

What's in This Issue:

- President's Message
- Fair Share
- NEOA Membership
- Spring Event Updates
- Photo Gallery
- NEOA Members in the News
- Tech Committee
- Silent Auction Update
- Alumni Corner
- Professional Development
- Call for Proposals
- NEOA Tribute
- Looking Ahead!

Farewell From the President...

Dear members of the New England Educational Opportunity Association,

As my presidential term comes to a close, I am filled with a sense of pride and gratitude for the many accomplishments we have achieved together over the past year.

Through our various programs and initiatives, we have helped countless students overcome barriers and achieve their academic and career goals. From providing an in-person TRIO Day in Warwick RI and a professional conference in Portland ME, we have made a meaningful impact on the lives of many.

But our work is far from finished. As we look ahead, we must continue to be strong advocates for the needs of low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities. We must remain committed to promoting policies that support access and equity in education, and we must continue to provide the highest quality support and resources to the students we serve.

I am proud of the work that NEOA has done over the past year to support our 276 members and the communities we serve. From hosting virtual monthly zoom tables and zoom casts to providing resources and support to finding new ways to connect and engage with one another, we have adapted quickly to the changing circumstances and continued to advance our mission.

As I pass the torch to Lindsay Carpenter, our next president, I encourage all of you to remain active and engaged members of NEOA and continue to mentor each other to sustain and promote a diverse association. Your contributions and ideas are essential to our success, and I am confident that NEOA will continue to make a positive impact within our region and nation in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of NEOA, and I look forward to seeing all we will accomplish together in the future.

Sincerely,
Rob Pote



FAIR SHARE!

Thanks to everyone for supporting Fair Share!

If you have not yet donated-there is still time! We need to get to 100% by the end of June. Please help us to reach that goal! Any amount is appreciated. Here is the link to donate [Council for Opportunity in Education » Donate to COE \(coenet.org\)](#) The most important thing is that every institution that has a TRIO program should become an institutional member. We can have an invoice sent so let us know if you need some support with this!

Also, thanks to everyone who donated to the Fair Share football and for everyone who purchased raffle tickets! We were able to send \$770 to COE as a donation from NEOA because of your generosity!

| State | Equality | Membership | Contributions | Sum | Budgeted | Difference | % |
|-------|----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|
| CT | \$0.00 | \$31,775.00 | \$1,860.00 | \$33,635.00 | \$40,564.00 | \$6,929.00 | 83% |
| MA | \$0.00 | \$71,025.00 | \$4,517.84 | \$75,542.84 | \$87,420.00 | \$11,877.16 | 86% |
| ME | \$0.00 | \$43,875.00 | \$7,138.00 | \$51,013.00 | \$43,740.00 | (\$7,273.00) | 117% |
| NH | \$0.00 | \$11,225.00 | \$2,710.00 | \$13,935.00 | \$9,528.00 | (\$4,407.00) | 146% |
| RI | \$0.00 | \$5,025.00 | \$700.00 | \$5,725.00 | \$6,533.00 | \$808.00 | 88% |
| VT | \$0.00 | \$18,625.00 | \$1,340.00 | \$19,965.00 | \$21,689.00 | \$1,724.00 | 92% |
| NEOA | \$0.00 | \$181,550.00 | \$18,265.84 | \$199,815.84 | \$209,474.00 | \$9,658.16 | 95% |

NEOA Membership!

Please remember to renew your NEOA membership as of August 31st for the 2023-2024 Year!

Perks of being an NEOA Member!

- ✓ Access to free or discounted Professional Development
- ✓ Can participate in the Arnold L. Mitchem Leadership Institute
- ✓ Can run for NEOA Office and vote for NEOA Officers
- ✓ Connect with state, regional and national professional organizations
- ✓ Network with your peers
- ✓ Receive discounted annual conference registration

Click here to [Renew Membership or Join NEOA today!](#)

NEOA annual membership year: September 1st – August 31st.

For membership questions, please contact Membership Co-Chairs Andrea/Jessica:
membership@neoaonline.org

Spring Event Updates

Policy Seminar Hill Visit Results NEOA

NEOA had a very successful experience on the Hill with all 6 states participating in person. Some highlights include:

- 33 Capitol Hill Visits
- 76% said yes, and 24% said they would most likely or maybe support the \$107 million funding increase
- 82% oppose across the board cuts to education funding
- 91% signed the TRIO annual funding letter
- 52% said yes to including TRIO in their top priorities.

It was a great time on the Hill and another great reminder how fortunate we are in New England to have strong support for TRIO and other educational opportunity programs down in DC.

Now what?

Continue to build the TRIO relationship with your Congressional Members by inviting them to visit your summer programs!

