

**December 2017**

# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

**Best Wishes for an Awesome 2018**

## Mark Your Calendars: Dates and Events ~ 2018

January	Maine State Conference	
February 22-23	NEOA TRIO Day	Connecticut
March 11	COE Leadership Summit	Washington, D.C.
March 12	COE Alumni Leadership Forum	Washington, D.C.
March 12	COE Seminar on Relations w/ USDE	Washington, D.C.
March 12-14	COE Policy Seminar	Washington, D.C.
April 4-6	NEOA Annual Conference	Stowe, VT

## Registration Now Open

National TRIO Day  
Radisson Hotel  
Cromwell, Connecticut  
February 22 -23, 2018

College Tours  
Speakers

College Fair  
Scholars Bowl  
Dance

Workshops  
Community Service

[http://www.neoaonline.org/a\\_trioday\\_r.php](http://www.neoaonline.org/a_trioday_r.php)

Questions/Concerns? Contact TRIO Day Chair, Dave Celotto  
at [DCelotto@nvcc.commnet.edu](mailto:DCelotto@nvcc.commnet.edu)

## *Introducing Our Board Members ~ Part 2*

This is the second in a two-part series to introduce this year's Board members to our membership. They were asked the following questions:

- ~ What their current position is (location, title) and how long they have worked in this field;
- ~ What excites them about their work; and,
- ~ What they hope to gain from the coming year on the NEOA Board.

Here's the second round of biographical info. Enjoy!



**President, Jane Kimball Foley:** I am currently the TRIO Student Support Services Project Director at York County Community College. “I have about 11 years with TRIO. 4 in current position, 23+ years working with students in education. Transforming lives! Alleviating poverty through education! I want to do my part to serve our region, support new and emerging leaders to get involve in the work of NEOA...and enjoy the journey!

**President-Elect, Stephanie Cruz,** “Director Access/TRIO Student Support Services (20 projects; Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick, RI; 28.5 years total (24.5 with EOC; 4 with SSS).” What excites her about her work? ~ “My students’ success. Witnessing low-income/first generation students earn their degrees and enter the workforce. Makes no difference if they go on to be a mayor, a doctor, lawyer, teacher, data analyst - Their success can change the trajectory of their family’s future.” What does she hope to gain from the coming year on the NEOA Board? “I hope to gain



enough knowledge, and support to serve as president of the organization next year.”



**Secretary, Terri Morse Mann:** - has been working for TRIO Maine Educational Opportunity Center with the University of Maine since 2004. She is currently serving as Secretary for NEOA. Teri has previously served as the State President for MEEOA and NEOA State Liaison for Maine.

**Connecticut President, Kim Gorman,** “SSS Counselor for 7 years at University of Connecticut. My first job in higher education 16 years ago was as an Upward Bound tutor/advisor for Central Connecticut State University; I also taught English for three summers for UB. What excites me about my work: Watching my students grow and evolve over their four years of college. They come into the pre-collegiate summer program excited, but nervous. By the time they graduate, they’re confident young men and women who have made the most of their college careers. I hope to improve my leadership skills and gain confidence in them through the Leadership Institute and by learning from NEOA board members with more experience than me.



**Massachusetts State President, Kunthary Thai-Johnson:** Director of Programs and Partnerships at UMass Boston, overseeing the Upward Bound and Math and Science Upward Bound. I have been working at UMass Boston overseeing various pre-collegiate educational programs for over 15 years. As someone who graduated from Urban Scholars program (an educational opportunity project at UMass Boston similar to Upward Bound) and a graduate of one of the program’s target schools, I understand firsthand the needs and challenges of the Upward Bound student population. What excite me the most is when my students accept that they

have the greatest potential and start working toward achieving it. I hope to gain leadership skills and learn from the many great professional on the board on how to be a better leader and advocate for my students.



