

IA-MAEOPP Newsletter Spring08

Kurt Roberts, Chair, Editorials and Publications kroberts@iastate.edu

Nicole Nechanicky, Committee Member nicole@iastate.edu

2008 Iowa MAEOPP Conference Held at Lake Okoboji

The Iowa MAEOPP Conference was held April 16th – 18th, 2008 at Okoboji, IA with seventy-three members in attendance. The theme, *Sail into Education with TRIO*, fit nicely with the nautical/beach theme of the conference setting, which was along the shore of Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa.

Participants were welcomed by Laurie Edwards, Iowa MAEOPP President and Student Support Services Director at Northwest Iowa Community College. Her supervisor, Alethea Stubbe, Vice President of Education and Learning Services at Northwest Iowa Community College spoke on behalf of what it means having a SSS program on campus and the benefits she sees it providing to students.

The opening plenary session featured Pat McGill, who used humor and storytelling to highlight the experiences that educators face. Her lighthearted approach touched on delicate subjects that allowed the group to examine the impact that they have on students in their everyday lives.

An outdoor reception was held on the grounds of The INN on Lake Okoboji, where participants were able to meet and greet each other. Lake Okoboji is part of the Iowa Great Lakes, which is made up of five lakes and is considered to be one of three blue water lakes in the world, with the other two being Lake Geneva in Switzerland and Lake Louise in Canada. It is also the deepest lake in Iowa, having been created by the last ice age, about 13,000 years ago.

Breakout sessions consisted of pertinent topics for participants, including Working with Today's Disruptive Students, TIRO Program Evaluation, PEO, Needs Section of the Upcoming SSS Competition, Learning Styles Analysis, Leadership Training Opportunities with MAEOPP, Extreme Teambuilding, Making Cents of Financial Aid, and True Colors. Additionally, the Chapter Meeting of Iowa MAEOPP was held during the conference, as well as specific program breakout sessions. Heather Valentine, Vice President of Government Relations for the Council of Opportunity in Education was present via telephone connection and gave an update on the Higher Ed legislation, as well as other happenings on the Hill. Joe Flores, MAEOPP President, was in attendance and spoke to the important role each of us plays within our TRIO program.

Two colossal efforts were held to provide scholarship funds for Ia MAEOPP Scholarships. The FUN / RUN enticed participants to rise at dawn and trek around Okoboji in an effort to secure a t-shirt and donate to the scholarship fund. There were twenty donations made to this effort and although the morning was a little cloudy, the hearts of the participants were not! They were clear in their mission to promote college access for TRIO students.

The second effort was the FUNTIVITY, which enjoyed great success based on the participation of all programs bringing great items to be auctioned off. Everything from college caps to t-shirts, sweatshirts and TRIO mugs abound! Many programs honored the informal 'beach theme' by packaging their items with summer merchandise, as evidenced by the presence of coolers, a pink flamingo, and an array of beach towels and suntan lotions. Additionally, some programs accentuated their donations by including home town favorites such as Dutch items and Twin Bing candy bars!

The Scholarship Dinner honored seven students who were scholarship recipients. Four of the seven were in attendance with their families, and each spoke of their journey within TRIO and how their participation affected the choices that they now had before them. The students were sincere in their acceptance of their scholarships and it is always heartwarming to hear their stories.

The banquet gave way to an evening of Karaoke and dancing, as well as socializing and cajoling. Attendees were able to purchase a 'NO SINGING' sticker for \$5, however it really did no good when it came to facing the microphone and the possibility of entertaining the crowd; everyone participated in singing and having fun with their colleagues.

The conference concluded with the speaker, Bill Zubke, South Dakota's Teacher of the Year in 2000. He reminded us as professionals that we have nothing to lose but our pants. Within the first two minutes of his presentation, Mr. Zubke stripped down to his shorts, and then continued to entertain and involve the group in energetic and hilarious exercises, including singing the old favorite, "Running Bear". He gave us the 'top ten' reasons we are successful in our students lives, as well as reminding us what is truly important in life as he passed out five kinds of homemade fudge that he had produced of his own recipes.

Iowa Student Leadership Conference 2008

Partnering with the generous support of Citi Corporation, Iowa MAEOPP is currently planning a student leadership conference for the fall of 2008. Kim Poam Logan, who works with community affairs for Citi and a former TRIO student at Central College is helping with the financial support for this endeavor. An ad hoc committee has been formed to organize and plan the conference. Current plans call for a centrally located conference to be held in the fall. The conference will have topics specific to pre-college and college-age TRiO participants. For more information contact the committee chair, Matt Diehl at diehlm@central.edu.

College Goal Sunday

Planning continues for the College Goal Sunday program for 2009. Currently plans have been developed to offer the program in different sections of the state of Iowa (Des Moines, Sioux City, Waterloo, Council Bluffs and Ottumwa). College Goal Sunday is a joint effort between TRiO, Iowa College Access Network, Gear Up, IJAG and several other organizations. The purpose of College Goal Sunday is to increase the number of FAFSAs filed by low-income, first-generation and minority students. For more information contact Jessica Rohrig at jrohrig@iastate.edu.



