



Advancing and defending the ideal of equal opportunity in postsecondary education in Iowa

Member Benefits Handbook

2011 Edition

This handbook is compliments of the 2011 IA MAEOPP Membership and Credentials Committee.

A special thank you to the SAEOPP region and MN TRIO in sharing their Newcomer's Handbook

IA MAEOPP: Advancing and defending the ideal of equal opportunity in postsecondary education in Iowa

What is IA MAEOPP?

IA MAEOPP is the Iowa chapter of the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP).

Objectives*

The purpose of this (IA MAEOPP) shall be to bring together into a work and study community those persons who have an active interest in or who are professionally involved in broadening accessibility to success informal postsecondary education.

The Iowa Chapter shall seek to accomplish its purpose(s) by:

- promoting research, evaluation, programmatic and fiscal planning, and training inclusive of, but not limited to, conducting workshops and seminars, and generally seeking to educate the public and public officials to the concerns of IA MAEOPP;
- developing the capability to make timely and meaningful responses to issues and concerns affecting the educational resources and environments of nontraditional students;
- encouraging the development and expansion of a communications network – primarily for those persons professionally involved in educational opportunity programs and services;
- engaging in the specific and general coordination of efforts with other organizations and persons having purposes supportive of or in harmony with IA MAEOPP concerns.
- Awarding scholarships to students in accordance with the purposes of IA MAEOPP and according to qualifications established by the IA MAEOPP Board of Directors.

Check out the entire IA MAEOPP Constitution and Bylaws on the web!

**Information taken from the IA MAEOPP Constitution and Bylaws.*

TRiO: A Pipeline of Support

TRiO Programs serve individuals from low-income and/or first generation families, underrepresented students, and/or students with disabilities to overcome roadblocks on the path to pursuing and completing higher education.

Many IA MAEOPP members are employed in the following TRiO Programs, which serve participants from middle school to post-baccalaureate levels:

Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC):

Encourages adults to complete secondary education and enroll in postsecondary education

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program (McMair):

Prepares undergraduates for doctoral [Ph. D.] study and careers in the professoriate

Talent Search (TS):

Assists middle and high school students to complete secondary education and enroll in postsecondary education

Student Support Services (SSS):

Supports undergraduates to ensure their completion of postsecondary education

Upward Bound (UB):

Provides academic counseling and enrichment services to strengthen high school students' skills for postsecondary education

Upward Bound Math/Science (UBMS):

Provides students with cutting-edge science, mathematics, computer science, and technology skills

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB):

Provides basic skills instruction to veterans in preparation for postsecondary education

TRiO professionals can attend one of the many training opportunities under:

Training Program for Federal TRiO Programs:

Provides TRiO staff training in student financial aid, general project management, legislative and regulatory requirements, the design and operation of model programs, and the use of technology

IA MAEOPP Association Board 2010-2011

President
President-Elect
Past President
Treasurer
Secretary
Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large

Jayna Woolridge
Kris Nerem-Lowery
Katherine Whitsitt
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Ellie Burns
Cindy Benedict
Trudy Strain-Ahrens
Jennifer Patterson

Standing Committees

Professional Development
Finance
Nominations & Elections
Educational Concerns
Legislation & Education
Membership & Credentials
Research and Evaluation
Editorials and Publications
 Technology Subcommittee
Special Concerns and Affiliations

Chair(s)

Ellie Burns & Brad Spielman
Paul Gibbins
Jennifer Patterson
Cindy Benedict
Katherine Whitsitt
Jen Schuller
Lynn Gallagher
Trudy Strain-Ahrens
Cyndi Boertje
Kris Nerem-Lowery

Special Standing Committees

Legal Concerns & Constitutional Issues
Annual Spring Conference

Chair(s)

Kris Nerem-Lowery
Mary Peterson & Mandy Cory

Ad Hoc Committees

Fair Share
TRiOAlumni/TRiO Achievers
Student Leadership
Media/Communications

Chair(s)

