



Kentucky Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

KAEOPP President's Report October 2005

Holiday Inn North, Lexington, KY

The National and Legislative Scene:

Since assuming office in April 2005, many unexpected and urgent events have developed that have commanded an intense amount of time, attention, and action. The TRIO funding crisis resulting from President Bush's 2005 Federal Budget Proposal sent the Kentucky TRIO Community into defense mode, fighting for the survival of two of our oldest and proven programs, Upward Bound and Talent Search. The Kentucky TRIO Community—participants, parents, school personnel, TRIO staff, and the general public—responded to the crisis with a flurry of letters and calls to our Congresspersons and Senators, particularly Congressman Hal Rogers and Congresswoman Anne Northup who are members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education.

After much diligence on behalf of the TRIO Community, the full House and Senate Appropriation Committee voted to restore funding for TRIO Programs at \$836 million (last year's level). According to Heather Valentine of the Council for Opportunity in Education, if the "regular process" is to be followed, this month (October) the full Senate will vote on the Appropriation bill, the House and Senate will reconcile any differences between the two bills, with such agreement being voted on by both the House and the Senate, and the President will sign the Appropriations bill.

Meanwhile, TRIO is now faced with the upcoming Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and two particular challenges this brings. First, the Novice Provision calls for 10% of TRIO funds to be set aside for "novice" project applicants, which implies that 10% of existing programs will cease to receive funding in order to fund new applicants. Congressman Cole and Congressman Payne are circulating a letter opposing the Novice Provision. To date, Congressman Ed Whitfield (District 1, R) and Congressman Ben Chandler (District 4, D) have signed onto this letter. In order for TRIO to be successful in having the Novice Provision eliminated from the Reauthorization language, we must focus on our remaining Kentucky Members of Congress (Congresspersons Davis, Lewis, Rogers, and Northup) signing onto the Cole-Payne Letter. Please continue to contact your Member, and encourage your participants, parents, teachers, institutions, businesses, and other members of these Members' districts to do the same. With a unified voice, we will be successful!

In addition to the Novice Provision, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx of North Carolina (and a former TRIO director) has introduced the Foxx Amendment that proposes to establish uniform national accountability performance standards for the TRIO programs (removing any state or regional variation currently in place), seeks to establish an "all or nothing" penalty for not meeting set standards, to apply accountability measures that have no relevance to the TRIO

programs, and requires a sizable increase in the regulatory/reporting burden on programs, colleges, and agencies. Again, the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) urges us all to express our concern to our legislators about the negative impact the Foxx Amendment poses for the TRIO Programs!

Kentucky has earned recognition on a national level for the dedication of effort of its constituency in waging war and defending TRIO. The spirit of TRIO is alive and thriving in Kentucky. KAEOPP has truly embraced the phrase that emerged during the 2005 SAEOPP Conference: "TRIO Today, TRIO Tomorrow, TRIO Always."

U.S. Department of Education News:

At the September 2005 COE Annual Conference held in Washington D.C., Federal TRIO Programs Director Larry Oxendine addressed the approximately 1,500 TRIO professionals in attendance. Highlights of his discussion included the reallocation of funds to programs that have suffered greatly as a result of Katrina, the Talent Search (TS)/Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) competition, the upcoming Upward Bound competition, and the grant award process.

