

**In This Issue:**

NEOA's 07-08 Accomplishments  
 Tim Shriver Donates Scholarship  
 Board Update  
 UNH McNair Program  
 Overview NEOA Website  
 Congress Back to Work

**Volume 1 Issue 2**

**June, 2008**



Dear NEOA Friends and Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that summer has officially arrived! In addition to excitement of summer programs and not-so-exciting SSS grant-writing, I hope each of you finds time for fun and relaxation.

As I look back over 2007 – 2008, I see a year filled with accomplishments. It is said that “many hands make light work.” Without a doubt the enthusiasm, hard work and contributions of NEOA’s board and association members has paid off handsomely. Below are just a few of this year’s accomplishments:

- ☑ Increased NEOA members
- ☑ Three successful professional development days for pre-college, EOC and SSS programs
- ☑ National publicity for TRIO during the presidential primaries
- ☑ Strong national presence in the ongoing battle for increased appropriations and the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
- ☑ Three new publications targeting potential members, elected officials and potential funders
- ☑ Redesigned NEOA Newsletter with electronic distribution
- ☑ Reinvigorated NEOA Alumni Registry
- ☑ Facebook social networking group for NEOA Alumni
- ☑ Corporate fundraising goals achieved
- ☑ Outstanding TRIO Day in Worcester, MA
- ☑ Dynamite annual conference in Westbrook, CT
- ☑ Fairshare contributions to COE exceeded

In addition, NEOA is fiscally fit (the most recent financial review is available online at [http://www.neoaonline.org/pdf/NEOA\\_Review\\_2007.pdf](http://www.neoaonline.org/pdf/NEOA_Review_2007.pdf)) and Sigh Searles is ready to kick off the 2008 – 2009 Leadership Institute with a full class of participants. How exciting! Check out the other noteworthy items in this newsletter as well.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as NEOA’s President this past year and I am confident that the association will continue to grow and prosper under Donna Thompson’s leadership next year. Remember, NEOA’s strength lies in the active participation and contributions of its members. Don’t hesitate to get involved. You’ll be glad that you did.

Wishing you an enjoyable summer!

**-Tracy Karasinki**  
*NEOA President*



**Tim Shriver Donates Scholarship**

Tim Shriver, the keynote at April’s NEOA Conference in Connecticut, graciously donated his speaker’s fee for student scholarships. Mr. Shriver requested the funds be distributed equally among the New England states to be used for students beginning in the fall or continuing college.

Each state association is asked to identify one student to receive the \$585 scholarship. The scholarships will be distributed mid-August. Members should contact their state association leadership for details and application requirements.

**Mary Jo Madden**

**NEOA Board Sets A Course for the Future**

During the past two years under the leadership of Linda Shiller and Tracy Karasinski, The NEOA Board has developed a comprehensive strategic direction that will both enhance its effectiveness as a professional organization and increase its active membership. There has never been a better time for both new and experienced members to become involved in the growth that lies ahead. Often members think they would like to get more involved but they either don’t believe they have the time or don’t quite know how to take that first step.

*Continued on next page...*

## **TECH Blurbs**

### ***“Overview of the NEOA Website”***

- The "**Annual Activities**" section contains information about annual NEOA events, including TRIO Day, professional development events, and the annual conference.
- The "**Informational Resources**" section contains information about NEOA and TRIO, such as History, Bylaws, Fiscal Policies, Membership Information, and State Associations links.
- The "**Board of Directors**" section contains a list of current board members, board job descriptions, and NEOA's strategic plan. There are also pages for committee members to access various administrative features.
- The "**Site Map**" (which is still being built) will be a comprehensive outline of the website, and will contain links to every major page in the site.

**Casey Henderson**

*Chair, Technology Committee*

## **NEOA Board Sets a Course for the Future**

*(continued from page 1)*

With the Presidency soon passing to Donna Thompson, a very experienced college access leader at both the regional and national levels, now is the time to take that first step. Your time commitment is controlled by you. A person with the desire to enhance their career in this manner will find many welcoming colleagues at both the state and regional level. If you just desire to explore possibilities within NEOA leadership or committee roles, please feel free to contact any of us and we'd be glad to talk--no commitment required!

**Paul Lynskey**

*Chair, Public Relations/Communications*

## **Program Overview**

***University of New Hampshire –  
McNair***

Director – Antonio Henley

The University of New Hampshire's McNair Scholars Program has served TRiO-eligible students for over 16 years and currently serves 32 students with two full-time staff. The program's goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments. Participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds and demonstrate strong academic potential. UNH works closely with participants completing undergraduate requirements and encourages them to enroll in graduate programs.

UNH's McNair program derives its 96% degree completion rate from the many services offered to participants, which includes academic advising and support, a comprehensive research experience, guidance from a faculty mentor, summer course credit, a research stipend, summer room and board, access to professional development conferences, assistance with graduate school applications and financial aid applications, fee waivers for graduate school applications and fee-reduction waivers for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

**Jennifer Jones**

*State Liaison, VT*

## **Congress Back to Work**

Following the Memorial Day break, Members of Congress returned to Washington and took up its legislative work again. Members of the Education and Labor Committee in the House and the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in the Senate returned to consider aspects of the legislation to reauthorize the **Higher Education Act**. Several sources have indicated that Members plan to complete the legislation before Independence Day. The most recent extension of the Act expires on June 30. COE is working closely with Members and their staff on the TRIO portion of the bill, focusing particularly on issues like the 30% rule for incoming Upward Bound students and the creation of a fair appeals process.

On June 6, McCain and Obama campaign representatives participated in the **Great American Education Forum** in Washington, D.C. The event allowed members of the education community to learn the presidential candidates' stances on various issues. Dr. Jeanne Century and Lisa Graham Keegan, who represented Senators Barack Obama and John McCain, respectively, discussed the importance of teachers in the classroom, improving educational assessment standards, and several other issues. Dr. Century, of Senator Obama's camp, explicitly mentioned the need for increased investment in TRIO in order to help prepare young people for higher education.

**Sarah Morrell**

*Chair, Legislation & Education, and State Initiatives Committee*