Ellie Burns & Katie Whipple
Brooke Paulsen
Matt Diel & Jen Schuller
Jessie McCormick

**Nominations and Elections are coming soon!
Are you ready, willing and able? IA MAEOPP needs you!**

Supporting Students, Empowering Educators and Engaging Communities

IA MAEOPP is dedicated to the advancement of the TRiO Movement and advocates and works for you and the students you serve. The IA MAEOPP Association:

- Participates in national educational efforts to influence TRiO funding and to set the legislative agenda to meet participant needs
- Responds to issues affecting the educational resources and environment of disadvantaged students
- Engages in research about educational trends and policies for disadvantaged students
- Showcases participants' academic achievement by sponsoring annual competitions and awarding scholarships
- Maintains a website and marketing materials
- Sponsors an annual conference for the membership's professional development
- Recognizes TRiO Alumni for their career accomplishments

What are Member Benefits?

It's a fact! IA-MAEOPP Nurtures Professional Development by Offering...

- An annual conference with your needs in mind
- A website for your continued edification
- An opportunity to build on your professional skills by participation in IA MAEOPP leadership positions or volunteering with the Committees
- Networking Opportunities
- Leadership development through the Emerging Leaders Institute
- Opportunities to engage your participants in student initiatives and scholarship competitions

Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)



The IA MAEOPP Emerging Leaders Institute is a year-long leadership development program that is designed to inspire and cultivate strong leadership within the Association. The program's design combines professional development, networking opportunities, and hands-on experiences that prepare participants for greater involvement in IA MAEOPP and MAEOPP. Applications for ELI are now available on the IA MAEOPP website.

Join IA-MAEOPP! Become a TRiO Advocate

Iowa MAEOPP and the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel is a consortium of professionals with the specific purpose of leveling the playing field of educational opportunity for first-generation, low-income, and disabled students and providing staff with professional development opportunities to better serve our students.

What is your Current Membership Status?

Active Professional | Associate | Affiliate | Student | Institutional | Honorary

A complete description of each membership type can be found in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. IA MAEOPP membership is automatic when you become a member of MAEOPP. A membership application can be obtained online. If you want to find out the expiration date of your current membership, you can go to the MAEOPP web site (www.maeopp.org). Select Membership at the top of the home page and then look for the Membership Status section on the left side of the screen. If you select email (in bold), you will be prompted to enter your email address. After you select the “Send Me My MAEOPP Membership Status” button, you will receive an email stating your current membership expiration date.

While you are visiting the MAEOPP web site, you may also select Directory at the top of the home page. To access the directory information, you will need to enter your username and password (which is emailed to you once you become a member). You will then be able to view the following directory information:

- 1) Directory of TRiO Host institutions in MAEOPP, with links to individual member contact information
- 2) Alphabetical listing of MAEOPP members, with links to individual member contact information
- 3) Member listing by institution, organized by chapter, with links to individual member contact information
- 4) Listing of MAEOPP committees and committee charges
- 5) MAEOPP committee reports and documents

The Council for Opportunity in Education

The Council for Opportunity (COE) in Education is a nonprofit organization, established in 1981, dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities throughout the United States. Its membership includes more than 1,000 colleges and agencies. Through its numerous membership services, the Council works in conjunction with colleges, universities, and agencies that host TRIO programs to specifically help low-income students enter college and graduate. More than one million low-income and disabled students each year receive college access and retention services through our member colleges and agencies.

The Council for Opportunity in Education membership is separate from MAEOPP/IA MAEOPP membership. Membership and fair share contributions to COE are critical to successful TRiO advocacy.

What is Fair Share?

Fair Share is the amount of money the Council asks each state chapter to raise in a given year. Fair Share is made up of three components: Subscription Package, Personal Contributions, and Institutional Memberships. Your fair share goes to protecting your TRiO Programs (up to date information on appropriations, reauthorization, and other issues affecting TRiO students; around-the-clock advocacy on Capitol Hill and with the Department of Education; bringing students to speak to legislators and other concerned citizens; and proposal writing workshops).

