

ILAEOPP NEWS

Illinois Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel



BRIDGING THE ACADEMIC GAP

On behalf of the 2004-2005 ILAEOPP Executive Board and Professional conference committee we would like to welcome you to the 31st Annual ILAEOPP Professional Conference, being held April 24-27, 2005. The conference theme this year is ILAEOPP: Bridging the Academic Gap. We hope that you make plans to attend this year's conference. We have worked hard to ensure that this year's conference is a huge success. If you would like to be a part of this year's conference please indicate that you would like to volunteer on the registration form.

In this registration packet the Call for Proposal is included. Please submit any information

Pertaining to the Call for Proposal to Mona Y. Davenport, Program Chair, at 217-581-6690 or csmyd@eiu.edu.

Please remember to make your individual hotel arrangements. The conference will be held at: The Chateau, 1601 Jumer Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704, 309-662-2020. the room rates are \$85.000 Single and \$95.00 Double.

If you have any questions regarding the conference registration please contact Izola E. Woods, Registration Chair, at 618-634-3226 or Izolaw@Shawneecc.edu. We look forward to seeing you in Bloomington, IL
ILAEOPP Professional Conference Committee

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CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Sunday April 24	ILAEOPP Board Meeting	1:30 pm
Monday April 25	Conference Registration	9:00 am -12 noon
	Opening Session	10:00 am -12 noon
	Lunch	12 noon
	Concurrent Session	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
	Concurrent Session	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
	New Comer's Reception	5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
	Banquet	7:00 pm
	Soiree`	9:00 pm
Tuesday April 26	Breakfast Chapter Meeting	8:30 am - 10:30 am
	Concurrent Session	11:00 am -12:30 pm
	Luncheon Speaker	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
	Concurrent Session	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
	Dinner on your own	5:00 pm
	Contingency to Springfield, IL	
	Reception for State Legislation	7:30 pm
Wednesday April 27	Breakfast Debriefing	8:30 am - 10:30 am
	Strategy Planning	
	Formation of working subcommittees	
	Box Lunch, Evaluation and Closing	12:15 pm - 1:30 pm



FROM THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Alfred Jackson

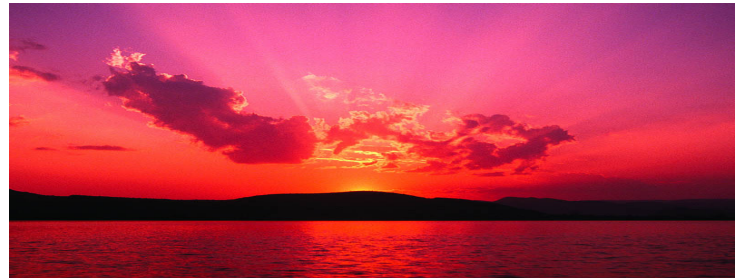
Coming into the year, I knew this Executive board would need to plan and implement TRIO Day Celebrations in the three regions of the state, sponsor the 18th Annual ILAEOPP Washington DC Leadership Seminar, and conduct our state Student Leadership and Professional Conferences. I felt that this board would concentrate on completing ILAEOPP's long over-due application process for 501c3 tax exempt status and establishing a new web site that would move the association forward in terms of disseminating information more effectively to the membership. Little did I realize after being sworn into the office that ILAEOPP and the TRIO family would be in the fight of our lives.

"You can rest assured that your Executive Board is working to develop effective strategies to combat this attack on the TRIO community"

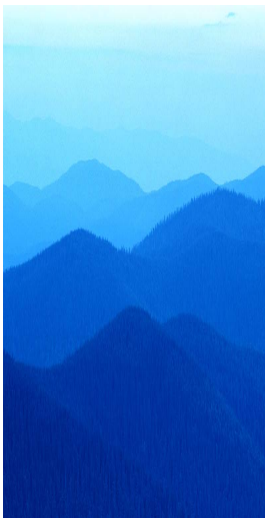
With the release of his budget proposal on February 7, 2005, President Bush effectively declared war on hope and opportunity for TRIO and its participants. The President has proposed the complete elimination of ETS and UB, sighting them as ineffective programs. He proposes to eliminate Perkins loans which TRIO partici-

pants rely on to fund their college education. His budget proposes level funding for the remaining TRIO Programs, effectively reducing the number of funded SSS programs because SSS grant competition submitted grant proposals that included a 3% budget increase. These are truly trying times for the TRIO community.

