

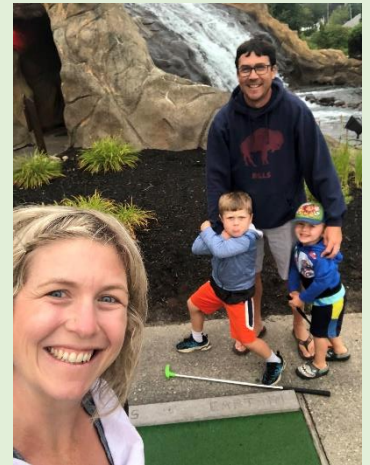


Meet Our President-Elect

What's in This Issue:

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Lindsay Carpenter is the Director of a newly awarded Upward Bound grant at her high school alma mater, Lyndon Institute in Lyndonville, VT. Prior to this role she was an Outreach Counselor for five years with Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) Talent Search program. She is also a proud alum of NVU-Lyndon's Upward Bound Program, VSAC Talent Search and UVM's SSS program. She has been involved in TRIO leadership within her state and region for the past five years serving as the Vermont Educational Opportunity Program



(VEOP) President-Elect (2018-2020) and President (2020-present). She is also the President-Elect for the New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA). Lindsay participated in COE's Executive Leadership Institute (2019) and NEOA's Arnold Mitchem Leadership Institute (2021) and has always credited TRIO for her academic and professional success. #TRIOWORKS!

Lindsay has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Vermont (2006) and a Master's of Education (Curriculum and Instruction) from Northern Vermont University Lyndon (2017). She lives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont with her husband, two young sons and chocolate lab.

When Lindsay is not living her best TRIO life, she is probably having dance parties with her kids or working on a puzzle. She also enjoys reading, hiking, cooking, going to the beach, spending time with friends and family and hosting gatherings that involve food, spirits, bonfires, and games!

I'm First Celebrations

The first national First- Generation College Celebration Day occurred in 2017 when COE encouraged institutions nationwide on or around November 8th to celebrate first-generation college students or graduates. The year NEOA held many successful I'm First celebrations. Below are photos from our regions' celebrations.



Upcoming Events

MEEOA Conference

January 5th – 6th
See below

NEOA Board Meeting

January 12th – 13th
Warwick, RI

TRIO DAY 2023

February 16th – 17th
Crown Plaza – Warwick, RI
www.neoaonline.org/a_trioday.php

COE Policy Seminar

March 19th – March 22
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill- Washington, D.C.
www.coenet.org/policy-seminar

NEOA 2023 Annual Conference

April 5th- 7th
Westin Portland Harborview Hotel- Portland, ME
www.neoaonline.org/a_conference.php



Maine Educational Opportunity Association (MEEOA)

Refilling the Well: Reenergizing TRIO

January 5-6th, 2023

Central Maine Community College (CMCC) & Hilton Garden Inn
Auburn

Pre-Conference held on Jan 4th at CMCC

[Register Here](#)

ZOOM Tables

NEOA Monthly Zoom Tables

See you January 18th!

Break-out rooms for each program (EOC, TS, UB/UBMS, McNair/ VUB, SSS, and GEAR Up) for networking and sharing. Drop-in, drop-out, stay the whole time or stay ten minutes. Share the link, all EOP staff are welcome!

Program Zoom Tables have been well attended with approximately 35 in attendance at each session in September and October. Participants have been overwhelmingly positive about the informative discussions and networking that take place at the monthly meetings. The agenda is flexible and changes each month. The Zoom Tables are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:00. If you have a concern or a best practice to share, please plan to attend the next session on January 18th; watch the NEOA listserv for more details or Contact Lynn for questions.

TRIO Day 2023



Visit our [website](#) for more information or to register starting December 19th

COE Policy Seminar 2023

Marching Towards One Million!

This year, the Council for Opportunity in Education's annual Policy Seminar runs from Sunday, March 19 through Wednesday, March 22, and includes three events: the Leadership Summit, the Seminar on Relations with the U.S. Department of Education, and the Legislative Conference.

The Leadership Summit occurs each year prior to COE's Annual Policy Seminar and gathers State/Regional leadership, Emerging Leaders, Alumni and Experienced Professionals to develop leadership skills and form quality professional connections. Funds to help support attendance at Policy Seminar may be available; contact your state President or state liaison for more information.