2023 TRIO Day

Thank you Co-Chairs Jasmine Miranda – Avalos & Milary Tavalos from the ETS Program for Co-Chairing our TRIO day this year! Below are a few highlights from the day!

- 420 students and staff from 34 TRIO and GEAR-UP programs from all 6 New England states and NY were in attendance
- Ten college and programs were represented at the fabulous College Fair
- VIPS in attendance were the Lt. Governor of RI Sabina Matos, and Providence City Councilor Juan Pichardo who each shared impassioned talks and shared their stories. Senator Jack Reed provided a recorded video welcome and acknowledgement

2023 NEOA Annual Conference

For those of you who attended this awesome event in Portland, you KNOW that it was top notch in so many ways! Here are some stats!

- 260 attended from across TRIO, GearUp and state college access programs, from 5 New England states & NY
- 60 attended the pre-conference on Liberating Structures & Communication strategies
- 21 workshop and 5 best practices were offered
- The theme of fostering belonging was integrated throughout the conference from keynotes, panels & workshops to offer a unified and energizing professional development experience!

Enjoy the following photo gallery!

Policy Seminar 2023



TRIO Day 2023



NEOA Annual Conference 2023



NEOA Annual Conference 2023 continued



NEOA Members in the News!

KAREN KEIM RECEIVED THE WALTER O. MASON AWARD

Karen is the Director of Maine Ed. Opp Center and Maine Ed. TS at University of Maine, Orono, and received the Walter O. Mason Award during Covid from COE at their annual conference Sept. 23rd, 2022 in San Diego. While we are late in acknowledging this wonderful honor, we are so happy that she received this deserving award and are thrilled to share it with NEOA membership in this edition!

The award is the HIGHEST honor given by COE and recognizes outstanding contributions to federal TRIO programs and the advancement of educational opportunity for under-resourced and 1st gen. college students.

Karen was awarded this prestigious recognition for starting support communities for EOC directors of rural programs during programs. The group continues to meet to figure out how to accomplish their work remotely. Karen has worked in federal TRIO programs for more than 20 years and has served on numerous boards and commissions at the state, regional and national levels, including serving as President of NEOA and on the COE board.

For those who attended the most recent NEOA conference in Portland, you were lucky to experience her passionate and fabulous introduction of the Shirley Chisholm Award recipient, Katie Brown.

Karen has been a fierce advocate for TRIO throughout the years at the local, regional and national levels. She has also been a national trainer for COE for many years.

A true champion for NEOA, MEEEOA, COE and TRIO, this award is so well deserved.

Congratulations Karen!!!!



**GAELYN HASTINGS RECEIVED THE
“SPEAKING UP” AWARD**

Gaelyn Hastings, Director of College Access Programs at YOU, Inc. in Worcester Ma, received the "Speaking Up " Award at the BE A VOICE Breakfast meeting on May 11th.

This award recognizes a woman in the community who uses her time and influence to support and encourage young girls in the community.

Gaelyn has been doing just that for years! She has directed the College Access Programs at You, Inc. for the past 8 years and is a former Upward Bound Director. She has worked in Trio programs for over 25 years, advocating on behalf of TRIO students. Gaelyn served as NEOA past president and Secretary, served on the COE, NEOA and MEOA boards and most recently co-Chaired the conference committee for the COE Annual Conference last year.

Congrats to Gaelyn! So well deserved!



**DARYLEN COTE RECEIVED THE MARIAN BELGRAVE-
HOWARD AWARD**

The Marian Belgrave-Howard Award is given out to individuals for their inspiring an enduring contribution toward the achievement of NEOA’s mission and the expansion of equal educational opportunity.

Darylen Cote has worked in the field of education since 1972. Her career has taken her from a high school English classroom, to advocacy for teen’s and women’s health, a civil rights liaison for schools with the Attorney General’s office, and a curriculum specialist for health education. She recently retired as the Director of TRIO College Access Services at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, which encompasses two Upward Bound programs and an Educational Talent Search program, all of which aim to assist disadvantaged youth with the skills and motivation to attend and succeed in postsecondary education. She is passionate about equity for all people, and especially for women and girls, in all areas of life.

Congrats to Darylen Cote!!!

Join the NEOA Tech Committee!

The NEOA Technology Committee is looking for members! The committee meets once a month, with the exception of June and July, for about an hour via zoom. The committee assists NEOA with technology planning for TRIO Day and the Annual Conference, and as time permits, the committee also discusses other topics and projects in the works.

If interested, please contact the
Technology Committee Chair,
Casey Henderson @ casey.henderson@maine.edu



Silent Auction Update!

Thanks to everyone who perused and bid on items! And Congrats to all who took items home!! It was fun to see everyone enjoying themselves, networking, catching up and checking out the great selection.