- Oxendine stated that \$2.5 million from the Department's administrative funds will be targeted towards institutions that are actively assisting students displaced by Katrina. In addition, he stated that any Student Support Services or Upward Bound program that is approached by a student who says they were TRIO participants at an institution affected by Katrina should serve that student regardless of whether they have the necessary eligibility paperwork. These details will be worked out later.
- The increase of the minimum awards for TRIO Programs continues. This funding cycle each TS and EOC minimum awards are being increased to \$220,000, while SSS, UB and McNair were increased to the \$220,000 minimum in the most recent competitions for those programs.
- TS/EOC Competition:
 - There still is no due date, but it is anticipated that the closing date for TS will be around January or February, with EOC's closing date to follow 30 days later. While the application package for TS was previously sent to the Office of Management and Budgets (OMB) for the 30-day comment period, the EOC application package was recently forwarded to OMB on October 14, 2005.
 - By law, the closing date will be a minimum of 45 days from the date the respectively application packages are published in the Federal Register.
 - Grant award notifications for TS and EOC will be made in June, 2006.
 - While the grant award minimum will be \$220,000 for new TS and EOC awards, existing programs should factor a 3% increase for their budget. Amounts will not be negotiated, and programs will be held responsible for those objectives contained in their proposal.
 - The page limit for TS is 75 pages and 50 pages for EOC.
 - Standard objectives are to be used for TS and EOC proposals. Exact wording is to be used: only a percentage will need to be inserted. Programs will be held accountable for any additional objectives included in proposals.
- In the upcoming UB competition, instead of one comprehensive competition, there will be mini-competitions for UB, UBMS, and VUB. There will be a specified number of grants to be awarded under each mini-competition, and these will not be mixed. There will be separate review panels, and readers will review proposals for only one program.

Additionally, the UB Initiative will be eliminated as this concept will be expanded throughout all of UB.

- Oxendine also stated that the process for awarding grants is not a good process, but rather is a “glorified writing competition.” A ridiculous amount of time, effort, and money is spent on this process. The average cost is \$1-2 million to conduct each competition, and this is money that could be better spent on serving program participants.
- Oxendine commented that he personally reads proposals, and there is no name recognition for “TRIO” if a TRIO program is called something else. Use “TRIO SSS, etc....call it what it is!!”

In closing, the Oxendine stated that TRIO is getting a lot of attention and compliments from important circles.

Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) News:

Fair Share:

The final Fair Share contribution for Kentucky was 101%, with the SAEOPP region meeting 100% of its obligation to the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE). Kentucky's Equality subscriptions totaled \$7,400, its institutional memberships paid were \$35,300, and individual contributions were \$2,970. A special thanks is extended to all those who contributed, especially individuals.

During these difficult times under which TRIO continues to face attack, 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!

State Outreach Initiative:

One again, COE's State Outreach Initiative has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding to support state outreach activities. Again, states will be required to match the award amount from COE. Anna Leasure, Chair of KAEOPP's Legislative State Initiative Committee is in the process of completing the application, which is to be submitted by the November 1, 2005 deadline. COE intends for any funds awarded to be used to “enhance a current program or provide funds for a major event in your state.” Funds cannot be used for Policy Seminar travel, food costs exceeding \$500, website maintenance, or committee planning meetings. A special thanks to Anna for the excellent work she has done with State Initiatives.

Notable Quote:

“At the end of the day ask yourself, *‘Have we just made a living, or have we made a difference?’*” Arnold Mitchum.

SAEOPP News:

Since the 2005 Spring Meeting, Dolores Kiesler (KAEOPP Vice President) and Gera Drake (KAEOPP President) have attended two SAEOPP Board Meetings/Conference Committee

Meetings: one in Coral Springs, Florida, on May 19-21, 2005 and the other in Charlotte, North Carolina on September 29-October 2, 2005. During the May SAEOPP meetings, an overview of leadership topics were presented, including fiduciary responsibilities as a Board, parliamentary procedures, fiscal concerns and procedures, strategic planning, and the current political climate for the TRIO Programs.

Accountability continues to be the “buzz word.” With the recent funding crisis and attention on outcomes for the TRIO Programs, we can expect Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to scrutinize our efforts and successes. Now, more than ever, we will need to justify our existence by providing quantifiable documentation of program activities and those served.

SAEOPP is actively engaged in developing its new Strategic Plan, as the current five-year plan will expire at the end of 2005. In addition, SAEOPP is revising its Mission Statement, its Vision, and its Core Values to allow SAEOPP’s purpose to be more clearly understood and to bring these statements and goals more in-line with TRIO’s ever-changing environment. The goal of these revisions is to continue to strengthen the association and position it firmly within today’s climate.

As a state president, Gera Drake co-chairs both the SAEOPP Membership Marketing and Services Committee and Scholarship Committee. Additionally, each state president was requested to submit a listing of representatives from each state to serve as members on the various SAEOPP committees.