[Register Here](#)



NEOA Conference 2023

We Are All Somebody: Fostering Belonging & Resilience in College Attainment

**April 5th- April 7th
Westin Hotel, Portland Maine
Pre-Conference held on April 4th**

Refer to [NEOA Conference Website](#) for more information

Want to make sure you use your time in Portland well? A little pre-planning never hurt!
The [Visit Portland website](#) has a lot of great information about things to do while in the area.

For questions, please reach out to Conference Co-Chairs
Ginny Fowles-Ward - vfowles@bowdoin.edu &

From the COE Newsroom

President Pote reports the following from the COE board meeting this month:

TRIO is requesting a \$161 Million Funding Increase, however, future funding faces the following persistent challenges:

- Legislative attempts to erode first generation, and low income umbrella
- Interest groups using TRIO to funnel funding and services to their target population
- Imposing administrative burdens rather than meaningful change
- Desire to boost other domestic priorities like disaster relief, COVID and foreign aid

COE Board meets with Gaby Watts, Senior Director, Student Support Services, Higher Education Programs

- A *New interim Progress report* will be sent out to all TRIO programs the ***first week in Jan and will be due the first of Feb.*** We were assured that the report is not cumbersome. The intent is to provide progress that programs are making toward their objectives.
- The actual APR will come later in Feb with a due date potentially in March or April
- There was more discussion about moving all grants to a September 1st start date.

Arnold L. Mitchem Leadership Institute



The first session of the Arnold L. Mitchem Leadership Institute (AMLI) shined its light in Biddeford Pool, Maine from November 9 to November 11.

Participants: Adnane Adossama, Kelsey Bailey, Chelsea Cichocki McTigue, Mary Cooper, Patrick Greene, Natalie Lockhart, Kate Luksha, Angela Ricciardi, Anna Telensk, Sarah Vargo, and Suamy Ventura joined AMLI Director Craig Werth for welcoming, introductions, orientation, community formation, and a deep dive into our natural and adaptive styles as workers and leaders, with the expert guidance of the father-and-daughter team – Doug and Kelsey Johnson.



All look forward to session two in January. Craig says of the class, “here is yet another amazing team of compelling leaders in educational opportunity. All were fully present, gracious, dedicated, and open to discovery about themselves and each other throughout our first session. With eager anticipation and high expectations, I look forward to the rest of our 2022-23 year together.” The participants will gather again in January, March, at the 2023 NEOA Conference in April.

NEOA State Initiative Grants

NEOA State Initiatives grants are awarded to select state associations or individuals annually to promote activities across New England to build capacity to advocate for college access and success programs serving low-income, first-generation students.

Examples of past grant-funded projects include:

- Convening a meeting with legislators
- Emerging Leaders Institute activities
- Hosting a TRIO Day celebration
- Developing a state Fact Book for Policy Seminar
- Building a media plan, including developing a statewide TRIO web site

Grant awards are typically \$500 or less and are available on a rolling basis. Applications are available on the NEOA web site (nea.org). They can be matched with additional funds through COE's separate Spraggins Grants. Please contact Sarah Morrell, NEOA Advocacy Chair, for any questions (Sarah.morrell@umb.edu).

See page 8 for NHEOA's Initiative update!

State Conferences & Updates

Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA)

Over 70 members of the Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA) gathered at the Devens Center Commons for the 38th Annual Conference: **“Sparks of Possibilities”** in early October. The conference sought to reignite the membership and build momentum for the leadership pipeline, advocacy, and equity work. The day kicked off with an engaging keynote by Dr. Liya Escalera, Vice Provost for Academic Support Services and Undergraduate Studies at UMass Boston. Dr. Escalera engaged members in deep dives on the power of asset-based thinking and equity work, driving members to action.

Workshops helped hone professional skills in key areas including Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), mental health, and college financing (shout out to MEOA sponsor MEFA!). Updates from NEOA and COE helped build momentum for engaging members in advocacy at the state, regional, and national level.

Of course, the highlight of the day was the Scholarship Luncheon. MEOA awarded six \$750 scholarships to alumni and current students nominated by the membership. Recipients included students from UMass Boston’s Urban Scholars program, Mount Wachusett Community College’s SSS programs (Rx and Visions), Bruce Wells Scholars-Upward Bound, and Norther Essex Community College’s SSS program. Scholarship can be used by students to cover any expenses associated with their post-secondary pursuits.