We made \$2,203 this year! In addition, the 2023 Truly New England online auction just ended was very successful. Individuals donated a couple dozen items and the bidding was fierce and fun. Once the committee processes the items, they will mail the items to the winning bidders within two weeks. Thank you to all who donated and participated.

The money raised will support NEOA members who need extra funds for professional development through the brand-new Jerry Ellis PD Fund. Info and application: <https://www.neoaonline.org/jepd.php>

It's never too early to think about donating to the annual silent auction. If you have items you are thinking about donating but aren't sure, feel free to contact Linda at Shilcorn88@gmail.com.
Thanks again to all who helped make this a successful event!

Alumni LinkedIn Page



Follow our Alumni LinkedIn Page!

[Alumni of Educational Opportunity Programs
of New England!](#)

Alumni Corner

A Message from the Alumni Committee Co-Chairs:

The Alumni Committee has a request of you. We have developed a survey to send out to TRIO professionals to see how they engage Alumni on their campuses. We would like to collect this information to share with the TRIO family. As we looked at ways to increase our engagement of alumni in our programs, we found that a lot of our TRIO family are doing wonderful things that could be shared. Our thoughts are to collect the information and share it to the whole of our TRIO community.

Please encourage your regions to participate in the survey.

*Yours in TRIO
COE Alumni Committee Co-Chairs
Ronda & Ray*



<https://forms.office.com/r/zJgvs5nzK7>

Two Alums Share Their Experiences

Erica Fuller is the embodiment of service to others and for the greater good. In the summer of 2022, she chose to spread her adventure wings a bit by taking a brief leave from work and serve as an Americorps NCCC Team Leader in central California. Her team of ten young volunteers restored lands around the Tuolumne River watershed badly burned by the Rim Fire in 2013. She capped off that experience by returning to New England to pursue a long-held dream to volunteer as a museum docent for the weather station on top of 6288-foot Mount Washington in New Hampshire for one week. She was right back to her Red Cross work in September!



Erica's work ... recently appointed as the Disaster Workforce Engagement Manager for the American Red Cross of Northern New England after several years as the Senior Volunteer Recruitment Specialist covering Vermont and New Hampshire. Erica had been charged with strategic recruitment of hundreds of volunteers across the region for the many ongoing Red Cross projects. She has earned her Certification in Volunteer Administration (CVA) in support of

setting professional standards and ethical practice and a CNP, Certified Nonprofit Professional enhancing her leadership skills in the non-profit sector. She shared that one of the primary goals in her daily efforts is to, "make sure that volunteers have a quality experience."

Erica's full-time employment with the Red Cross has been built upon the foundation of hours and years of experiences with various Americorps projects, the Vermont Works for Women organization, Habitat for Humanity, and multiple roles with the Upward Bound Program at Northern Vermont University (formerly Johnson State College - JSC.) Since she is continually learning and enhancing her skills, Erica shared her excitement about a recent four-week Compassionate Leadership course offered by Continuing Education at the University of Vermont, learning how to build healthy, productive, and sustainable teams that succeed.

Erica grew up in Underhill, a small rural town of 3200 residents due East of Burlington in northern Vermont. While she comes from a family of modest financial means, their maple sugaring business has been an enduring source of joy. In ninth grade Erica found her way to Upward Bound at JSC. She shared that, "I never loved school until UB and realized that I could continue. I don't remember having much direction until then." Her participation as a UB student over time evolved into roles as intern, residence director, instructor, and Assistant Director after earning her BA in Psychology. She made the leap into her current Red Cross role late in 2019.

While Erica has ventured into various parts of the U.S. in her service to others, Vermont is so deeply rooted as her home. "I can't think of any relatives who don't live in Vermont!", she claimed. Erica resides with her husband Zach and frisky cat Juniper with many family members not far away. They thrive in the outdoors seasons, with trail biking a top activity along with lots of family time. It's no surprise that Erica cited a well-known quote from anthropologist Margaret Mead to capture the spiritual sense driving her desire to serve others in ways larger than herself:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Natalie D. Petit recently began a role as Professional Development Manager at McKinsey & Company. In her words ...

“My role is responsible for managing a full range of professional development and staffing activities. I work with a broad range of consultants to build an understanding of their professional aspirations, experiences, strengths, development needs and relevant personal circumstances. I help develop and coach each individual consultants and facilitate their professional development. In addition, I serve as an adviser and sounding board for community building activities as well as provide analysis on specific data for training and reporting purposes.”

“Skills needed for this role:

- Strong interest and experience in professional development (coaching)
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Project management
- Demonstrated track record of working in high performing teams
- Advising and Effective Listening”

Natalie holds two bachelor's degrees from Curry College & dual master's degrees from the Suffolk University Sawyer School of Business. She is a graduate of Lowell (MA) High School, a GEAR-UP Alumna, and GUALA (Gear Up Alumni Leadership Academy) Leader. She comes to McKinsey after several great years at the MIT Sloan School of Management in multiple roles. In 2022 MIT awarded her an Excellence Award in Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Her good ‘work’ goes well beyond her paid employment!