You can rest assured that your Executive Board is working in concert with our state and federal lawmakers and COE to develop effective strategies to combat this attack on the informed. However, It is imperative that all ILAEOPP members, along with TRIO participants and friends of TRIO, take an active role in petitioning federal and state lawmakers not to approve the President's budget. Only through our combined and concerted efforts will TRIO continue to provide a service to those without a voice.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE



I LAEOPP has been successful in launching our new website. We are in the infancy state and the website will need some fine tuning. It will be updated with news articles, pictures and membership information. You can review your membership information, and if corrections are needed, you can make them on-line and it will be corrected on our roster and with MAEOPP. Please take a moment to review the website and provide your comments. As a communication piece, the website can only be effective if it meets

the needs of the membership. To that end, we need your feedback. The website is located at: ilaeopp.org.



TRIO DAY

National TRIO Day Central hosted by Eastern Illinois University on Saturday, February 26, 2005, was a big success. There were 148 registered participants from five institutions in the Central Illinois area: University of Illinois, Parkland College, Eastern Illinois University, Richland Community College, and Heartland Community College. Distinguished guest in attendance for the opening session included EIU's president, Louis

Hencken; Vice President of External Affairs, Jill Nilsen; Director of Minority Affairs, Mona Davenport; and Mayor of Charleston, IL, Dan Cougill.

In comparison to 2004 National TRIO Day, the response and turnout was fantastic. National TRIO Day began with greetings from each of the distinguished guests. A brief slide presentation on the history of TRIO Programs by Dr. Sandra Kato-Wright. There were seven workshops running con-

currently during the morning and afternoon. Probably the greatest impact of the day was the emotional testimonies give by the TRIO students. University administration, faculty and presenters from the community were able to experience first hand the needs for TRIO programs and to hear how students; lives have been changed as a result of the vision in 1965 to help first-generation, low income students.

Jill Nilsen, Vice President of External Affairs expressed her concern over proposed cuts in the TRIO budget. She urged the students to get involved, by writing letters to their Senators, Congressmen and Representatives and encouraged them to fight for TRIO Programs. National TRIO Day Central Illinois 2005 ended with affirmation for continued support of TRIO programs and their personnel.

Celebrate, Commemorate, Get Busy!

TRIO Programs throughout the country will be converging on college campuses to celebrate National TRIO Day. Our campus will have over six hundred students as we host the Northern Region of the state of Illinois. Our guest speaker will be Tendaji Ganges, a former Director of Educational Services & Programs who has spent nearly all his professional career working with TRIO Programs. Infact, Mr. Ganges was one of the first Upward Bound participants back in 1965 at Princeton University. Upward Bound, along with Student Support Services and Educational Talent Search, make up the original set of federally funded programs that dawned the name TRIO. Now there are seven different TRIO Programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Program, Educational Opportunity Centers, Upward Bound- Math/Science, and Veteran's Upward Bound round out the field.

Although TRIO Programs help thousands of students to enter and graduate from college each year, President Bush has a different vision

for first generation and low-income student populations. *No Child Left Behind* is the Bush Administration's initiative to give monies to high schools to develop programs. As a result TRiO programs such as Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound (the two oldest programs) have been zeroed out of the Bush budget. That's right, totally elimi-



TRIO trio: Tendaji Ganges, Keynote Speaker, Shawn Govan, President-Elect, and Jerry Wright, TRIO Day North Chair

nated. Some 400 million dollars, 400,000 students, and 1,300 programs will be dismantled. In the state of Illinois alone 59 programs, 19,000 students, and 18,000,000 dollars will

be wiped out. Not to mention the number of jobs that will be lost. The fear is that if these two programs are cut then the rest won't be far behind.

One major obstacle the President will have in getting his budget funded can be **you. You see you are the benefactors of TRiO.** You are why TRiO exists and if you don't say anything then who really cares. Martin Luther King once stated, "...at some point silence becomes betrayal". What he is saying is if we don't say anything when things affect us we may as well be speaking for the opposition.

You may ask, "What can I do?" Well it would be a great impact if we all called our Congresspersons and Senators. They can raise opposition to the budget based on their constituencies (you).

Find out who your Congressperson is and email, phone, fax, holla at, or all of the above. Tell them you don't want to see TRiO cut. Tell them how much the programs have helped you. Tell them about others that have been helped. At least you will be able to say you did your part.

Finally, come on out and celebrate TRiO Day. Show some love and respect for your program.



