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## **Letter from our IA-MAEOPP President, Laurie Edwards**

The Iowa Chapter of the Mid-American Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel is off to a great start this year! The Board of Directors met December 5<sup>th</sup>, in Des Moines to conduct the transitional meeting. Although just one previous board member attended, the 2007-2008 board was well represented and enthusiastic about its upcoming service to the membership. If you don't know all of the board members, visit our website at [www.ia-maeopp.org](http://www.ia-maeopp.org) to meet us!

On January 10, 2008, members from across the state gathered in Ames to take part in a Committee Work Day. The day was intended to bring committee chairs together with members willing to serve on the various committees, for the purpose of brainstorming, creating a timeline and generating a plan of attack to manage the charges assigned to each committee. At the end of the day, each committee submitted a report for the following day's board meeting, which outlined the committee's efforts. Based on those reports, much was accomplished by just a small number of people. Thanks to all who participated! If you were unable to attend, it's not too late to help. Please contact a committee chair in order to volunteer your time on whichever committee you're most interested in.

So much information is coming out of our organization and the very best way to keep current on IA-MAEOPP "happenings" is to visit the website. Scholarship application materials, spring conference documents, surveys and much more can be found there.

A huge thank you for all of the help and support shown to me in my first few months as IA-MAEOPP president. From former presidents, to committee chairs, to current members, you have stepped up to the plate to support the advancement of this chapter. Keeping this chapter on target is truly a group effort and I appreciate the assistance you've offered. Again, I thank you!

Best regards,  
Laurie Edwards

## **Extra, Extra Read All About It!**

Does your TRIO Program have some success stories or unique articles to share with the rest of Iowa MAEOPP? If so, forward them on to Kurt Roberts, [krberts@iastate.edu](mailto:krberts@iastate.edu) or Nicole Nechanicky, [nicole@iastate.edu](mailto:nicole@iastate.edu) so we can highlight them in a future newsletter. We are always looking for news about students, program successes and great practices that you have going on in your program. Share the good news!

## **Scholarship Update**

On behalf of the IA MAEOPP Scholarship Committee, I am pleased to announce the opening of the scholarship competition. This year, the awards given through our association include:

- (1) MAEOPP Board of Directors--\$1000,
- (1) Silas Purnell --\$1000,
- (5) IA-MAEOPP Achievement Awards--\$700 each.

The deadline is Friday, February 29, 2008. (Applications must be postmarked on or prior to this date.) Eligibility, nomination and application information can be obtained by going to [www.macopp.org](http://www.macopp.org) and then clicking on the scholarship link.

- Each MAEOPP member may nominate one student.
- The criteria, application and nomination information is exactly the same for the MAEOPP Board of Directors and the Silas Purnell Scholarships.

Complete the MAEOPP Board of Directors packet **ONLY** and the committee will use those materials to select the Purnell, the Board of Directors and the IA Achievement Award winners.

- Only the winner of the Silas Purnell scholarship will be asked to complete the Purnell documents, so the correct materials can be sent to the MAEOPP region Scholarship Chair.
- Scholarship applications must be complete and formatted according to instructions.
- Incomplete applications or those that do not follow instructions will be ineligible for consideration.
- Scholarship recipients and nominators will be notified in late March and recipients will be invited to attend the recognition banquet at the spring conference in Okoboji.

Please direct questions and send completed application and nomination materials to:

Jay Birkey  
Student Support Services  
Iowa Central Community College  
330 Avenue M  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501



IA-MAEOPP 2008 Spring Conference  
April 16-18, 2008



GREETINGS!!

This exciting information comes to you in anticipation of the 2008 Iowa MAEOPP Spring Conference to be held at The Inn, located on Lake OKOBOJI! For those of you who are unfamiliar, let us reassure you that Okoboji is a magical place in northwest Iowa where the beauty of the Iowa Great Lakes region abounds with nature and TRIO camaraderie. The conference will be held from Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Important information regarding conference ROOM RATES and RESERVATIONS:**

Room rates (included below), are the OFF season rates MINUS \$40. For example, if you are looking at a Standard Queen, you will notice a room rate listed as \$95, however the conference rate would be \$55. Please note that there are differing types of rooms, and differing locations of rooms. A roster of room types and a map of locations are included in this packet.

