



*Maine Educational Opportunity Association  
35th Annual Conference  
January 11-12, 2018  
Black Bear Inn  
Orono, Maine*

## *Welcome from the MEEOA Conference Committee*

Welcome to the 35th Annual MEEOA Conference! We are thrilled to be providing this conference for so many dedicated professionals working with students who are first-generation, low-income, or who have disabilities. This work is so vitally important and it is exciting to be a part of such a great community of professionals.

When we first jumped into the role of MEEOA Conference Co-Chairs, we had little idea of what we were getting ourselves into. We only knew that we wanted to give back to an organization and a membership that has given so much support and guidance to us as new professionals. We wanted to provide a conference that would support and encourage the MEEOA membership, something that would inspire and refresh participants at a time (winter) when we can all feel a little drained and exhausted.

This year's theme of "Filling Your Well" is a reminder that we, as professionals, need to remember to fill our wells, to stay hydrated and refreshed, so that we can continue to do the work that we do. Just as the students that we serve face barriers to achieving success in college, we can also face barriers when our well is empty. So, please take this opportunity over the next couple days to fill up your well. Whether it is meeting with other colleagues, learning something new, quietly reflecting, or having some fun at the auction, use this conference to get a little "me" time and replenish your supply of specialness!

What started over a year ago with a spontaneous "We'll co-chair the conference!" has culminated in our effort to give back to a community of professionals that has given so much to us. We had a lot of help along the way from last year's conference co-chairs to our conference committee to the MEEOA Board, as well as some amazing presenters who gave us so many creative workshops and our USM community who gave us workshops, a keynote, and some awesome swag. The value of having such a great support network is that whenever we asked for help, we got a great response and we are thankful for all of you! We hope that you will enjoy this conference and find something of lasting and meaningful value. Fill your well and keep doing the wonderful work that you are all doing!

Terri Plummer and Samantha Prosser, Conference Co-Chairs

**Wi-Fi Password: Blossom23!**

Find more information and the 2018 MEEOA Conference Booklet at

[www.meeoa.org](http://www.meeoa.org)

[www.meeoa.org/conference.php](http://www.meeoa.org/conference.php)

## *2018 MEEOA Conference Committee*

Terri Plummer, Conference Co-Chair  
Samantha Prosser, Conference Co-Chair  
Becky Colannino  
Ginny Fowles-Ward  
Casey Handerson  
Tony Staffiere  
Steve Visco  
Alyssa West

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## *2017-2018 MEEOA Executive Committee*

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President

**Mary Kate Barbosa**  
President-Elect

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Fact Book Coordinator  
Maine Emerging Leaders Institute (MELI)  
Chair

**David Megquier**  
**Andrew Henry**  
Fair Share

**Casey Henderson**  
Webmaster

# 2018 MEEOA Conference at a Glance

## Wednesday, January 10



Time	Session	Location
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Registration	Lower Level
6:00-8:00 p.m.	The Black Bear Brewery	19 Mill St., Orono

## Thursday, January 11

8:30-9:30 a.m.	Registration	Lower Level
9:30-9:45 a.m.	Welcome	Blue Room
<b>9:50-10:50 a.m.</b>	<b>Concurrent Workshops #1</b>	
	We Are All in Transition: Supporting LGBT Students in our Programs and Beyond the Basics (Elyse Pratt-Ronco)	Pink A
	Appy Hour Smack Down (Sara Henry)	Pink B
	Zero and Free Tuition Programs: How they work and why students win (Jonathan Henry)	Pink C
	Dropping Anchor on Self-Care (Terri Reiter)	Blue Room
11:00-11:15 a.m.	Coffee Break	Blue Room
11:15-12:30 p.m.	Keynote (Dr. Paul Dexter)	Blue Room
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Lunch Buffet	Blue Room
<b>1:35-2:35 p.m.</b>	<b>Concurrent Workshops #2</b>	
	The Impact of Internships (Allie Platts)	Pink A
	Updates from the World of Financial Aid (Mila Tappan)	Pink B
	ACEs 101: Why Should I Care About Adverse Childhood Experiences? What Does It Mean for Students in Kindergarten, High School, and College? (Brittany Ray)	Pink C
	Meet the Neighbors (Bonnie Lucas)	Blue Room
2:45-3:45 p.m.	COE Update (Selene Ceja)	Blue Room
3:45-5:30 p.m.	Chair Massages/Check-in/Self-Care	
5:30-6:00 p.m.	Mixer, Newcomers' Reception & President's Welcome (cash bar open)	Blue Room
6:00-7:30 p.m.	Banquet & Awards Program	Blue Room
7:30-9:30 p.m.	Live Auction	Blue Room
9:30-11:00 p.m.	Tropical Beach Party in the Hospitality Suite	Suite 228

## Friday, January 12

8:00-8:45 a.m.	Mindfulness Activity	Pink A
9:00-9:30 a.m.	NEOA Update (Jane Kimball Foley)	Blue Room
<b>9:30-10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Program Roundtables</b>	
	Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veteran's Upward Bound	Pink A
	Educational Opportunity Center	Pink B
	Student Support Services	Pink C
	GEAR-UP & Educational Talent Search	Blue Room
	MEEOA Executive Committee	Suite 228
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Complete Hotel Checkout	
10:45-11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break	Blue Room
11:00-12:00 p.m.	Business Meeting (Raffle & Silent Auction—must be present to win!)	Blue Room
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet & Slide Show	Blue Room
<b>1:05-2:05 p.m.</b>	<b>Concurrent Workshops #3</b>	
	Hope is Not an Emotion (Elyse Pratt-Ronco)	Pink A
	Leadership and Professional Development Opportunities in MEEOA and NEOA (Steve Visco & Ginny Fowles-Ward)	Pink B
	Dual Enrollment Policies in Maine (Larry Ronco)	Pink C
	Goal Setting: Mitigating the Fizzle (Joy Harrington)	Blue Room
2:15-2:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Blue Room

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions #1 Descriptions

Thursday, January 11  
9:50-10:50 a.m.