New leadership was also elected at the conference. Craig Elkins of UMass Boston will assume the MEOA Presidency on November 1. He is joined by President-Elect Bryan Landgren of Suffolk University, Vice-Presidents/Conference Co-Chairs Sharmese Gun and Ramon Gonzalez of MWCC, and Treasurer Laxmi Bissoondial of Worcester State. Along with Mendrick Banzuela (State Liaison elected at NEOA last Spring) and the appointed board members, the MEOA Board is ready to make sparks fly as they kick off the new year.

New Hampshire Educational Opportunity Association (NHEOA)

NHEOA recently applied for and received a \$500 State Initiative grant through NEOA. NHEOA is both grateful and excited that NEOA is supporting the association with the generous grant, as the grant allows NHEOA to provide professional development experiences at the NHEOA Conference in February. NHEOA is beginning a strategic planning process this year, for the time in recent memory. To get started on the right foot, the conference will provide members with professional development opportunities that will support communication and teamwork in general, but also in the context of developing a strategic plan, as well as professional development specifically surrounding the initiation of strategic planning. NHEOA is also looking forward to reporting back to NEOA about the conference in February!

Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunity Programs (CAEOP)

On Friday December 9th, our Connecticut Association of Educational Opportunities Programs came together for our 35th CAEOP Reconnecting & Recharging Conference, our first conference since 2019. Our guest speaker, Sistah Anyango, got our members up and moving with breathing exercises and dancing routine as we got to reconnect with returning and new members. Sistah Anyango, the CEO of the The FLYY Movement, recharged our attendees for the year ahead!

Another highlight of our conference was recognizing individuals for their work in TRIO in CT. Dr. Bidya Ranjeet was recognized for her years of service to CAEOP and for her leadership as the Director of UCONN's Center for Academic Programs. Awilda Saavedra- Reasco was also recognized for her work as Director of the Pre-Collegiate and Access Services at Central CT State University where she oversaw EOP, Upward Bound, ConnCAP and CARE Scholars! This year, CAEOP recognized Darrion Sprueill as the CAEOP TRIO Achiever of 2022! An Upward Alumnus from Western CT State University, Darrion now works at American University as the Senior Project Manager for the National Science Foundation focusing on initiatives to support professional growth of women and underrepresented minority field in STEM fields.



Darrion Sprueill,
CAEOP TRIO Achiever 2022

Vermont Educational Opportunity Programs (VEOP)

Please note the Jan. 10th VEOP conference date is canceled.

If you are able and willing to help plan a conference, please email Soren Dews (dews@vsac.org) VEOP have not held an in-person event since 2019 and many VEOP members have expressed an interest in getting together, but this cannot happen without a team effort Please let Soren if you have any questions.

2023 NEOA Achiever Award!

Save the Date!

2023 NEOA Achiever Award Nominations

Help us recognize and celebrate successful
TRIO & GEAR UP Alumni throughout New
England's Educational Opportunity Programs!



**Applications Open
December 1st, 2022**

Questions? Contact:
Adam at adam.keese@keene.edu or
Becky at rebecca.carrasquillo@keene.edu

Professional Development

The Professional Development Committee has had a busy fall! A variety of activities are in the works or have already happened.

- The Arnold Mitchem Leadership Institute is in full swing with 11 professionals learning and growing under the excellent leadership of Director Craig Werth. See page 7 for full update!
- The professional development survey was sent to the membership in October, please continue to let your interests be known. You can find a link to the survey on the professional development page on the NEOA website.
- Monthly ZoomTables have been well attended. Discussions have been robust and the event has received very positive reviews. Please join us on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:00. We'll be taking a break in December, the next ZoomTables will be held on January 18. See you there!
- An Upward Bound professional development day was held on Dec. 9. UB professionals tackled issues such as summer program models, curriculum, recruitment, and alumni tracking.

The professional development committee welcomes new members, please contact Lynn Ploof-Davis (lynnp@maine.edu) if you're interested in working on professional development for the NEOA community. We also seek individuals who would like to facilitate and organize professional development events. If you have an idea and are willing to spearhead an event, we can make it work!

Announcing the Brand New JEPD Fund

What is this? A new source of PD funds for NEOA members with funds raised from the annual Silent Auction at the NEOA Conference. The purpose of this fund is to provide NEOA members with the opportunity for exposure to a variety of diverse trainings with preference given to PD OUTSIDE of TRIO/EOP trainings. In some cases, the Arnold Mitchem Leadership Institute or state/regional conference support may be considered IF the institution is unable to fund the cost.

Who can Apply? NEOA members who have been employed in TRIO/EOP programs for at least 6 months.

