

SUMMER 2006

A Letter from the NEOA President

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Dear Members of the NEOA Community, NEOA has had a very busy spring! The NEOA TRIO Day was held in Farmington, Connecticut this year with 600 students and staff in attendance. Many thanks to Jennifer Buckley (TRIO Day Chair), the planning committee, and CAEOP for organizing this very successful event. I also want to acknowledge and thank NEOA Vice-President Tracy Karasinski for her terrific leadership in organizing NEOA's 30th Annual Conference at the Westin Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island. Tracy and her very capable committee provided us with a great professional development experience. Thank you Tracy! The challenges our community have faced this year continue to confront us. Progress has been made in the process of reauthorization of the

Higher Education Act. The novice language has been removed from the House version of the Act. The hard work of NEOA members, along with our colleagues across the country, convinced a majority of House Members to ask for the removal of this provision.

Increasing appropriations for our programs remains a top priority. The House Appropriations Sub-committee has just finished their markup for FY 2007. The TRIO mark, at \$828 million, funds TRIO (including Talent Search and Upward Bound) at FY 2006 levels. If TRIO is going to receive the \$100 million increase requested in the Collins-Lincoln-Landrieu "Dear Colleague" letter, we must make every effort to ensure that our nine Senators who signed the letter remain committed to the increase and

that we re-double our efforts to encourage Senators Gregg, Lieberman, and Sununu to actively support the increase. I also want to ask each of you



NEOA President David Megquier

Congratulations to Tracy Karasinski of the Community College of Rhode Island, on her election to the position of NEOA President-elect!!!

Tracy's term begins with the new NEOA Board year on September 1st.

THE NEW ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANTS

As of July 1, 2006, the federal government will begin distributing two new types of need-based aid to undergraduates as part of a \$3.75 billion five-year grant program.

Unlike Pell Grants, which are strictly need-based, there are additional requirements that will clearly limit the numbers

of students who can take advantage of them.

College freshmen and sophomores who are Pell-eligible may qualify for Academic Competitiveness Grants if: they are U.S. citizens; are enrolled as full-time college students; and have completed "a rigorous high school cur-

riculum."

Freshmen are eligible for the \$750 grant (if they have not previously enrolled in undergraduate education), and sophomores for the \$1300 grant (with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 after the freshman year).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

to seriously consider how you can support the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE). As many of you have heard me say, NEOA "owns" 10% of COE. The Council consists of the ten regional associations. It is our organization and I strongly believe we need to actively support it because of the vital role it has and continues to play in expanding and defending educational opportunity in America. Beyond the direct service we provide to our students, the most effective way we can advocate for our students' interest is financially supporting COE through our institutions taking out and maintaining institutional memberships, each of our projects subscribing to COE publications package, and each of us making individual contributions to COE. All three methods of financial support together provide for advocacy efforts in Washington, DC. If you are a Project Director, please subscribe. It is a wise investment in two ways. You will receive a wealth of information from the many COE publications and your project will be supporting an organization that fights every day for your students' interests. Individual contributions are also an important investment for each of us. If we are truly committed to serving our students and others like them, we should be personally supporting the organization that is defending their access to higher education and a better life. The amount of the contribution is a individual decision. Giving levels nationally range from \$5 to \$10,000. I have been contributing in this way for 20 years. I hope you will join me this year. Please email me if you would like a form or need an invoice for your project subscription.

Thank you in advance for financially supporting COE,

David Megquier

Editor's Note: Dave Megquier has served this year as the Council's Resource Development Committee Co-Chair, and as Past-President of NEOA next year, will serve as the NEOA Fair Share coordinator.

NEOA Leadership Institute 2005-2006 *By Karen Madden*

The Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee, Vermont was the site of our last Leadership Institute session. All ten participants were excited and anxious to get together, but dreading the finality of our last session. The whole experience has been a wonderful journey into not only leadership development, but personal development. The diversity of the group has provided a wonderful opportunity for networking and personal growth. Like the other two sessions, these three days were full of time to chat, time to reflect, and time for important activities.

One important item on our agenda was preparing for the workshop we presented at the annual NEOA conference in April. The planning was a truly collaborative effort, highlighting the extent to which we have developed as a cohesive and productive group of colleagues. Our challenge was in finding a way to capture the value of the Leadership Institute experience for an audience that included past LI participants and those who were curious about what the experience would have to offer them.

