

# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

*Mark Your Calendars ..... Dates to Remember 2017*

- |                    |  |                           |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| February 17        | Veterans UB Performance Report Due   |                           |
| February 23-24     | NEOA TRIO Day  | Warwick, RI               |
| March 19-20        | COE Annual Leadership Summit   | Washington, D.C.          |
| March 19           | TRIO Alumni Leadership Forum   | Washington, D.C.          |
| March 20           | COE Seminar on Relations w/U.S.D.E.  | Washington, D.C.          |
| March 20-22        | COE Annual Policy Seminar  | Washington, D.C.          |
| April 12, 12:30-5  | COE Pre-Conference Training  | <b>Gratis\$\$\$\$\$\$</b> |
|                    | <b>The World Climate Simulation: An Interactive, Effective, and Fun Tool to Engage Students with Sustainability Science and Policy</b> |                           |
| <b>April 12-14</b> | <b>NEOA Annual Conference</b>  | <b>Portland, ME</b>       |
|                    | <b><u>The Assist</u></b> Author, Neil Swidey, Keynote/Workshop Presenter   |                           |

**NOMINATIONS NOMINATIONS NOMINATIONS**

**NEOA Conference Awards**

**Deadline – January 27**

**NEOA Achiever  
Rising Star Award**

Nomination forms are on the NEOA website: [www.neoaonline.org](http://www.neoaonline.org)

## MEEOA Conference ~~~~ January 4-5, 2017

Maine just held a very successful annual conference January 4-5 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono, ME for over 70 members. MEEOA recognized four alumni with two MEEOA Achiever and two MEEOA Rising Star awards.

## Massachusetts Annual Advocacy Day ~ January 17, 2017



MEOA's Annual Advocacy Day came a bit early this year on January 17th! We had member representation from Western, Central, and Eastern MA from a range of TRIO and GEAR UP programs across Massachusetts. Members prepped for the day at Suffolk University in Boston before heading up to the State House to familiarize legislators with the mission of MEOA and its affiliated programs and to share the impact and success of those programs. Current Upward Bound students from the Northfield Mount Hermon program were in attendance and shared their experiences with legislative offices. Advocacy teams also invited legislators to visit programs in their districts so that they could see them in action and to observe all of the benefits students are receiving across the Commonwealth. The Board is still collaborating with Representative Jose Tosado and Ernesto Cruz for an inclusion of MEOA in the Massachusetts state budget in the

future. We remain hopeful that one day in the future MEOA can garner state funding to help college access and success programs in Massachusetts enhance their services and provide more opportunities for their students. Thanks to the MEOA members and students who attended this year.

## Arnold Mitchem Leadership Institute 2016-17

Participants of the Arnold L. Mitchem Leadership Institute gathered for their second 3-day session of training and exploration in Durham, New Hampshire in January. Pictured are (in a “Z” formation starting from back left) Terry Charlton, Mary Sinclair, Katie Morrison (holding photo of participant Margaret Bovill-Hawkins), Vincent Kloskowski, Matt Wagar, Casey Henderson, Mona Savastano, Cathy Printon, Craig Werth (Director) and Shane Stacey. NEOA President Ramon Gonzalez (wall portrait) visited with the group and conveyed the support of the NEOA Board for this tremendous professional development opportunity, now in its 13th year.



## Advocacy ~ Not Just for Directors!

***Policy Seminar*** is right around the corner. Policy Seminar is all about making sure that our representatives in Congress are informed and prepared to support all TRIO efforts. That goes from increasing funding for existing programs to assuring that appropriate services are available for all our students. Many of you may not realize how Policy Seminar is related to your work or how you can participate.

There are a lot of new members in Congress as of January. Therefore, our community needs a very strong showing this year at Policy Seminar to educate the new folks as well as to re-inform our seasoned representatives of our mission, goals and successes.

So, here is where you come in ~ how you can make Policy Seminar 2017 the most successful ever!

***#1: Please, reach out to any TRIO alumni you know, especially those living in the greater Washington, D.C. area, and invite them to attend the Alumni Leadership Summit on March 19.***

Your State President, Ray Gonzalez, Gaelyn Hastings, and Randy Schroeder will be at Policy Seminar to host them and mentor them through the Hill Walk.