**Massachusetts State Liaison, Mona Savastino,** Upward Bound Program Director, Salem State University and I have worked for TRIO for 10 years, in Higher Ed for 15 years. What excites you about your work? My AMAZING students!! Watching and being part of their transformation is such a precious gift. My goal on the Board is to offer more opportunities to network amongst our peers, as well as to put forth a proposal that would provide every new TRIO professional with a mentor. There have been countless times that I would have benefited from the wisdom and experience of a seasoned TRIO professional, and I am certain many of our new TRIO colleagues feel the same.



**Vermont State President, Sue Polen:** “Currently am the Director of the Center for Academic Success with offices at both the Randolph and Williston campuses of Vermont

Technical College. Have been here 6 years. What excites you about your work? Absolutely the students and seeing them work through struggles and walk across the stage at graduation (many of whom will make more money than many at VTC!)What do you hope to gain from the coming year on the NEOA Board? A better understanding of the organization and the challenges facing us in such politically uncertain times.



**Vermont State Liaison, Monda Kelley,** Talent Search, Outreach Counselor – VSAC. How long have you worked in this field? Upward Bound 6, GU 13, TS 5 = 24 years! I love working with students and parents. I feel like I am giving back. I really enjoy the work I do and the flexibility I have to create curriculum that is current and helpful. It will be nice to get connected again with the Board level of TRIO and GEAR UP programs. I am looking forward to working with Professionals with the same mission and level of excitement for the work we do.

## COE Executive Leadership Institute



NEOA President-Elects (from left): -Dori Fellman (ME), Kunthary Thai-Johnson-(MA), Adam Hurwitz (VT), Josh Gagnon (NH), Kim Gorman (CT) at the COE Executive Leadership Institute, Princeton University Sept. 28-30, 2017.

## Connecticut Annual State Conference

### “The Changing Landscape of Access and Retention”

Connecticut had another successful CAEOP conference this year. Approximately 65 people attended the conference, which was held at Goodwin College in East Hartford, CT. The theme was *The Changing Landscape of Access and Retention*, which focused on remembering our TRIO history as we face today’s challenges. Marian Belgrave-Howard, co-founder and first president of NEOA, was the keynote speaker. Kimberly Jones from COE presented a brief TRIO

history to members during lunch, along with legislative updates.



We held two concurrent workshop sessions, three workshops each session, including topics such as Academic Support for Struggling TRIO Students, First-Generation in the Workplace (preparing students for life after college graduation), Preparing Students for a Career in STEM. Three state institutions were recognized for providing 50 years of promoting educational access, retention, and opportunity for populations traditionally underrepresented in higher education (50 consecutive years of TRIO programs): University of Connecticut, Wesleyan University, and CONNTAC, INC. (for EOC). We had two CAEOP achievers who received awards.

## Massachusetts State Conference

### “Engage for Change”

Thanks to all the MEOA members, presenters, and speakers for making Engage for Change a success. Over 100 members gathered at Devens Common Center on October 13, 2017 to attend workshops, network and gain valuable information on how to improve services and make larger impact. E. Peter Alvarez, an Alumnus of UMass Boston Upward Bound gave a heartfelt keynote address about moments, transformation and engagement. MEOA Scholarship winners shared powerful and inspiring stories at the Scholarship Luncheon. **Jinette Galarza**, NECC PACE Program and **Jessica Asare**, MassEdCO GEAR UP were present. Other Scholarship winners not present included **James Kerr**, NECC PACE Program, **Ra'vonne Pierre**, MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound and **Carmelissa Norburn**, Boston University Upward Bound. Assistant Director for Congressional Relations for [COE](#), **Selene Ceja**, provided valuable updates from Washington DC and lead a workshop on engaging and organizing alumni to build sophisticated alumni networks.