Our efforts on the workshop continued throughout our time together and beyond, and we welcomed worthwhile interruptions to our preparations with visits from three past-presidents of NEOA. Dr. Joan Becker, the Associate Vice Chancellor at U-Mass Boston, guided us in the principles of educational opportunity advocacy and its place in our work in TRIO and EOPs. Tom Putnam, the Deputy Director of the John F. Kennedy Library had us come prepared to deliver a 3 minute speech, reminded us of effective public speaking practices and their impact on leadership. Pam Boisvert, the Vice President of the Colleges of Worcester Consortium, helped us to understand the organization of COE and the ten regional associations. She also told us about her work with COE's Financial Aid Subcommittee and provided us with an update on federal changes which will impact our students. What amazing models and mentors for us as aspiring leaders!

Editor's Note: The upcoming NEOA Leadership Class of 2007 has been formed, and will commence with its activities in the early fall of 2006!

SAVE THE DATE
The 25th Annual Conference
Council for Opportunity in Education
New York City
September 6-9, 2006
at the Marriott Marquis Hotel
www.coenet.us

AUGUSTA - Governor John E. Baldacci issued a proclamation, naming April 13, 2006 as "TRiO Day" throughout the state of Maine. The proclamation was issued during a ceremony in the Hall of Flags, where the Governor was introduced by an Upward Bound Alum, Genet Gebrewahd. Gebrewahd spoke of the importance of TRiO to her while attending the University of Southern Maine. "It is my pleasure to introduce to you someone who fully supports the TRiO Programs," said Gebrewahd. Governor Baldacci reiterated his support of the TRiO Programs, while speaking to the 40 some-odd students, teachers and supporters.

"When I was in Washington in 1994, they were going to eliminate the program," said Governor Baldacci. "There is such a ripple benefit to this program." Governor Baldacci continued to show his support by proclaiming April 13, 2006 as "TRiO Day" throughout the state of Maine. "Congratulations. This is your day in the state of Maine," said the Governor.

MAINE HOLDS SUCCESSFUL HALL OF FLAGS EVENT

Maine held their 4th annual Hall of Flags event on April 13, 2006. TRiO staff and participants from throughout the state gathered in the Hall of Flags at the State Capital building in Augusta, Maine. TRiO programs manned tables with displays and program information – and spoke to Maine legislators about their respective programs throughout the day. Events during the day included the opportunity for ten TRiO students to serve as pages in the Maine House of Representatives. TRiO professional staff and students listened to our esteemed guest speaker, Susan Gendron, Commissioner of Education, and actively participated in an informal question and answer period with the Commissioner.

Students were able to visit the Maine State Museum, had a tour of the Governor's office, and observe our legislators at work in the gallery above the House and Senate.

In the afternoon, Governor John E. Baldacci visited the Hall of Flags to speak to our students, and was introduced by Genet Gebrewahd. Genet is an alum of the University of Southern Maine Upward Bound program. Genet emigrated to the United States when she was in middle school, is a Gates Millennium scholar and a graduate from Wheaton College. She is presently a graduate student at the University of Southern Maine. After sharing her amazing journey, Genet graciously introduced Governor Baldacci. Governor Baldacci spoke in support of TRiO and officially proclaimed April 13, 2006 as Maine TRiO Day.



MEOA LEADERS CONTINUE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

During the spring of 2006, MEOA President Robert Blaney and MEOA State Liaison-elect Descatur Potier, both of Upward Bound at UMass Boston, visited with Katie Joyce, a Policy Director for **Senator John Kerry**. During the meeting, Robert and Descatur presented a variety of data and student stories about the success of Massachusetts TRIO programs and encouraged Senator John Kerry to keep fighting for the funding of TRIO programs. The meetings were very successful; Senator Kerry has written a letter addressed to MEOA stating his support for Massachusetts TRIO programs. A copy of this letter can be found on the MEOA website (meoonline.org).

TWO BU UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS RECEIVE FULL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Brighton High School seniors will receive full four-year college scholarships, thanks to an award from the national [Posse Foundation](#) and their work at Boston University's Upward Bound program.

Lance Huggins, Jr., and Thanh LuuNguyen have both been attending BU [Upward Bound](#). Huggins will attend Centre College in Danville, Ky., and LuuNguyen will attend Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. "They're both great student leaders," says Mike Dennehy, the director of Upward Bound at BU. "Thanh is a co-captain of the volleyball team at Brighton High, and Lance has worked hard to get this. This is a really big honor."

