

2019-20 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 1	NH State Meeting	Durham, NH
Nov 14-15	Board Meeting	Hampton, NH*
Dec	EOC Conference	
Dec 13	Conn State Meeting	
Jan 9-10	Maine State Meeting	Bar Harbor, ME
Jan 30-31	Board Meeting	Framingham, MA*
Feb 20-12	TRIO DAY	Framingham, MA
Mar 23-25	COE Policy Seminar	Washington, D.C.
Mar 31	Board Meeting	Southbury, CT*
Apr 1-3	NEOA Conference	Southbury, CT

***Your Association, Your Board Meetings**

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The NEOA Board is here to serve you and enthusiastically welcomes your comments, thoughts and participation. All Board meetings are open to all NEOA members. Attending the meetings is a great way to familiarize yourself with the work that is being done and to engage at your own pace. And, it is a great way to help determine if you are interested in NEOA Board service! Meetings are from 1p.m.-9 p.m.. (first day) and 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (second day) of the schedule. It's easiest to attend when the meeting is right near you!

Interested? Contact Mr. Rick Williams,



NEOA welcomes your ideas, your successes and your participation!

Ways to share your talents:

- * Attend a Board meeting near you!
- * Follow us on Facebook:
 @newenglandeducationopportunityassociation
- * Post on Instagram: @nea19
- * Be a guest contributor to the newsletter.
 Contact elaine.leavitt@gmail.com
- * Talk to your state leadership about your interests.

Executive Leadership Institute Yale University 2019



NHEOA President-Elect **Selina Taylor**, COE VP for Public Policy & Communications **Kim Jones**, MEOA President **Steve Visco**, COE President **Maureen Hoyler**, and VEOP President-Elect **Lindsay Carpenter** at the third annual COE Executive Leadership Institute at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, Oct. 6-9.

The Institute consisted of lectures, workshops and facilitated exercises to enhance leadership skills particularly in the realm of college access. The curriculum focused on topics such as effective leadership, communications, and team-building. Participants worked in small groups on case studies at the event and will continue to work via conference call and webinars to develop a formal presentation that will be presented at the COE Leadership Summit in March 2020 in Washington, D.C.

“Opportunity is
who we are. And
the defining project
of our generation is
to restore that
promise.”

President Barak Obama, January 28, 2014

VEOP Annual Conference Vermont Technical College October 15, 2019



Eighty-five college access professionals from Vermont, New Hampshire and New York gathered at Vermont Technical College for the annual Vermont Educational Opportunity Programs (VEOP) conference. The conference theme was ‘TRIO: Tolerance, Respect,

Inclusion, and Opportunity’ with 2018 VEOP achiever, Tabitha Pihl-Moore as the featured keynote speaker.

Participants heard from VTC President, Patricia Moulton, Congressional Delegates, NEOA President, Rick Williams, VEOP President-Elect, and Lindsay Carpenter. The conference also offered 9 workshop sessions. The *New TRIO Professional* was presented to Ryan Fauci of Northern Vermont University -Lyndon. The *Carolyn Donahue Award*: was presented to Jodi Hart, Blue Mountain Union High School. The *VEOP Educator Award* recipient was Carrie Harlow from VSAC. The *VEOP Achiever Award* was presented to Anna White-Crum, Student Support Services alumnae. Angela Ryan-Williams, VSAC Gear Up Counselor, received the *Jack Anderson Award*. The day ended with a successful raffle with all proceeds going to the VEOP scholarship fund.



Hanna White graduated from Lyndon State College (NVU-Lyndon) in May of 2015 with a Bachelor’s of Science in Elementary Education and Early Education. She is a Kindergarten teacher at Woodsville School. Last year she was received 2019 NH Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year Award, for her work with her students to save the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinators. During the summer she will be spending time in Africa to help families build cleaner building stoves to heat and cook on. Hanna loves teaching and really enjoys the opportunity to teach in third world countries.

VEOP President Elect, Lindsay Carpenter, Angie Ryan, the 2019 Jack Anderson Award Winner, and Hanna White, 2019 VEOP Achiever.

MEOP Annual Conference Cape Cod, Massachusetts October 17-18, 2019

The MEOA 25th Annual Conference was held at the Red Jacket Beach Resort on Cape Cod, October 17-18, 2019. The theme was 35 Years and Counting: Advancing the Work of College Access and Success. Although a major nor'easter storm literally blew through the first day of the conference we had a great turn out and we all came together and weathered through. Arlene Rodriguez, Vice President for Academic & Students Affairs at Cape Cod Community College was there to welcome conference goers and Dr. Nicole Norfles provided an update from COE. During the GALA Dinner Rick Williams, NEOA President provided opening remarks and there was also a MEOA/NEOA Leaders Panel that reflected on their experiences working in TRIO. The highlight of the conference was the Scholarship Awards Breakfast where six TRIO Participants were presented with \$750.00 scholarships.



-MEOA/NEOA Leaders Panel -
Pam Boisvert, Retired CEO Massachusetts Education and Career Opportunities; **Channa Srey**, Director, College and Career Pathways, The Possible Project—Boston, MA; **Evette Layne**, Director, Upward Bound MIT/Wellesley; **Reggie Jean**, Director of Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science Boston University.



Best Practices Around the Region

***VEOP First Annual Fun Run
Raises \$1800 for Scholarship Fund
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The Fun Run was held at the University of Vermont campus. VEOP hosted more than 20 runners and received external funding to provide gifts for the participants. It was a perfect day to begin a hoped-for annual scholarship fund-raising event.