NEOA Professional Development

Professional development has had a good year. ZoomTables, Suicide Prevention, Best Practices and the Leadership Institute combined to provide the NEOA membership with high quality and engaging PD opportunities. The PD committee would like to hear more from you! The QR code will lead to a very brief survey that will help to inform the NEOA Professional Development committee as they plan activities in the year ahead. Please take just a few minutes to let us know how we can help you to meet your professional development goals!



Call for Proposals!



Call for Proposals!!!

**Reaching Higher: Helping Students Create Their Vision
for the Future Through
Post-Secondary Planning.**

**Tuesday, August 15th, 2023
8:00 AM-3:00 PM**

**A professional convening for school counselors, college access
higher education and community-based professionals to share best
practices supporting students on their path to college and career
success.**

CLICK [HERE](#) to submit a session proposal!

Hosted by:



No cost to participants!
Light breakfast and lunch provided

For more information, go to www.reachhigherma.org
Or email Christine Scafidi at: cscafidi@dhe.mass.edu

NEOA Tribute

Tribute to Adaline Mirabal-Camacho **May 11, 1967 – February 5, 2023**

Adaline Mirabal-Camacho was a fierce warrior for educational opportunity for all members of the human family. She grew up in the Dominican Republic and New York City and came to Boston to be with her mother and siblings. She transferred to UMass Boston from Bronx Community College as business major. She was active in the College of Management where, in 1998, she earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting and Management Information Systems, summa sum laude.

Her first job at UMass Boston was as a peer advisor for the University Advising Center. Soon after that, Adaline's brother joined the Urban Scholars Program and director, Joan Becker, and associate director, Ron Inniss, developed a close relationship with the Mirabal family. Ron immediately saw Adaline's talents and recruited her in 1993 to tutor for the program. Adaline went on to be the Middle School Coordinator, Deputy Director, and Director. She was tough on the students because she knew how much potential they had, but she was also kind, loving, and a lot of fun. She became an adept administrator and a prolific grant writer.



Adaline was deeply committed to service and became actively involved in MEOA and NEOA, serving on numerous committees and the Boards of Directors. She was MEOA President, 1998-99 and NEOA President, 2001-2002. She was also active nationally, serving on the Council for Opportunity in Education Board of Directors, Finance Committee, and Development Committee. She helped build each organization, encouraged others to get involved, and mentored emerging leaders.

In 2004, Adaline went to Boston College to serve as the Assistant Director of Learning to Learn, BC's Student Support Services Program. She brought the same energy, compassion, and determination to her work with low-income and first-generation BC students. She developed and implemented initiatives that increased the retention and graduation of participants.

In 2017, after a transformative trip to the Vatican, she became Assistant Director of Intersections in BC's Mission and Ministry Division. In this role she helped faculty and staff explore the Jesuit and Catholic mission of Boston College in ways that encouraged civic engagement and strengthened the institution.

Adaline lived by the values of integrity, loyalty, compassion, and fairness and she worked hard to empower others. She enjoyed crocheting, needlepoint, listening to soft music, and traveling to the Dominican Republic. Her family, especially her mother, Altagracia, her brothers Roland and Frankie, her sister Awilda, and her husband, Domingo Camacho, were the center of her universe. And all of her students, TRIO, MEOA, and NEOA colleagues were part of her family.

Far, far too soon. Adaline was a joy to be around—she was the epitome of kindness, had an infectious laugh, and was always positive. She inspired everyone she met and brought out their best qualities. She believed anything was possible and always put in the hard work. Her kindness, soul-warming smile and laugh, and generosity will be remembered by many. She will be dearly missed.

Looking Ahead!

Congratulations to our NEOA Officers for 2023-2024!

President

Lindsay Carpenter

Past President

Rob Pote

President-Elect

Yara Zoccarato

Vice-President

Julie Finnegan

Secretary

Julie Coon

State-Liaison (CT)

Julio Muniz

State-Liaison (MA)

Arielle Derival-Joseph

State-Liaison (ME)

Terry Charlton

State-Liaison (NH)

Becky Carrasquillo

State-Liaison (RI)

April Donahue

State-Liaison (VT)

Dylan Bertolini

Interested in learning about serving on the fabulous, effective and fun NEOA board? Want to check us out? Maybe you want to serve on a committee or are thinking ahead to a year from?

Please contact our President Rob Pote at poter@wcsu.edu, our soon to be president, Lindsay Carpenter at Lindsay.carpenter@lyndoninstitute.org

State Presidents to be announced in September