BU has participated since 1989 in the Upward Bound program, which serves low-income and potential first-generation college students in Boston's public high schools. There are 85 students in the BU Upward Bound program, all of whom entered the program in their first or second year of high school and are expected to remain through graduation. The Posse Foundation identifies student leaders at public high schools and prepares them to create multicultural student groups — or posses — at various colleges and universities. More than 1,000 students applied for a Posse scholarship this year; Huggins and LuuNguyen were among 51 selected to receive full tuition for four years. Two other BU Upward Bound students have received Posse scholarships in the past. More information about the Posse Foundation is available at their Web site, www.possefoundation.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT NAMED 2006 OUTSTANDING RETENTION PROGRAM

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, June 12, 2006 – The Educational Policy Institute (EPI) awarded the University of Connecticut (UConn) the 2006 Outstanding Retention Program Award at its annual RETENTION 2006 conference in Las Vegas, Nevada this past May. The award is presented annually to nominees who have exhibited excellence in the development and implementation of a program that increases the persistence of students at the postsecondary level. By honoring the excellent work being done at institutions today to create programs that use innovative means to help students realize their goals, EPI hopes to further its mission of creating opportunities for students of color, first generation, and other historically underrepresented students at the postsecondary level. UConn was selected as the 2006 recipient by a panel convened by EPI and based on a nomination process announced last January 2006. UConn's retention effort began five years ago when they formed the Retention and Graduation Task Force to improve undergraduate retention and graduation rates. Since 1998, freshmen retention for all students rose from 86 percent to 92 percent. For students of color, the freshmen retention rate rose to 93 percent from 88 percent. Four- and six- year graduation rates improved from 43 percent and 54 percent to 69 percent and 72 percent, respectively. The Task Force initiative achieved results using a 10-step process that focused on retention issues specific to their institution and subsequently developed unique strategies to address those concerns. The award was presented by EPI President Dr. Watson Scott Swail to Dolan Evanovich, the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management. According to Swail, this year's recipient offers hope to others who wish to improve their service to students. "The University of Connecticut illustrated that it is possible to take a complex problem and create real strategies for institutional improvement. For them, as well as other successful institutions, it comes down to focusing institutional mission and practices on students and working from there. UConn is a very deserving recipient of this award."

NEWS IN THE STATES

College Goal Sunday Scores Big with Maine Youth & Parents By Kristen Connolly

On January 29, 2006 the third annual College Goal Sunday event kicked off in 18 locations across Maine. The Maine Educational Opportunity Association has been a co-sponsor of this event since its launch in 2003. This was a day for college bound students and their parents to receive help in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Thank you to David Megquier who played a key role in serving as MEEEOA's representative on the event planning board. TRIO staff members are also important in events such as these: answering the tough questions about filing for financial aid, explaining the process of applying, and helping each individual with his/her application. This year's College Goal Sunday attracted **497** families who were assisted by event staff including **19** staff members from TRIO programs throughout Maine! UMaine's Educational Opportunity Center was well represented with Sally Daniels, Marty Kelley, Christy Le, Catie Leon, Tina McDonald, Teri Morse and Joanne Richards. They directed FAFSA labs and served as Financial Aid experts, site coordinators and runners. UMaine's Educational Talent Search programs were also well represented at College Goal Sunday events with Jennifer Cole, Christy Kilton, Echo Lowell, Velma Murphy, Anne St. Pierre, Danielle Printz, Martha Rogers, and Kathy White. The METS staff contributed as Financial Aid experts, site coordinators, and audience assistants. Danette Madore and Tammy Ward of UMPI's Upward Bound program assisted students and families with completing their FAFSA on College Goal Sunday. Other TRIO staff members that helped out that day were Washington County Community College's Terry Charlton and USM's Upward Bound's Johanna Burdin.

A special **thank you** goes out to all TRIO staff that helped at this year's College Goal Sunday. You made this event possible and made the difference in creating a positive Financial Aid process experience for Maine students and their parents.

(continued)The U.S. Department of Education has yet to announce exactly how it will define "rigorous high school curriculum" or administer the grant program. Thomas Wolanin, a senior associate with the Institute for Higher Education Policy, says the Devil is definitely in the details. "It depends on how you define rigor," he said.