2020 Fair Share



New England Leads The Way

Fair Share Coordinators

CAEOP	Marek Mikunda, mmikunda@wesleyan.edu
MEEOA	Mary Kate Barbosa, mary.barbosa@maine.edu
MEOA	Gaurav Khanee, g_khanna@mwcc.mass.edu
NHEOA	Josh Gagnon, joshua.gagnon@unh.edu
RI	Stephanie Cruz, stacruz@ccri.edu
VEOP	Karen Madden, karen.madden@northernvermont.edu

Fair Share

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) depends on institutional memberships, subscriptions, and personal contributions as its major source of operating revenue. Fair Share is the sharing of budgetary responsibility needed for the Council for Opportunity in Education to operate based on the relative number of TRIO projects in an area. The Council's Board of Directors votes on the General Administrative Budget (GAB) of the Council. The GAB supports the critical work of the Council not supported by outside grants. The Fair Share is then calculated using the GAB amount.

Fair Share is collected in four ways: Regional Membership Dues; Institutional Membership Dues; Subscriptions; and Annual Giving Campaign (Personal Donations). Our current campaign is *10 for 10 (10 Payments for 10 Months)*. Make life a little easier this year by starting your personal donation to the Council for Opportunity in Education early. Sign up for payments to come out monthly and be done for the year!



**McNair Director Tammy Gewehr and
2019 NEOA Rising Star Eman Akam**

***Guest editorial in the Addison County Independent, October 3, 2019:
“A recent grad's perspective on higher education today”***

“Neither of my parents went to college. Yet, I can remember first considering higher education in second grade. I was only interested in careers with more than four syllables like paleontologist, anesthesiologist or archeologist. At that time, I was relatively aware of my family’s situation and the associated challenges, especially in the rural towns of Rutland County where I grew up. Finishing college felt like the path to success and the key to financial security, even if I didn’t use those words at the time. This past May, I completed my life-long aspiration when I graduated from Northern Vermont University with a degree in Environmental and Political Science. This summer, the Vermont Community Foundation in Middlebury hired me for a two-year position as the inaugural David Rahr Community Philanthropy Fellow (17 syllables for those keeping track). I work on the grant-making team, helping to direct grants and investments to make a difference in Vermont. It is inspiring to hear the many ways Vermonters are tackling the big issues.

As a part my training for the fellowship, I have learned a lot about the opportunity gap in Vermont and beyond. In a few words, the opportunity gap is marked by the lack of social and economic mobility among people born into poverty. This is, in part, because of the many advantages wealthier parents can afford for their children, including higher education. But programs to break that cycle of poverty and get ahead do exist. Comparing my own accomplishment to recent data collected by VSAC (Vermont Student Assistance Corporation) about Vermont’s high school class of 2012, it seems I’ve beaten the odds: Only 16 percent of males who were first in their family to pursue college obtained a Bachelor’s degree within four years of graduating from high school.

How then, does American society promote social mobility?

According to Horace Mann, education, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of human conditions. If this is the case, then creating greater access to higher education should be an all-important goal for communities and governments who care about their constituents.

In 2013, the Vermont legislature passed Act 77, which is currently doing what Horace Mann envisioned. Among other things, Act 77 created dual-enrollment, which allows every high school student in Vermont to take two free college classes at no cost. It also led to universal access to the early college programs, allowing a select number of seniors to finish their high school years with a full college course load. This means that students can graduate high school with up to 42 college credits — almost one third of the total needed for a diploma. That cuts the cost of obtaining a college degree substantially.

Growing up, I learned the value of these programs first-hand. With the support available to me from Upward Bound, a branch of Trio, which is a national college-readiness program, I made use of the Dual Enrollment vouchers available to me. I took both of these classes through Castleton University and did quite well.

But obstacles do arise. When it came time to apply for Early College classes in the spring of my junior year of high school, I had a class-scheduling meeting with my guidance counselor who advised me to not pursue the opportunity and finish my senior year in high school because there would be many “more qualified” individuals applying and that it would be a very competitive process.

This news was disheartening. For that moment the confidence and enthusiasm I had for attending college was taken away. Luckily, there was another form of support available to me that not everyone has the privilege to access. My Upward Bound director told me to apply, that I would have a strong application and to ask her for any help that I needed along the way. One year later, I graduated from high school with 36 college credits and made the dean’s list both of my two semesters as an early college student.

Now, I am one of a few hundred students who have taken advantage of this opportunity. Collectively, Vermont students have saved in the range of millions of dollars.

Based on my experience, here is what I recommend:

- ***To legislators: Expand these opportunities. They are of great value. Ideally, expansions will focus on first-generation and/or economically disadvantaged populations as they face the most barriers to pursuing a degree — a crucial ingredient for economic success.***
- ***To students: Take full advantage of all opportunities, find a community that will lift you up, apply for grants on time, and pursue every scholarship you qualify for.***
- ***To adults/parents: Whether college or a certificate, encourage students to go beyond high school, they and society will be better off for it.”***

Brockton Corbett

Brockton Corbett, a May 2019 graduate of Northern Vermont University who grew up in Wells and Poultney, Vermont, is currently serving as the inaugural David Rahr Community Philanthropy Fellow at the Vermont Community Foundation.