E. Peter Alvarez, Keynote Speaker

## New Hampshire State Conference



Keene State TRIO Programs hosted NHEOA's annual state conference on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. Just over 30 of our members were welcomed to campus by Interim President Melinda Treadwell who shared her experiences as a first generation student and her support for the work we do in TRIO. Dr. Joe Yazvac, KSC staff psychologist, presented on anxiety issues and how to help our students. After a lunch visiting with alumni and updates by the programs, we broke into work groups and discussed alumni outreach efforts, fundraising opportunities, and improving communication between state programs. It was great to see old friends and meet new ones as we welcomed two new programs to our association, GEAR UP for NH and Breakthrough Manchester College Bound at Southern New Hampshire University.

### *~NEOA 2017 First Generation Celebration Days ~*

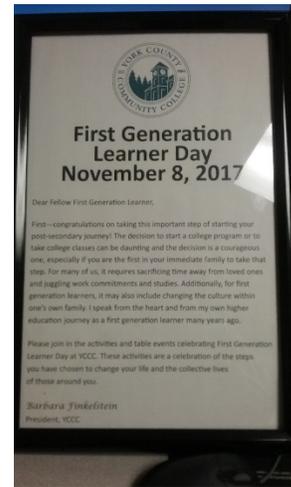
#### **Maine**

*Kennebec Valley Community College's* First Gen celebration included the construction of a video featuring students, faculty, and staff proudly declaring their identity as first generation college students/graduates: <https://youtu.be/Eo8ZFGt23qo>

*University of Maine/Farmington's* Student Support Services (Johnson Scholars) and Upward Bound, sponsored a First-Generation College Celebration on November 8, 2017. The Celebration combined online initiatives and on-campus events in the classroom, on the athletic field, in clubs and organizations, and throughout the campus community. The day began with a Declaration complete with bagpipes and confetti canons. First Gen students held Speak Out sessions along with first-gen oral history videos and button-making activities. The Maine State Senate offered a Senate Resolution, read at the Speak Out. A faculty member dedicated a piano performance to first-gen students on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Students with a first-gen button received a 20%

discount at the UMF bookstore. First-gen students and supporters were also invited share their story on UMF's First-Gen Proud Blog <https://firstgenproud.blogspot.com/>. More pictures, videos, and testimony can be found on the first-gen blog and on the Facebook pages for both programs, "UMF Upward Bound" or "UMF Johnson Scholars."

*York County Community College* celebrated 1<sup>st</sup> generation college student day with stickers that said *I am 1<sup>st</sup> gen* or *I support 1<sup>st</sup> gen*. Stickers were handed out at a lobby table all day. Students, staff and faculty were invited to write their 1<sup>st</sup> gen experiences on a white board in the lobby. In addition, YCCC president, Dr Barbara Finkelstein, sent a message commemorating the day.



## Massachusetts



**UMass Boston-- First Gen to First Job: Overcoming Obstacles & Achieving Success**, a college and career event for Boston Public School students participating in the university's Urban Scholars, TRIO Upward Bound, and TRIO Talent Search programs held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. One hundred (100) students joined 23 First Gen career professionals working in Medicine, Business, Creative Arts, Technology, Engineering, Public Service, Education, and Law. The event featured college/career panel discussions as well as a Networking Bingo activity. Registering before the event via Snapchat, the students earned chances to win prizes by asking questions and initiating conversations with the First Gen engineers, educators, attorneys, doctors, and musicians in attendance. Volunteers represented major corporations, nonprofit organizations, and higher education institutions including Boston Children's Hospital, the Boston Celtics,

Raytheon, Gilbane, the Boston Red Sox, Harvard University, Tufts Medical Center, Emerson College, Lesley University, and the Boston Public Schools. Five of the participating professionals were alumni of the UMass Boston Pre-collegiate Programs. A larger, full-day First Gen to First Job symposium is planned for next year.

## **Educational Opportunity Centers Conference**

Gardner, Massachusetts

November 2-3, 2017

The NEOA Regional EOC conference was held on November 2 and 3, 2017, at the Colonial Hotel in Gardner, MA. The conference was facilitated by the Rhode Island Educational Opportunity Center, directed by Philomena Fayanjuola. There were thirty-eight EOC staff that attended from around the New England region. The focus of the conference was on professional development and best practices in assisting low income, first-generation students prepare for and stay in college. Some highlights of the conference were interactive and engaging ice breaker activities, presentations on changes to the FAFSA in 2018-19, Immigrant and refugee issues, foster youth issues and the use of social media in EOC programs.