Is It FAIR?

It is indeed.....FAIRSHARE works and needs your continued support!! As you all know the fight to keep TRIO programs thriving and simply alive is ongoing. It is important to support those that keep the fight going on behalf of all of us that are in the field with the students. The Council advocates for us and in order to continue, they do need our monetary support. We have seen that we cannot fight these battles alone. We have until June 30th to make our goal!

How is fair share calculated?

The formula takes into consideration the total number of TRIO projects within your state and/or region and multiplies that percent by the General Administrative Budget.

How can we contribute and what can we do?

1. Institutional Membership Dues: Get your institution to become a member. (It is an ALLOWABLE cost)
2. Purchase a Subscription Package
\$200 for institutional members & \$400 for non-members
 - A. COE Networks (annual magazine)
 - B. Equality Newsletter (quarterly magazine)
 - C. TRIO & GEAR UP Programs Directory
 - D. E-News you can use
 - E. Frequently Asked Questions
3. Personal Contributions

Need more reasons to Contribute??

The council hosts proposal workshops yearly to assist Institutional Members with their TRIO grant writing. These two day seminars include an overview of the proposal development, editing, and the review process. The council will also critique a draft of your TRIO grant. These are FREE to institutional members!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

June 1-2, 2008: Los Angeles, CA
July 25-26, 2008: Washington, D.C.
August 11-12, 2008: Chicago, IL

College Planning for the First in the Family

For students who could potentially be the first in the family to attend college, the planning process can be emotional and challenging. Several resources exist to help first families throughout the decision-making process, including Family Firsts, a series of booklets from ACT for first-generation college students and their families. To access the booklets, visit <http://www.act.org/path/secondary/resources.html>.

A key to the process is learning about the college planning calendar. Most two- and four-year schools follow approximately the same admissions schedule. ACT offers online checklists for keeping all students on track to a college education. Visit <http://www.actstudent.org/college/checklist.html> to see the steps you should be taking in each year of high school. Source: ACT's News You Can Use Issue 54, May 2008

First Annual Iowa College Access and Success Conference Promotes Collaboration

The first annual Iowa College Access and Success Conference, sponsored by the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN), took place April 23-24, 2008, at the DMACC Newton Conference Center. The conference provided an opportunity for college access professionals to share best practices, discuss outreach strategies, and discover innovative college access programs and tools.

The program included sessions on local, state, regional and national college access issues. The conference drew a diverse group of people, including school counselors and administrators, financial aid and admissions professionals, community-based access providers and student services professionals.

Nearly 100 Iowa professionals came together to share their expertise and passion in helping Iowa students become better prepared for college and lifelong success.

"In terms of social justice, [college access] is the most important issue in our country," said keynote speaker Joe Watts, director of the National College Access Partnership at the University of North Carolina System Office.

Watts shared strategies to improve college access for underrepresented students. He noted that the challenges facing Iowa are similar to those of his home state and the nation at large. "Collaboration is absolutely necessary. No one agency can do it all," said Watts.

To read more about the conference, view photos and download presentations, go to www.ICANSucceed.org/conference. Source: ICANSucceed.org

Election News

The slate is set for the upcoming IA-MAEOPP election. Candidates that have accepted nominations are:

Katherine Whitsitt for President Elect, TJ Thayer for Treasurer and Amanda Graeber for Secretary. IA-MAEOPP members should be receiving information on the candidates and a way to vote very soon. The voting deadline is set for June 13th. If you have any questions, contact Jen Schuller at jlschuller@dmacc.edu.

2008 Iowa MAEOPP Board Members

Laurie Edwards, President, Northwest Iowa Community College, ledwards@nwick.edu

Lynn Gallagher, President-Elect, Northeast Iowa Community College, gallagher@nicc.edu

Jessica Rohrig, Past-President, Iowa State University, jrohrig@iastate.edu

TJ Thayer, Treasurer, Iowa Lakes Community College, tthayer@iowalakes.edu

Amanda Graeber, Secretary, University of Northern Iowa, amanda.graeber@uni.edu

Jody Whitmore, Member at Large, Southeastern Community College, jwhitmore@scciaowa.edu

Jay Birkey, Member at Large, Iowa Central Community College, birkey@iowacentral.edu

Kurt Roberts, Member at Large, Iowa State University, krberts@iastate.edu

Jen Schuller, Member at Large, DMACC Urban Campus, jlschuller@dmacc.edu

Next IA-MAEOPP Board Meeting: August 29th, Iowa Central, Fort Dodge

Upcoming Events: Iowa TRIO Fall Drive In, October 10th, Iowa Central, Fort Dodge

Iowa TRIO Student Leadership Conference, fall date, to be determined

COE Conference, Washington, DC, September 17th-20th

MAEOPP Student Leadership Conference, October 24th-26th

MAEOPP Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO, November 9th-12th