***#2: Check into attending Policy Seminar yourself. It is truly the most valuable professional development activity you will give yourself this year!!! Your state association and/or your institution may have funding to support your attendance.***

***New England Council (NEC)***     <https://newenglandcouncil.com/about/>

NEOA pays a very reduced cost for membership to NEC and our members are afforded the opportunity to attend NEC events for free, typically breakfasts, with business professionals and legislatures. This is an excellent opportunity to network and advocate for our students and families and to build awareness and resources for our programs without much effort. It would be a significant message if all our members attended at least 1 NEC event each year. The importance of our College Access and Success programming for first generation/low income students would be heard. All you have to do is register as a NEOA member.

## **TRIO & Gear Up: Our Remarkable Students!!!**

***From Gear Up...***

Chloe Vanlierop, a Junior at Crosby High School in Waterbury, CT has been a part of Waterbury Gear Up since the seventh grade. As an honor roll student and member of ROTC Chloe exemplifies academic success and strives for personal growth. Despite working a part time job outside of school Chloe ranks in the top 10% of her class, managing all honor's classes and AP English while maintaining a 3.7 GPA. She also regularly participates in summer youth employment



programming, after school tutoring, and field trips to various colleges and cities, including a weeklong stay in Washington D.C. and a tour to her dream college, UCONN, where she plans to study nursing. She noted that Gear Up made her career goal of nursing “seem more than a dream and within reach. Gear Up showed me how it was possible.” Having fully utilized the Gear Up mentoring system, Chloe said, “Gear Up pushed me to do better. I would have given up by now.” She is especially thankful for the continuing support and guidance of Ms. Maya Dean, mentor, and Mr. Steven Alexandrou, site coordinator. “Whenever I had an issue or was stressed out they are always there to help me. They helped me solve problems and let me know everything was going to be okay.” Chloe’s exuberance, determination, and supportive nature make her an example for her peers to aspire to.

***From McNair Scholars.....***



Stephen Morgan is an alumnus of the University of New Hampshire McNair Scholars. Stephen did his McNair research in the summer of 2008 and graduated from UNH in May 2009 with his Bachelor’s degree. He received his Master’s degree in May 2011 and his PhD May 2015, both from MIT. He began his Post-Doc at MIT in 2015 and is currently still there.

Stephen is a strong supporter of his alma mater, UNH and the McNair program and leads our summer McNair cohorts on tours of MIT with a special stop at the building that was named after our program namesake, Ronald E McNair, a 1976 graduate of MIT with his PhD in Physics.

***From Student Support Services.....***

Kyla Leary struggled in high school. So when she enrolled at Castleton, she wasn’t sure whether college was right for her. Today, the senior Ecological Studies major and Global Studies minor has a 3.15 G.P.A and is a member of the cheerleading team. She attributes her success to the support she received through Castleton’s TRIO program. “Each year, I’ve learned more about time management, improved my math and writing skills, grown socially, and become more independent. I can figure when and how to ask for help,” she says. After graduation, Kyla



will work at Johnson Group Consulting, Inc., the national public health advocacy firm where she has interned for the last two summers. (She's already been offered a full-time position.) Kyla also plans to take classes in public health. But her ambitions don't end there: she hopes to work overseas and eventually build a career in maternal-child health. "I always tell other kids to ask for help, especially if they had a 504 or IEP plan in high school," she says. "And the Academic Support Center is just such a good, safe place to study. Everyone in the department is working for you."

### ***From Educational Talent Search.....***



Thanh Nguyen came to the United States with her family when she was 13. Thanh's parents did not go to college and she became more proficient in English than them by the time she got to high school. She had to learn not only English but everything else about the United States, including the educational system. She has navigated that system well, excelling in high school and then in college. She was a student in the Talent Search program at South Burlington High School as a student of Matt "Beagle" Bourgault.

As a high school senior, Thanh applied to 15 colleges. She was so worried that she would not be accepted that she kept adding schools to her list, despite advice that this might be too many.

After getting accepted to most of those schools, and struggling with deciding amongst them, she ended up attending the University of Vermont in large part due to better financial aid.