What can I use the \$\$ for? The proposed professional development must relate to educational opportunity work, participants served, and/or the work an applicant currently performs or plans to perform in the near future. The PD must be offered by a legitimate/credible organization.

To be more specific, Types/topics that would be eligible include:

- **Direct Service:** Enhanced skills and knowledge serving participants, parents, schools and partners
- **Individual skill development** for professional/career goals: management and leadership, supervision, technology, grant writing, advocacy, etc.
- **Program Development, Operations and Enhancement:** building/strengthening partners and stakeholders, PR, strategic planning, organizational structure and operations (record keeping, compliance, etc.)

Expectations will be clearly articulated for Awardees to report back to the NEOA board on their outcomes from attending the PD event and how they can share their learnings. We want to see the learnings shared and replicated.

How much can I get? We are estimating that the maximum amount will be between \$1,000-1,500, depending on how much money is raised through the Silent Auction at the conference and how many apply. Applicants can apply for much smaller amounts as well.

When can I apply? Information and application materials will be made available in Jan. or Feb. Look for information in the Feb. Newsletter, at the NEOA Conference in April and through NEOA membership emails. Our goal is to make the funds available in Feb. of 2023.

Introducing our TRIO Day Chair, also an Alumna!

Jasmine Miranda-Avalos is the 2023 NEOA TRIO Day Leader/Coordinator. She attended Providence Career & Technical Academy and grew up in Providence, RI. Since 2019 she has been a Coordinator and Counselor for ETS based at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) Lisbon Campus. *Read more in her words ...*



" I joined ETS my junior year of high school and I am so grateful I did. My parents are from Guatemala and Puerto Rico and at home Spanish was the only language we spoke. My father with only a high school diploma and my mother only making it to middle school made me a first-gen student. ETS really helped me understand what it meant to further my education and get a degree. It showed me what options and opportunities I had outside of Providence. Honestly, I don't know if I would have made it as far as I did without the support and guidance of my ETS counselor, who is now my Director, may I add. I attended the University of Rhode Island as a Talent Development scholar where I majored in Human

Development and Family Studies with a minor in Communication Studies. During my last year at URI I took on an internship at my high school in the guidance department. Towards the end of my internship, I ran into my ETS counselor. After some catching up, he offered me a position as a part time Coordinator/Counselor. I eagerly accepted and as soon as I graduated in 2019 I took on the position. During this time, I also took on a position as a Resident Assistant for the Talent Development Summer Success program where I supported and advised incoming first-generation college students like myself. A year later I took on a full-time position at ETS, being the counselor for Central Falls High School and Calcutt Middle School. Soon after this I decided to continue my studies at URI where I'm working to get my master's in College Student Personnel. A year into my master's program I decided to get out of my comfort zone and give back to a program that supported my growth and become the TRIO Day Chair."

Thank you Jasmine for stepping up to lead TRIO day and Welcome to the NEOA Board!

Announcements

Follow our Alumni LinkedIn Page! Alumni of Educational Opportunity Programs of New England!

Silent Auction Help Needed

Interested in helping NEOA raise money for the new Jerry Ellis PD Fund (page 12) and other NEOA initiatives? Like being with people? Want to contribute to raising money for NEOA in the easiest way possible? Then you are *perfect* to assist with the one time event Silent Auction that takes place at the annual conference.

Consider joining the Silent Auction Committee or just signing up for a shift.

Activities include one or more of the following:

- Helping to collect and record items for the auction
 - Filling out Bid sheets for each item
 - Setting up the auction/arranging items
- Staffing a shift or 2 during the auction: straightening up and encouraging people to bid
- All: Processing items and winners at the end of the auction and cashing the winners out
- Being available to assist before & after the banquet and the morning after the auction ends

This is a great and easy way to become involved! Please consider this great opportunity!

Email Linda Shiller-Cormany at shilcorm88@gmail.com

Please help us keep the quarterly newsletter relevant and informative.

Do you have any of the following highlights to share with the NEOA membership?

Send it on (please) to shilcorn88@gmail.com

- Program, staff and student accomplishments or news
- Alumni news
- Upcoming opportunities (professional development, student events, etc.)
- Spotlight on students or staff members
- “NEWS BITES” (small but important info to share)
- Great practices from the field
- Student work: art, writing, poetry
- Help needed from the NEOA community

We accept submissions anytime and will save for the next edition!

**With gratitude from Linda and Yara
Your submissions help keep the NEOA community at large informed and connected!**



**Wishing you all a safe
&
Happy Holiday
Season!**