## **Fair**



## **Share....Yes....Another Reason to Give**

“The Trump Administration is working to eliminate TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) programs that support adults in completing and furthering their education and career goals. In 2016, EOC programs assisted and supported more than 225,000 low-income adult learners who would be the first people in their families to enroll in college to complete and further their education through career and technical education

programs, community college and four-year institutions. An increasing number of adult students are furthering their education as a way of moving out of low-wage and dead-end employment. EOC helps low-wage and unemployed Americans move into higher paying jobs and contribute more revenue to the local economy. Higher wages mean more taxes revenue and greater local spending power.”

We all know that COE will work daily, aggressively and intentionally to avert this elimination from occurring. It does not happen without funds. So, we need to do our part: giving to fair share supports the intensive work that COE does on our behalf!

### ***10 for 10 (10 Payments for 10 Months)***

Sign up for payments to come out monthly and be done for the year! Complete the **Personal Contribution Form**  (.pdf) to start your giving today.

Feel free to contact Ramon Gonzalez with any questions. Click here and donate <http://coenet.org/donate.shtml>

### ***NEOA Membership Renewal Time!!!!***

NEOA is leading the charge in advocating for our programs, while providing great professional development, student activities, and more! You can renew your membership on our website: [http://www.neaonline.org/m\\_main.php](http://www.neaonline.org/m_main.php)

Do you know of any new programs or new program directors/staff in our region? We'd love to provide them with an “NEOA Welcome” and connect with them! Please send any information to Steve Visco ([steve.visco@umit.maine.edu](mailto:steve.visco@umit.maine.edu); [\(207\) 581-3706](tel:(207)581-3706)).

## **Positions Available**

Do you know someone who would be fantastic as a TRIO professional or who is a TRIO professional ready for a new challenge? Casey Henderson quietly and consistently sends out announcements to the membership when he learns about positions. Please, consider the folks you know who might be a good fit for our community and forward the announcements to them. Current vacancies include:

Castleton University Assistant Director of the McNair Scholars Program. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply and for more information, please visit: <https://castleton.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=91515>

Keene State College two Educational Counselors for the Upward Bound Programs. For more information, visit the [University System of New Hampshire](#) employment website. Review of applications will continue until the positions are filled or otherwise closed at the college's discretion; for full consideration, submit all materials by Monday, December 4, 2017.

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) Talent Search Program A part-time Talent Search Counselor position is currently posted at [vsac.org](#). There is flexibility to have this become a full-time position. Apply at: [vsac.org](#) and view job description here: PT VSAC TS Counselor

The University of Southern Maine has several positions open. Review will begin on **November 27, 2017**.

TRIO Veterans Upward Bound Coordinator: <https://usm.hiretouch.com/job-details?jobID=44695&job=trio-coordinator-veterans-upward-bound>

TRIO Veterans Upward Bound Advisor: <https://usm.hiretouch.com/job-details?jobID=44696&job=trio-advisor-veterans-upward-bound>

Part-time TRIO Advisors (may be combined): Veterans Upward Bound .6, Upward Bound .4 and Student Support Services .4: <https://usm.hiretouch.com/job-details?jobID=44699&job=trio-advisor-part-time-upward-bound-student-support-services-veterans-upward-bound>

TRIO Student Support Services Advisor: <https://usm.hiretouch.com/job-details?jobID=44649&job=trio-advisor-student-support-services>

Southern Maine Community College, TRIO Student Support Services Coach; cover letter, resume and a list of three professional references by **Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017** to [HR@smccME.edu](mailto:HR@smccME.edu) or mail to: **Southern Maine Community College**, 2 Fort Road, South Portland, ME 04106; **Attention: Denise Reny, HR & Benefits Manager**