What Role Can You Play?

- Maintain your individual and institutional memberships which contribute to the Association's activities, such as student initiatives and scholarships, publications, and technology initiatives
- Engage in committee work to assist the Association fulfill its purpose
- Take on leadership roles assisting the Association through IA MAEOPP Committees and the MAEOPP Institutes

Marketing our Message: IA-MAEOPP Committees

IA MAEOPP is your vehicle to become more involved in the TRiO movement!

Editorials & Publications and Media & Communications – Promote the TRiO name through the media. Successes include quarterly IA MAEOPP newsletters, website, and op ed pieces. Interested in PR? Writing your strong suit? Speaking up? Promote TRiO! **Contact:** Trudy Strain Ahrens at tahrens@ilcc.cc.ia.us or Jessie McCormick at jessica.mccormick@briarcliff.edu.

Legislation and Education – Strategies to better work with our federal and state elected officials, preparing TRiO professionals to contact their representatives, communications, grassroots development, mobilization. You do not need to be an expert or even know anything about the legislative process to be helpful in this group. Successes: Advocacy at the appropriation level, increased involvement at Policy Seminar, letter writing campaigns, etc. Jump in and advocate! **Contact:** Katherine Whitsitt at whitsitt@portal.nicc.edu.

Educational Concerns – Responsible for selecting TRiO students as IA MAEOPP scholarship recipients. Also planning and developing the IA MAEOPP state-wide Student Leadership Conference. **Contact:** Cindy Benedict at benedictc@portal.nicc.edu.

Special Concerns and Affiliations – Ensure the representation and/or input of special populations in the association's activities and decisions. (Low-income, first-generation and disabled: disabled students and staff; students with English as a second language, etc.) **Contact:** Kris Nerem-Lowery at lowery@iowacentral.edu.

Chapter Planning and Development – Works to establish relationships with foundations and encourages the IA MAEOPP membership to work with corporate sponsors. Let's leverage our 40+ years of college access and success history to better serve our students. **Contact:** Position not filled

Professional Development – Responsible for planning and developing IA MAEOPP staff development activities. Also supports the work of the Institute for the Advancement of Leadership and Program Management and the Emerging Leader's Institute and assists in the recruitment of Applicants for both of the trainings. **Contacts:** Ellie Burns at burnse@central.edu or Brad Spielman at blspielman@dmacc.edu.

TRiO Resources

Iowa MAEOPP Association: www.ia-maeopp.org



Iowa MAEOPP is the professional organization for personnel affiliated with TRiO programs throughout the state of Iowa. The IA MAEOPP website contains useful information and links to all Iowa TRiO programs, other scholarships, and much more! IA MAEOPP is one of eight state chapters that form the Mid-American Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP). Mid-American Association members are: Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Missouri/Kansas/Nebraska.

Regional Association (MAEOPP): www.maeopp.org



The MAEOPP website contains more useful TRiO information and links to each state association, opportunities for professional development, information on research and evaluation, regional newsletter, and membership application, benefits and vital resources. MAEOPP is one of ten regional associations that form the Council for Opportunity in Education.

National Association (COE): www.coenet.us



The Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) website provides news updates on the national TRiO scene as well as links to TRiO professional development opportunities, Fair Share information, legislative and regulatory documents, research, the Pell Institute, TRiO logos, and links to other programs. The COE website also has a link for joining the TRiO listserv!

COE is a non-profit organization and represents institutions of higher education, administrators, counselors and teachers committed to advancing equal educational opportunities and promoting diversity in America's postsecondary institutions. COE works diligently to keep the TRiO community informed about legislative conditions affecting TRiO programs.

U.S. Department of Education: www.ed.gov



The U.S. Department of Education website home page contains links to all the various offices within the Department. The U.S. Department of Education's TRiO Program Homepage contains information about the Federal TRiO Programs, its history, news and information concerning upcoming funding competitions, legislations and regulatory reference documents, annual low income levels schedule, statistical information, national reports, and contact information for Federal TRiO program staff at the Department.

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html