Reservations ARE DUE by February 16<sup>th</sup> for maximum availability. Rooms will be released after that date, so early booking is definitely to everyone's advantage.

Please call the hotel directly to make your reservations: 877-265-4386. Please ask for our block of rooms under "Iowa MAEOPP".

**Important information regarding Conference Registration:**

- Registration due date is **February 20<sup>th</sup>** to qualify for an early-bird rate of **\$185 for Iowa MAEOPP members**.
- AFTER February 20<sup>th</sup>, conference registration will be \$250 for Iowa MAEOPP members.

NON-Iowa MAEOPP members may register for the conference at a rate of \$275.

*Please note:* We are asking for registrations to be returned ON TIME. Payments do not need to be submitted by February 20<sup>th</sup>; payments will be accepted up until the conference convenes.

For any questions regarding conference registration, please contact Nicole Heng at [nheng@iowalakes.edu](mailto:nheng@iowalakes.edu) or phone 712-852-5264.

Visit [www.ia-maeopp.org](http://www.ia-maeopp.org) for Iowa MAEOPP Conference information and forms.

## **Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.**

Planning to attend Policy Seminar or have questions about it? Contact Jody Whitmore if you are thinking about/or definitely are attending the upcoming Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. Jody will be coordinating the Iowa delegations' meetings with our Congressmen and Senators. You can reach her at [jwhitmore@scc Iowa.edu](mailto:jwhitmore@scc Iowa.edu) or via phone at 319-752-2731.

## **All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship 2008-09**

Students attending eligible Iowa colleges and universities may receive awards of up to \$6,420\* for the 2008-2009 academic year. Priority will be given to students who participated in the Federal TRIO Programs, graduated from alternative high schools, and to homeless youth.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Iowa resident who begins initial enrollment at an eligible Iowa college or university within two academic years of graduating from high school
- Minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent
- Enroll for at least 3 semester hours (or the trimester or quarter equivalent) in a program leading to an undergraduate degree

### **How to Apply:**

- Complete an online application [www.iowaonline.state.ia.us/csac/aios/aios.asp](http://www.iowaonline.state.ia.us/csac/aios/aios.asp).
- Apply by the **May 1, 2008** priority deadline
- Complete a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA)

*\*Maximum individual awards cannot exceed than the resident tuition rate at Iowa Regent Universities. For the 2008-2009 academic year, the average tuition rate for full-time students at Iowa Regent Universities is \$6,420.*

## **2008 Iowa MAEOPP Board Members**

Laurie Edwards, President, Northwest Iowa Community College, [ledwards@nwicc.edu](mailto:ledwards@nwicc.edu)

Lynn Gallagher, President-Elect, Northeast Iowa Community College, [gallagher@nicc.edu](mailto:gallagher@nicc.edu)

Jessica Rohrig, Past-President, Iowa State University, [jrohrig@iastate.edu](mailto:jrohrig@iastate.edu)

TJ Thayer, Treasurer, Iowa Lakes Community College, [tthayer@iowalakes.edu](mailto:tthayer@iowalakes.edu)

Amanda Graeber, Secretary, University of Northern Iowa, [amanda.graeber@uni.edu](mailto:amanda.graeber@uni.edu)

Jody Whitmore, Member at Large, Southeastern Community College, [jwhitmore@scc Iowa.edu](mailto:jwhitmore@scc Iowa.edu)

Jay Birkey, Member at Large, Iowa Central Community College, [birkey@iowacentral.edu](mailto:birkey@iowacentral.edu)

Kurt Roberts, Member at Large, Iowa State University, [krberts@iastate.edu](mailto:krberts@iastate.edu)

Jen Schuller, Member at Large, DMACC Urban Campus, [jlschuller@dmacc.edu](mailto:jlschuller@dmacc.edu)

**Next IA-MAEOPP Board Meeting: March 28<sup>th</sup> 10am DMACC Urban Campus**