The 2006 SAEOPP Conference will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, commencing February 4, 2006 with the TRIO Day Celebration, followed by pre-conference workshops on February 5. State meetings are scheduled to occur on February 6, 2006, between 3:30pm and 5:00pm, and the conference will conclude on February 8 with a breakfast plenary session. Dolores Kiesler serves as Chair of the On-site/Facilities Committee for the SAEOPP Conference. The early bird registration deadline is December 9, 2006. Registrations after January 13, 2006 will be at the on-site registration rate. Also, SAEOPP has a new registration process for the 2006 Conference. Postcards will be mailed to all SAEOPPIans advising them of the new on-line registration process through CVENT. In addition, SAEOPP anticipates being able to implement credit card payment.

This year, SAEOPP’s Membership Dues Application and Scholarship Applications were distributed via email, rather than by way of the traditional *SAEOPP Center Notes*. This change marks an effort both to become more efficient with the Association’s budget and to step into the 21st technology century. Future notices, mailings, etc. will utilize CVENT, the new on-line database and information systems feature to which SAEOPP recently subscribed. In addition to its capabilities of handling conference and training registrations, SAEOPP will utilize this system to collect and track SAEOPP membership and on-line directories both at the regional level and for the various states in the SAEOPP region.

- **The deadline for SAEOPP Membership is October 31, 2005.** After this, the rate increases to \$80. To be a member of SAEOPP, an individual must have also paid their KAEOPP membership dues.
- **The deadline for SAEOPP Scholarship application is December 1, 2005.** Winners are to be announced at the 2006 SAEOPP Conference.
- **SAEOPP has partnered with Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores, Inc.** to offer a \$1,000 scholarship to an adult learner, current or past TRIO Program Participant, currently enrolled-student (05-06 academic year) who has the “Best Story.” Details and applications will be released very soon.

KAEOPP News:

During the coming year, the KAEOPP Board and its committees will have many projects to accomplish in order to strengthen KAEOPP as a professional association. Results from the survey results are being evaluated to determine the needs of the membership and their expectations of KAEOPP. We are in the process of updating our current Policy and Procedures Guide, last revised in 1999-2001, to make it more reflective of the organization today. As well, in order to strengthen KAEOPP financially, our finance committee is developing a Fiscal Policy Manual that outlines fiscal processes and allowable expenditures. Also, to be included in the revised KAEOPP Policies and Procedures Guide will be KAEOPP Website Maintenance Policies and Procedures, providing guidance for the creation and uploading of documents to the KAEOPP website. And lastly, 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.

TRIO Day:

Be sure to mark your calendar! **The 2006 TRIO Day will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2006, in Louisville, Kentucky.** Mary Thorpe of the University of Louisville has graciously agreed to chair the 2006 TRIO Day committee and is looking for volunteers to assist her in the planning of this event. If you are interested in serving on the TRIO Day Committee, please contact Mary Thorpe at mdthor01@louisville.edu. 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/TASP Conference:

The KAEOPP/TASP conference is being held October 18-21, 2005 at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington, Kentucky. This year, the conference theme is "TRIO: Changing the Face of America" and it will feature many informative workshops and an expanded Emerging Leaders Institute that will focus on leadership development for our future KAEOPP leaders.

Regretably, KAEOPP's Conference Member At Large, Pam Mueller, resigned her Board and Committee positions due to accepting employment with a non-TRIO program. We extend our thanks to her for her short but busy tenure with KAEOPP. We wish the best of luck and success to Pam in her new endeavors, and remind her... Once a KAEOPPian, always a KAEOPPian!

Shawn Stokes, Associate Director of Educational Talent Search at Madisonville Community College, was nominated to assume the Board vacancy. The KAEOPP Board voted unanimously to appoint Shawn to assume the remaining term for the Office of Conference Member At Large. Shawn took his oath of office at the June 2005 Board meeting and has made tremendous strides as Conference Chair and in planning this year's event. In addition, Miranda Martin (Lexington Community College's Upward Bound) graciously accepted the charge as the 2005 KAEOPP/TASP Conference Co-chair, and Shawn and Miranda's conference planning has

been complemented by the efforts of several dedicated committee members. Again, we have great appreciation for the enthusiasm demonstrated by those who are so willing to step up when need to serve the Association and keep affairs running smoothly!

