging times, is the sole reason why the TRiO programs have been around for 40+ years and will be here for another 40+ years! So, as we move forward into 2005-06, let's not forget to continue to support COE through Fair Share, and ultimately ourselves! We still have work to be done and issues to be heard on Capitol Hill and to ensure that the upcoming Reauthorization includes language that is favorable for the TRiO Programs! *Please contact KAEOPP Fair Share Chair, Dianne Fain, to learn how you can contribute!*

National TRiO Day:

Another way for your communities to show support for TRiO is to participate in the 2006 National TRiO Day of Service. Every year, National TRiO Day is the last Saturday of February—this year: February 25, 2006. Mark your calendars and spread the word. Nationally, TRiO programs are being encouraged to perform some sort of community service—as a way for TRiO to give back to their community and say thank you for its support. For more information or ideas on activities, visit the COE's National TRiO Day website at www.coenet.us/trioday.html.

SAEOPP News:

SAEOPP has developed its new Strategic Plan for 2006-2011, as the current five-year plan is expiring. The goal of these revisions is to continue to strengthen the association and position it firmly within today's climate. The new Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 will be presented during the SAEOPP Delegate Assembly at the 2006 SAEOPP Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina.

KAEOPP's 2005 Annual State Report was submitted to SAEOPP in January 2006 for inclusion in the 2005 SAEOPP Annual Report, and a copy will be posted on the KAEOPP website.

KAEOPP News:

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 is expected to be complete in April 2006.

Fiscal Management Plan:

KAEOPP Treasurer Annette Hines, with guidance from Finance Committee, has developed a Fiscal Policy Manual that outlines fiscal processes and allowable expenditures for the Association. This document will be presented to the Membership for acceptance during the KAEOPP Business Meeting held during the 2006 SAEOPP Conference.

2006 Strategic Summit:

Gregory Marable, Chair of the KAEOPP Strategic Planning Committee, is actively working on developing the KAEOPP Strategic Plan, updating its mission and vision statement, and identifying the core values that uniquely demonstrate KAEOPP's philosophy. The intended outcome of all of these efforts will be to provide a comprehensive structure and plan to provide focus for KAEOPP and to strengthen the Association. Gregory is working with KAEOPP committee chairs to compose goals and objectives for the Association and plans to have a draft Strategic Plan available for KAEOPP's first *Strategic Summit*, which will be held prior to the KAEOPP Spring Meeting at Lake Cumberland State Park on April 24, 2006.

Those individuals interested in attending the 2006 Strategic Summit and offering input and assistance in the development of KAEOPP's Strategic Plan should contact Gregory Marable at: greg.marable@kctcs.edu or (270) 886-3921.

KAEOPP State Outreach Initiative:

In November 2005, KAEOPP's Legislative State Initiative Committee submitted a proposal to COE for the State Outreach Initiative grant in order to receive matching-funds to continue its state legislative outreach efforts. In January 2006, State Initiative Chair, Anna Leasure, learned that KAEOPP has been awarded a \$1,000 grant by COE! Congratulations to Anna for the excellent work she has done with State Initiatives.

TRiO Alumni Society:

In December 2005, Carolyn Sundy, Co-Chair of the KAEOPP TRiO Alumni Society submitted a proposal to COE as part of its mini-grant competition. If granted, the Kentucky TRiO Society would receive funding to expand its efforts to create a cohesive association of alumni of our Kentucky TRiO programs and offer opportunities for alumni to become actively involved in KAEOPP (enhancing the financial stability of the Association), in networking, and in advocating on behalf of our programs and current participants.

TRiO Day:

Be sure to mark your calendar! **The 2006 Kentucky TRiO Day will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2006, in Louisville, Kentucky.** If you are interested in participating in the TRiO Day activities, please contact Mary Thorpe at mdthor01@louisville.edu. A tentative agenda, registration materials, and lodging information are available for download at the "TRiO

Day” at www.kaeopp.org. 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:

Each Committee Chair has received a description of their responsibilities as a KAEOPP Committee Chair as well as a description of their specific committee responsibilities. This year, KAEOPP President has 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 information will be included in the revised KAEOPP Policies and Procedures Guide, assisting with the timely completion of committee activities and to allow for smooth transition of committee chairs.

2006 Spring Meeting:

The KAEOPP Board looks forward to seeing you at the KAEOPP Spring Meeting at Lake Cumberland State Park on April 24-25, 2006! 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.

On a personal note, I wish to extend my most sincere gratitude and thanks to the entire KAEOPP Board and to the KAEOPP Committee chairs who have been so supportive of me during the past nine months as I prepare for the birth of my first child! While I will be on “maternity leave” during February and part of March, I will still be “on the job” as your KAEOPP President, so feel free to email me (g.drake@moreheadstate.edu) or leave me a voice message (606-783-9177), and I will respond as soon as I can!!

To each one of you ... take care, enjoy the SAEOPP Conference, and see you at the Spring Meeting (if not at Policy!!)

Respectfully submitted:

Gera Lynn Drake

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KAEOPP President (2005-2007)
February 6, 2006