Overall, the grant program is aimed at attracting low-income students into science, math, engineering, technology or high-demand language fields. Thus, the grants for juniors and seniors, called SMART grants (Science and Math Access to Retain Talent) will go only to undergraduates who major in physical sciences, life sciences, computer science, etc. The official list of majors has not yet been issued by the Department, but in the languages area, they would likely include Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Urdu.

"We know that China and India are generating scientists and engineers at a furious pace while America lags dangerously behind," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee), touting the new program on his website. "Study after study calls for the government to act to address this problem," he continued. "Passage of this program represents real action."

"The good news is that some of the savings the federal student loan programs did go into something constructive," Wolanin said. The Academic Competitiveness Grants are for Pell-eligible students. The bad news is that students must be enrolled full-time, a tough standard for those who need to work full-time.

To make the academic achievement grant program work for as many TRIO students as possible, TRIO staff members will need to incorporate the expectations and standards of the grant program in their academic advising and academic support services, noted Maureen Hoyler, the Council's Executive Vice President.

"And the Council will need to play an active role with regard to the regulatory aspects of the new grant program," Hoyler said. "We will need to make the case that, as the Department of Education defines academic rigor, that the definition is consistent with what is academically available to low-income students in all schools in every region of the country."

-Excerpt courtesy of the Council for Opportunity in Education

KAREN KEIM HONORED WITH UMAINE AWARD

From left to right-- Dave Megquier, Karen Keim, Sarah Paterson, and Laura Yoder. Sarah, MEOC's In-take and Retention Specialist, and Laura, Administrative Assistant of both the MEOC and METS projects, nominated Karen for her award.

Karen Keim, Associate Director of MEOC/Talent Search at the University of Maine, is the recipient of the University's 2006 Professional Employee Achievement Award. Karen was recognized for her exemplary work and her outstanding service to the University of Maine and the community. In addition to her position of Associate Director of the Educational Opportunity Center and Talent Search Programs, Karen is very involved in her community. She is the president of the Abnaki Girl Scout Council, and volunteers in numerous other roles. The award was presented at the Annual Awards Banquet on May 24, 2006.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY WITH REGARD TO UPWARD BOUND

- Upward Bound is one of five federally-funded Title IV TRIO programs and serves more than 65,000 low-income and first-generation students in more than 900 programs nationwide.
- Upward Bound helps high school students prepare for, gain admission to and find financial aid for college.
- More than 91% of Upward Bound students who graduate from high school immediately enter post-secondary education versus 41% of students from similar economic circumstances who did not participate in Upward Bound.
- Currently, Congress requires institutions to limit Upward Bound services to students who are low-income and the first generation of their family to attend college. It also requires that the college or university that sponsors the program to assure that the students have "a need for academic support to successfully complete a program of postsecondary education." It gives the institution the discretion to define that need. By law, Upward Bound programs can admit students that have completed the 8th grade but have not yet graduated from high school.
- Under the new guidelines, the Department of Education is proposing to require all entering Upward Bound students to be in the 9th grade.
- According to the most recent profile from the Department, 44% of participants enter the program after 9th grade - 33% in the 10th grade and almost 10% in the 11th grade. By only allowing 9th graders to enter the Upward Bound program, you are penalizing 28,600 participants simply because of their grade level. This is particularly harmful to low-income students, who have a much higher chance of moving during school than middle- and high-income students.
- The plan also requires that 30% of newly-admitted students be "at high academic risk for failure" which is defined as a student who has not achieved at the proficient level on state assessment test in Math and Reading/Language Arts or has a grade point average of 2.5 or less (on a 4.0 scale) for the most recent school year.
- Some students would be faulted for doing well in school. Just because a student is not in a 30% "high risk" program does not mean they do not need Upward Bound's services. This is especially true in rural areas.
- These proposals would remove the individual programs' flexibility-creating a one-size-fits-all approach that would damage Upward Bound's mission of helping needy students get into college.
- Also, according to the Department of Education, the single highest reason reported for needing Upward Bound services is that the students have a lack of opportunity, support and/or guidance to take challenging college prep classes (20%), followed by coming from a predominantly low-income community. The Council for Opportunity in Education believes that students should not be penalized for succeeding in school. By placing a priority on "high-risk" students, those low-income children who are succeeding in school are jeopardized.
- The Council, along with other higher education associations, is concerned these proposed regulations establish a precedent to impose additional requirements for any Title IV program, circumventing Congressional authority.