Trusting The Process

- ✓ I want to go to college... where do I start?
- ✓ I need money for tuition... what must I do?
- ✓ How do I find out what schools are best for me?
- ✓ How do I register for class?
- ✓ How do I get my refund check?
- ✓ How do I get reimbursed for my travel?
- ✓ How do I request to take a vacation? Or leave of absence?

DeSean E. Coleman and Bammeke Jenkins

We all have policies and procedures. Although our world is steadily moving to a paperless society, we still have processes that we must adhere in order to get task done in a (most times not) timely and (most times not) efficient manner. Policies and procedures are guidelines that are designed to give instructions and actions to achieve a desired goal.

Emerging Leaders Institute (as it exists with Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel, MAEOPP) is a faction where each chapter sponsors two representatives to represent them and get training to become a future leader in the TRiO organization. DeSean E. Coleman (Elgin Community College) and Bammeke Jenkins (Malcolm X College) are ILAEOPP's 2005 representatives for ELI.

Our charge, as understood by both of us, is to analyze the current MAEOPP board structure and determine if it is suitable for advancing MAEOPP in the 21st Century. Although our preliminary work had

been becoming familiar with the function and duties of all board members, we have also interviewed and plan to interview more MAEOPP Past-Presidents. Throughout our short tenure as ILAEOPP ELIs we have mingled with ELI alums and through our discourse what has become a mantra for ELI alums is "Trust the Process..."

What does that mean?

That means as someone from the outgoing class explained, "There are going to be times when you hate another person in that room, because they are arguing what you may consider to be an insignificant point, but you will work through it and at the end of the day you respect that other person and they will in turn respect you."

After engaging in what many would consider insignificant banter with ELI alums, we have come to the conclusion that the charge is not as important as the process. It is not less important but the process is the function that determines whether or not the charge is successful. The charge is designed to create an

environment in which different people come together to achieve a specified goal. Different people from divergent places and unlike backgrounds culturally, dissimilar ethical make-up. We are an odd group. We have a Pork Princess, Guinness book record holder, a Phi Beta Sigma, an Omega Man, a Kappa (Nupe), and a Nigerian, just to name a few of our attributes, our ages range from mid twenties to fifty something. Although we are not of one homogeneous lot, we have all come together with a common goal. We all love the career path we have chosen. We enjoy assisting first generation, low-income and disabled students achieve their educational goals.

In a time when so many are divided on a plethora of platforms and issues it gives us great pleasure to bask in the similitude of ELI. Although we have not encountered what most would say is the crux of the process we persevere. We have a desired goal, and the function to achieve that goal is the process. We trust the process...

University of Toledo hosts 3rd Annual SSS Leadership Conference

On Thursday, January 27, 2005, SSS students from RMC and Roosevelt University boarded a charter bus for Toledo, Ohio where they would participate in the University of Toledo's 3rd Annual Student Leadership Conference. This was the second year that the SSS staff and students from Robert Morris College (RMC) participated in this conference. Seventeen RMC and thirteen Roosevelt University students and staff made the journey.

The conference was organized by the SSS staff at the University of Toledo. The theme of this year's conference was "World Changers: Growing a Community of Leaders". The event officially kicked off on Friday, January 28, 2005 with breakfast and a presentation titled "Career Success and Survival as a Leader". After breakfast students were able to choose from a variety of workshops including Depression, Citizen Diplomacy, Personality

Assessment, Action Planning, and Financial Planning.

After the morning workshops students were treated to lunch and a presentation on servant leadership. Next came the second set of workshops, such as Study Abroad Opportunities (moderated by RMC student Tamera Bavido), Campus and Community Activism, and Breaking Down the Walls of Discrimination.

On Friday night, conference participants were provided with a wonderful dinner and a powerful presentation by Mr. Phil Molefe, head of the South African Broadcast Company. When Mr. Molefe concluded his speech the students were treated to a skit by LAI Entertainment about the dangers of unprotected sex.

The conference ended with a speech by Ohio State Senator Ray Miller and a panel discussion on Saturday morning. The panel consisted of

community leaders, activists, and professionals. Panelists spoke on the importance of leadership and what it meant to them and their careers. Students seemed to enjoy the workshops and the networking opportunities at the conference. SSS student and tutor, Vanessa Reyes commented, "The workshops were very informative and I really liked the fact that we were able to meet new people."

Each year the University of Toledo puts together a wonderful conference for SSS students and project directors in the Midwest Region should consider this event when they are looking for a meaningful experience for their students. For more information on the University of Toledo Student Leadership Conference visit their website at: http://sss.utoledo.edu/leadership_conference_2004.htm