After she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 2013, Thanh worked for the Howard Center in Burlington. Currently she works for the admissions team at the University of Vermont, back at the school that helped her realize at least one dream. Whether she stays at UVM for a while, or moves on to other things, she is sure to use her positive attitude, her drive for success, and her desire to help others, to make a difference.

### ***From Upward Bound.....***

Jaqueline G. DePina, a senior at Central Falls High School and the Rhode Island College Upward Bound Program is originally from the Cape Verde Islands. She moved to the United States at the age of 12 to live with her father whom she had never known. Moving here was not easy but she was determined to have a better education and future than her family in Cape Verde. When she applied to Upward Bound her freshman year of high school, she barely spoke any English. As Jackie tells it, "when I got accepted to Upward Bound, it was one of the most amazing feelings in the world; it was one of those feelings you cannot explain and you start jumping up and down almost having an asthma attack. It felt like I just won a race when everyone on the bleachers doubted me."



Throughout her high school career, Jackie has experienced the challenges of adapting to a new culture, language, and life with her dad. Those challenges affected her performance and sometimes affected her desire to continue her education. With Upward Bound's guidance and assistance, Jackie has redefined her goals for the future. For her, "being in Upward Bound means being a part of a family who is diverse but with the same goals as me. Daily life quickly changed for me in ways I had not imagined. Devoting all of my Saturdays and summers to acquiring new knowledge, has helped me grow into a smart young woman who soon will be enrolled in a college or university. The support and preparation I have had over the past four years in Upward Bound has helped me accomplish my goals. I have learned English and other languages. Above all, I have learned to be more determined and to persevere when confronted with difficult circumstances." We are proud of Jackie's diligence, eagerness to succeed, and commitment to bettering her life. We are certain that her caring, responsible, and hard-working nature, will take her far in accomplishing all of her goals.

## **Just Because.....**

DO you know of some of the great things that happen within your states on behalf of the TRIO students you serve? If something is offered in your state, that is just being done because it adds value and is funded independently of your state or our regional association, please, please, let us know! We would love to feature it in the newsletter!!

## **Green and Adirondack Mountains Scholars Bowl March 12, 2017**

In 2004 the Johnson and Lyndon State Upward Bound Programs sponsored the first "Green Mountain Scholars Bowl", inviting area schools and other North Country Upward Bound Programs to send teams of students for a friendly day of academic competition. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year the annual event allows Upward Bound students to compete for scholarship money, more closely examine a local college, enjoy gastronomical treats and make new or renew old friendships. This year's Scholars Bowl will be held at Lyndon State College.

## **Positions Available**

Do you know someone who would be fantastic as a TRIO professional or who is a TRIO professional ready for a new challenge? Casey Henderson quietly and consistently sends out announcements to the membership and Ray Gonzalez just puts it right out there when he learns about positions. Please, consider the folks you know who might be a good fit for our community and forward the announcements to them. Current vacancies include:

Director	EOC/ETS/UB	North Shore Com College
Associate Director	McNair Scholars	University of New Hampshire
Summer Teachers	Upward Bound	Northfield Mount Herman
Summer AmeriCorps	Upward Bound	Northfield Mount Herman

## **Community Service Opportunities ~ Wonderful Additions for Our Students**

### **VEOP: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “TRIO is Working in Your Community” ~ April, 2017**

All TRIO Programs in Vermont and Northern New York will once again dedicate a common day to provide service within their home communities. All will wear tee shirts with a common design and the events will be publicized locally.

Why not consider expanding this initiative in your state????

#### **Riding Lesson** by *Henry Taylor*

I learned two things  
From an early riding teacher.  
He held a nervous filly  
In one hand and gestured  
With the other, saying “Listen.  
Keep one leg on one side,  
The other leg on the other side,  
And your mind in the middle.”

He turned and mounted.  
She took two steps, then left  
the ground, I thought for good.  
But she came down hard, humped  
Her back, swallowed her neck,  
And threw her rider as you’d  
Throw a rock. He rose, brushed  
His pants and caught his breath,  
And said, “See that’s the way  
To do it. When you see  
they’re gonna throw you, get off.”