Call for Proposals
November 26-29, 2006

Technology Tools 2006 Conference

San Juan, Puerto Rico

[ASPIRA](#) and the [Council for Opportunity in Education](#) present the 7th Annual Technology Tools for Management and Learning Conference (for more information [click here](#)). The success of the Technology Tools Conference depends on your active participation! Come share your expertise, successes, and new ventures with your educational opportunity colleagues.

Among the topics for presentations are the following:

- Improving Outcomes in Math & Science
- Leading Change for Immigrant Students
- The Role of Assistive Technology in Serving Students with Disabilities
- Using Student Information System Data to Improve Classroom Performance
- Fundraising Through Online Resources
- Using Web Casting and Video Streaming to Maximize Communications
- Creating a Paperless Office
- Addressing State Testing Standards
- Increasing Students' Access to Computers
- Building a Coalition to Impact Education Policy
- Assisting TRIO Students to Access State Scholarship and Grant Funds
- Garnering Corporate Support
- ..

Note: Spanish-language presentations are welcome!

Deadline Submission: July 30, 2006. Proposals will be accepted at : [Call for Proposal On-Line Submission FORM](#)
For more information concerning conference or registration visit:
[Technology Tools for Management and Learning](#)
or contact us at 202-835-3600 x 137.

The logo for TRIO, featuring the letters 'TRIO' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' is lowercase and colored red, while the other letters are black. A horizontal line is positioned below the letters.

Congratulations to Vermont on its NEOA State Initiative award of \$500 in Spring 2006 !

Study Tour for TRIO Professionals to Bahia, Brazil Announced; Application Deadline July 30th

The University of Washington and Bahia Street announce a study tour of Rio and Bahia, Brazil, the center of Afro-Brazilian culture, scheduled for Nov. 22-Dec. 3, 2006. The Bahia Street "Society, Equality & Change" study trip will introduce participants to Bahia, issues of international development, and people making a difference in their communities in and around Salvador da Bahia.

The trip will begin in Rio de Janeiro for two nights. The group will then continue on to Salvador, where participants will spend eight days hosted by Bahia Street, a Seattle- and Salvador-based non-profit organization working to break cycles of poverty and violence through education. The group will be led by Bahia Street Co-Directors Dr. Margaret Willson and Rita Conceição. This trip results from a partnership between Bahia Street and Dr. Roger L. Grant, director of Student Support Services at the University of Washington.

The cost of the land package of the trip is \$1,910. Round-trip airfare to Rio will vary with participants' departure sites and will range from \$800 to \$1,100. Participants will be expected to arrange their own airfare. The group is limited to 15, so please apply early. Application and a \$750 deposit are due to Bahia Street by July 30. For more information, please contact: Nancy Bacon, Program Director, Bahia Street, 1005 NE Boat Street, Seattle, WA 98105, (206) 633-1724, nancy@bahiastreet.org <<mailto:nancy@bahiastreet.org>>. View information about Bahia Street at www.bahiastreet.org <<http://www.bahiastreet.org>>.

NATIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK COMMENTS ON DRAFT 'FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION' COMMISSION REPORT

On June 26th, a draft of the final report of Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings' Commission on the Future of Higher Education was released. According to the report, major changes are needed in American higher education if it is to continue to serve America's students and help America compete effectively in the 21st century economy. While subject to revision, the draft includes an important discussion of the challenges facing American higher education that merits comment by organizations committed to college opportunity.

John E. Dean, the board president of the National College Access Network commented on the draft report as follows: "The draft report confirms what most in the college access community already know - access to American higher education is unduly limited by inadequate preparation, by informational and financial barriers, and by poor alignment between America's high schools and universities.

"NCAN agrees with the draft report that major change is needed to maintain and expand college opportunity and is pleased that some of the recommendations in the draft report, such as simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, are projects on which NCAN is already involved.

The members and staff of NCAN welcome the Commission's draft report as a means of raising awareness of the challenges facing higher education and America's students and are ready to work with both the Commission and with the Congress in addressing the problems identified."

COE President Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem and Dr. Ann Coles honored by American Student Assistance

Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education, recently was recognized with a special one-time "Making a Difference" award by American Student Assistance (ASA) for "significantly advancing higher education access and success for students and families." ASA also honored **Dr. Ann Coles**, Senior Vice President of the College Access Programs at TERI (The Education Resources Institute).

