

# **IA-MAEOPP Newsletter Winter09**

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## **IA MAEOPP Annual Conference**

Mark your calendar for the 2009 IA MAEOPP Conference. This year's event will be held April 15-17<sup>th</sup>, at the Holiday Inn – Ames Conference Center. Plan to come hear great speakers, learn from workshop presenters and enjoy the company of fellow TRIO professionals. The 2009 conference will be taking place during Iowa State's VEISHA celebration, so there will be many opportunities for off-site evening activities and even the option to see a performance of STOMP. STOMP will be performing at CY Stephens on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. That is the open night during the conference and if you are interested in seeing STOMP group tickets will be \$38. Contact Paula Plath at [pkplath@iastate.edu](mailto:pkplath@iastate.edu) or 515-294-5118, so we can start a list of those wanting to see the performance. Registration materials for the conference will be provided to members after the first of February. If you would like to volunteer to serve on the conference committee, email Kurt Roberts at [krberts@iastate.edu](mailto:krberts@iastate.edu).

## **ACT State Organization 2009 Annual Conference**

Don't miss this networking opportunity to learn about Iowa's secondary and postsecondary key education initiatives, colleague's best practices, and ACT's latest research, programs, updates and consultative services that will assist you in preparing students to be college and work ready. The ACT annual conference will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at the Scheman Conference Center, Iowa State Center, Ames. For registration materials and more information visit ACT's website at [www.act.org/events](http://www.act.org/events). IA MAEOPP has been invited to be a workshop presenter for this conference.

## **News from Nominations and Elections**

A Note from the Nominations and Elections Chair, Cindy Benedict

Hope everyone is off to a great start this academic semester! Just want to congratulate our President-Elect Katherine Whitsitt and our Treasurer TJ Thayer. Amanda Graeber was elected Secretary but, unfortunately, is not working for a TRIO program anymore. President Lynn Gallagher nominated me to be secretary and the board approved this measure. Ms. Graeber will definitely be missed. I look forward to serving in Amanda's place and realize the great work she has done as Secretary for IA—MAEOPP.

Looking to the future, who would you like to nominate to be our next President-elect, Treasurer or Secretary? Or would you like to run for one of these offices? Well, just start hinting to your fellow IA—MAEOPP-ians that you have an interest in running. It's a lot of fun and a great way to get involved while meeting some very fine people! Nomination forms will be available at the Spring Conference. Look forward to seeing you there!

## **TRIO Training Opportunities for 2009**

Go to: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/triotrain/opportunities.html> for information on the various TRIO training opportunities remaining for 2009 for TRIO personnel.

## IA MAEOPP Scholarship Information

On behalf of the Iowa MAEOPP Scholarship Committee, I am pleased to announce the opening of the scholarship competition. This year, the awards given through our association include one MAEOPP Board of Directors Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 and seven Iowa MAEOPP Achievement Awards at \$500 each. The deadline is Friday, February 27, 2009.

Application materials must be postmarked on or prior to this date.

- Each MAEOPP member may nominate one student.
- Eligibility, nomination and application information can be obtained by going to [www.maeopp.org](http://www.maeopp.org) and then clicking on the “Scholarships” link.
- o Under MAEOPP Board of Directors, click on “eligibility” to see relevant information.
- o Click on “nomination” to print off the Nomination Form that must be filled out by the MAEOPP member/nominator. You will also need to submit a nomination essay (see Rationale at the bottom of the form).
- o Click on “application” to print the Application Form. The nominated student needs to submit a narrative/essay and transcript, including current spring semester schedule.
- There is also a link for the photo release form. Print this off and have the student fill it out and sign it.
- You do NOT need to include a jpeg photo of the student with your application materials. We will only request a photo from you if your nominated student is awarded a scholarship. You might want to have a jpeg photo available in case we need it later.
- You must be a current member of MAEOPP/Iowa MAEOPP to nominate a student. Membership status will be verified on March 2, 2009.
- Incomplete applications or those that do not follow instructions will be ineligible for consideration. A complete application packet consists of 1) Nomination Form and Nominator Essay, 2) Application Form and Student Essay, 3) Transcript with Current Spring Semester Schedule, and 4) Release of Photo Form.
- Scholarship recipients and their nominators will be notified in late March and recipients will be invited to attend the Scholarship Recognition Banquet at the spring conference in Ames on Thursday, April 16.

Please direct questions to Scholarship Committee Chair Jay Birkey at 515-574-1165 or [birkey@iowacentral.edu](mailto:birkey@iowacentral.edu). Send completed application and nomination materials to: Jay Birkey Student Support Services Iowa Central Community College One Triton Circle Fort Dodge, IA 50501

## Financial Aid Webinar

How to pay for college is an important issue for most families. Financial aid is often necessary, but filling out and filing the forms is a complicated process. For 10 years, the Iowa College Access Network® (ICAN) has been helping school counselors educate families on the financial aid process by offering Financial Aid Nights at Iowa schools.

Between other activities and commitments, it can be difficult to reach all the families who need information. To help more students and families, ICAN now offers the financial aid presentation as a [Webinar](#).

Although not intended to replace the night presentations, the Webinar allows families who can't attend a scheduled presentation to receive necessary information through their personal computers. An ICAN representative will take students and parents through the financial aid process and provide tips on how to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)). Visit the website for details:

<http://www.icansucceed.org/FinancialAidWebinars/tabid/1532/Default.aspx>

## College Goal Sunday

Students and families can get free help filing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#))\* forms at the upcoming Iowa College Goal Sunday. Filing the FAFSA is the first step toward qualifying for federal financial aid for college.

### **Event Details**

The 2009 Iowa College Goal Sunday will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14 in two metro locations:

#### **Iowa College Access Network® (ICAN) College Planning Center**

160 S. 68th Street, Suite 1101

West Des Moines

Appointment recommended. Please call (877) 272-4692.

#### **Des Moines Public Library**

1000 Grand Avenue

Des Moines

No appointment necessary.

Part of the national College Goal Sunday program held in 36 states, Iowa College Goal Sunday's main focus is helping low-income and first-generation students attain their college dreams. The event is made possible through grants from Lumina Foundation for Education and was planned and implemented through a partnership of several state organizations.

### **Web Site**

Visit [www.IowaCGS.org](http://www.IowaCGS.org) for:

- Statewide news release. (Site-specific release attached.)
- Reminder e-mail sign-up.
- List of materials attendees should bring.
- Additional information.

For more information, call the Iowa College Access Network® (ICAN) at (877) 272-4692 or e-mail [CGS@ICANSucceed.org](mailto:CGS@ICANSucceed.org).

## 2008-09 Iowa MAEOPP Board Members

Lynn Gallagher, President, Northeast Iowa Community College, [gallagherl@portal.nicc.edu](mailto:gallagherl@portal.nicc.edu)

Katherine Whitsitt, President-Elect, Northeast Iowa Community College, [whitsittk@portal.nicc.edu](mailto:whitsittk@portal.nicc.edu)

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

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

Cindy Benedict, Secretary, Northeast Iowa Community College, [benedictc@portal.nicc.edu](mailto:benedictc@portal.nicc.edu)

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

Next IA-MAEOPP Board Meeting: March 20, 2009, Location TBA

Upcoming Events: ACT State Organization Annual Conference, Scheman Center, Iowa State, Ames  
March 4, 2009  
IA MAEOPP Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Ames, April 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>  
MAEOPP Annual Conference, Pheasant Run Resort, St Charles, IL,  
November 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>