KAEOPP Newsletter:

Although slightly delayed due to technology difficulties/incompatibilities, in May the April 2005 KAEOPP Newsletter was emailed to the membership. Feedback of this new mode of distributing the newsletter has been positive. The August 2005 newsletter, renamed “The KAEOPPian,” was emailed to membership in late August. As well, it is posted on the KAEOPP website. Again, email distribution has received favorable comments, and this email distribution method should prove a substantial savings to KAEOPP in terms of printing and mailing costs.

KAEOPP Outreach/Promotional Activities:

On May 17, 2005, Gera Drake accompanied Sharee St. Louis Smith (College Access Counselor with Morehead State University’s EOC, a recent participant in both KAEOPP’s and SAEOPP’s Emerging Leaders Institute, and a member of the KAEOPP State Initiative Committee) to make a presentation entitled “Welcome to the Kentucky TRIO Programs” at the KCTCS New Horizons Teaching and Leader Conference. The focus of this session was to introduce or re-introduce faculty, staff, and administrators of the KCTCS system to the TRIO programs and to KAEOPP, and to help workshop attendees gain a clearer understanding of how KAEOPP and TRIO works to help ensure the success and persistence of students enrolled at a KCTCS institution. A brochure was developed by Ms. Smith, and a PowerPoint presentation was created to guide the session. There was a decent turnout and session attendees were very involved in group discussion and had many questions. At the conclusion of the session, Michael Krouse, an administrator with KCTCS’s systems office, requested information on how he could become a member of KAEOPP, SAEOPP, and also information about our conferences and state meetings. Mr. Krouse will be sent the 2005-06 KAEOPP Membership Form and will be provided with conference information. Ms. Smith has made the recommendation that this workshop presentation be expanded so that it can be used as State Initiative tool, perhaps a Speaker’s Bureau that would attend functions such as this to assist TRIO in becoming a ‘household word.’

On October 11, 2005, Gera Drake attended KHEAA’s first meeting of the newly formed Steering Committee for the Go Higher Kentucky website (www.gohigherky.org) in Frankfort, Kentucky. Representing KAEOPP on this committee, Gera Drake has the opportunity to provide feedback from the TRIO Community on this website, particularly ideas for enhancing existing features and adding new features to make this site more user-friendly for any Kentuckian who wishes to pursue higher education. Go Higher strives to target those individuals (youth and adults) who have been traditionally underrepresented in the postsecondary education environment and to provide yet another vehicle to provide information and access to education. The next Steering Committee meeting will be in early 2006.

KAEOPP Committees:

KAEOPP Committee chair appointments have been made, with a few exceptions. Each Committee Chair will receive 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.

KAEOPP Website:

In early October 2005, Randy Wilson and Matt Hyden, previously Co-Webmasters, were appointed Co-Chairs of the KAEOPP Technology Committee. The KAEOPP Website remains a primary responsibility of the KAEOPP Technology Committee, and our Co-chairs have been actively engaged in making various updates to the KAEOPP Website and the KAEOPP Listserv. In late September 2005, Co-Chair Hyden developed a new KAEOPP logo which was unanimously approved by the KAEOPP Board. The KAEOPP Website as well as other KAEOPP publications now sport this new KAEOPP logo. Over the next few months, the KAEOPP Website will continue to change its appearance, with new task buttons and reorganization of many of the pages to make information easier to find. Please provide your thoughts and feedback on these changes to Randy and Matt!

Administrative Items:

KAEOPP has renewed its corporate status as a non-profit organization with the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has filed the Statement of Change of Registered Office reflecting the April 2005 change in Board members.

KAEOPP's banking activities have been moved to U.S. Bank. A new checking account was opened after providing all the necessary documentation, certifications, and signatures required. The KAEOPP Treasurer, Annette Hines, has possession of the KAEOPP's checkbook and two debit/check cards were issued – one to the Treasurer Hines and one to President Drake (for travel expenses when attending SAEOPP Board Meetings).

Respectfully submitted:

Gera Lynn Drake
KAEOPP President (2005-2007)
October 21, 2005 / Lexington, Kentucky