The "Making a Difference" awards were conferred to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ASA. Dr. Mitchem and Dr. Ann Coles were honored at the ASA symposium on Monday, June 19 in Boston. "Arnold Mitchem has spent his entire career battling the barriers to college for low-income, first generation college students," said ASA Vice President of Strategic Services, Shelley Saunders. "He has been critical in the movement to preserve the federal TRIO programs that help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education."

American Student Assistance, incorporated in 1956, was the nation's first student loan guarantee agency. Based in Boston, ASA guarantees more than \$1 billion in loans annually and currently manages a student loan portfolio of more than \$20 billion.

TO AVOID ECONOMIC DECLINE, NEW ENGLAND MUST IMPROVE RESIDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, REPORT SAYS

By XIAO-BO YUAN

A strengthened higher-education system could help stem demographic trends pointing to a future decline in New England's economy, and in more ways than many might assume, says a report commissioned by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.

Although colleges are well known for their contributions of new technology and federal research dollars to the economy of a region, a stronger higher-education system may also prevent New England from suffering a projected "brain drain" by drawing more young educated workers to the region.

The report, "New England 2020: A Forecast of Educational Attainment and Its Implications for the Workforce of New England States," predicts that the numbers of young workers who hold bachelor's degrees or higher will decline by several percentage points in Massachusetts and Connecticut by 2020 -- equaling a loss of thousands of educated workers. Declines in the working-age population are expected to affect all states in the region except Vermont and New Hampshire, which will see marginal gains.

If the states "prove unable to significantly raise their current levels of educational access and attainment," writes Stephen Coelen, a University of Connecticut economics professor who is one of the report's authors, "the region will ... find itself in serious economic jeopardy."

Part of the reason for the projected decrease in educational attainment of the work force, the report says, is that in all six states, the number of minority workers will increase, relative to the number of white workers. While the result is a more diverse work force, the educational achievement gap between whites and minorities -- the former are more likely to graduate from college -- will cause the proportion of young educated workers to shrink further.

Reversing the trends may be as difficult as "turning an ocean liner," Joseph B. Berger, the report's other author, writes in a statement accompanying the report. Mr. Berger is an associate professor of education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. But the report suggests that if states increased their support for New England's colleges, they could raise the numbers of residents who obtain degrees, improve minorities' access to education, and attract a greater flow of out-of-state young people into the region. The report recommends that the states create partnerships between colleges and the elementary and secondary school systems that encourage college aspirations early on. The report also recommends creating programs in which states, industries, and colleges collaborate to place new graduates in regional jobs.



Vermont held its fourth annual State Policy Seminar at the Vermont State Legislature in late March, 2006. Karen Madden organized the event, where students met with Mike Smith, Secretary of Administration for Governor Douglas. Smith greeted 28 TRiO students from across the state, who spoke of their TRiO experiences and the need for continued funding for the programs. Students also met with Education committee members, and lunched with representatives.

Check out the new Vermont State Association web site at www.veop.org!!!

www.neoaonline.org

**NEW ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Next NEOA Newsletter:

Submit articles, photos, info and news to:

Sarah Morrell, editor

smorrell@bristol.mass.edu

New England



*Promoting Educational Opportunity in
New England*

Educational Opportunity Association

**S E R V I N G C O N N E C T I C U T , M A I N E ,
M A S S A C H U S E T T S , N E W H A M P S H I R E ,
R H O D E I S L A N D A N D V E R M O N T**

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

The House Labor, Health, Human Services and Education bill was passed through the House Appropriations Committee in June with TRIO level funded at last year's level of \$828 million. The next action is full House consideration. While there have been talks about bringing the bill to the House floor in July, the most likely scenario is for consideration after the November elections. This is most likely because the House Leadership does not have the votes to pass the measure, due to de-

creases in education and health care spending as a whole. Because this is an election year and all House Members are up for reelection, many Members would be forced to vote against the bill in response to pressures from constituencies. NEOA and COE will keep you posted on what is happening with regard to TRIO appropriations in the House. The Senate has yet to announce its Labor, Health, Human Services and Education bill numbers and is not expected to do so before late July. The Sen-

ate could wait until after November as well for full consideration of the bill and we will know more about the Senate Leadership's plan in the coming weeks. Even if the Senate does pass a bill in July, we still would not know the final TRIO number until after the House passes its bill in November and the two bills are reconciled in conference. Once the bills are conferenced, a final FY 2007 allocation is given to TRIO and the bill goes to President Bush for his signature.