### **We Are All in Transition: Support LGBT Students in our Programs Beyond the Basics**

**Pink A**

This workshop will explore best practices for working with LGBT in our programs. Drawing on case studies from our Upward Bound program we will discuss how a similar situation would be handled in your program and what we learned from the experience. This session will be particularly focused on students who are transitioning and how best to work with them in the areas of revising forms and communication, housing, and preferred names and pronouns.



#### **Elyse Pratt-Ronco, Assistant Director, Upward Bound, University of Maine at Farmington**

Elyse Pratt-Ronco received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from UMF. She earned her Masters Degree in Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and her Doctorate in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College. Her research on rural poverty and resilience has been recognized by the American Educational Research Association.



#### **Eric Pratt, Academic Counselor, Upward Bound, University of Maine at Farmington**

Eric Pratt received his Bachelor's of Science in Animal Science from the University of Vermont. Since the completion of his degree in 2013, he has spent time between the East and West coasts, working various jobs that have developed skills applicable to his work with Upward Bound, all while working for the summer program for the last four years. Eric has spent time in Portland, OR volunteering with homeless, LGBTQ+ youth and thoroughly enjoys working with the LGBTQ+ youth population.

### **Appy Hour Smack Down**

**Pink B**

Bring your favorite device, and favorite apps that you use with students or use yourself. Apps demonstrated could include apps for note taking, time and task management, helping individuals with anxiety or other mental health challenges manage emotions, and the list goes on from there. Each person will have a maximum of 6 minutes to pull up the website for the app, describe how it works and the benefits, demonstrate if possible and answer questions. The moderator will sound the chime after 6 minutes and the next person is up.



#### **Sara Henry, Director of Student Accessibility Services, University of Maine**

Sara hails from Massachusetts and attended the University of Vermont where she earned a B.S. in Elementary Education and M.Ed. in Reading and Language Arts at the University of Vermont. Sara's career in higher education began in 1991 at Johnson State College working at the Trio Student Support Services program. She has worked at UMaine since the fall of 2000 when she began working with the UMaine Student Support Services program. Sara has experience working with students who have learning and attention problems and all types of disabilities. She is the past president of Vermont Educational Opportunity Programs (VEOP), past president of the Maine Educational Opportunity Association (MEEOA), former secretary of the New England Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD NE), and former vice president of the New England Educational Association (NEOA). Sara is co-founder of the Maine Emerging Leaders Institute (MELI), a multi-day program designed to support emerging leaders in Trio programs in the state of Maine. Sara enjoys hiking, gardening, biking and making pasta from scratch. She loves working at the University of Maine and gets up every day looking forward to driving onto the campus to work with the students, faculty and staff there.

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions #1 Descriptions (continued)

### Zero and Free Tuition Programs: How They Work and Why Students Win Pink C

Nationally, more states are creating "promise" scholarships and grants to eliminate tuition costs for low-income students. Four of the seven universities in the University of Maine System (UMS) have implemented such programs beginning in 2018. The nature, structure and eligibility for such programs will be discussed, with particular attention to the four available in the UMS.



#### **Jonathan Henry, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing, University of Maine at Augusta**

Jonathan Henry has work 32 years in university admissions and enrollment management, starting at his alma mater, UVM, in 1985. He first served at UMA from 2007-2012 as the Dean of Enrollment Services, and returned to UMA in August 2017 as the Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing. Jon, as he prefers to be called, is committed deeply to the public access mission of UMA and the transformational role that higher education plays for citizens in Maine, regardless of their age, location or interests. Jon earned his BA in Political Science and M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Vermont. When not managing student enrollments, he enjoys working on his 170-year old farmhouse in Hampden, and reclaiming his middle-age health through fitness, nutrition, and outdoor recreation.

### Dropping Anchor on Self-Care

### Blue Room

Taking care of oneself? Who has time for that? As a professional who gives tirelessly and selflessly to others, then goes home to a busy life, it is important to create opportunities to fill your own emotional, spiritual and physical tanks. Join the fun in making and taking time that is just for you! This engaging workshop will provide a refresher on a few key soul activities that do not require significant time but are sure to revive the weary professional traveler.



#### **Terri Reiter, LCSW, Clinical Counselor, University of Maine at Augusta**

Terri Hewett Reiter, MSW, is a licensed clinical social worker who currently serves as the mental health clinician for the Augusta campus at UMA. Her practice extends to individuals, couples and families. She has nearly twenty years experience helping individuals and families in crisis or life transitions such as divorce, blended or blending families, bereavement, and transforming traumatic experiences. Terri appreciates the opportunity to assist individuals to understand that conflict is inevitable, conflict is important for growth, and conflict can and needs to be safely expressed and transformed for lasting and meaningful connection. Terri has extensive training in DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) and Imago relationship therapy. She strives to teach skills that can be applied outside of the therapeutic setting with the goal of enhancing intentional, meaningful dialogues, peace and connection. She believes in giving individuals, couples, and families the maps and tools essential for promoting joyful, peaceful, and meaningful living.



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## Concurrent Workshop Sessions #2 Descriptions

Thursday, January 11  
1:35-2:35 p.m.

### The Impact of Internships

**Pink A**

Exposing students to the working world through internships can help students broaden their horizons, build their professional networks, and increase their chances at success in the workforce post graduation. But how do we adequately prepare our students to have successful internship experiences? What makes an internship impactful? How do we connect our students with meaningful engaged learning opportunities? The workshop will focus on ways we can help students develop the essential skills needed to get the most out of their internships, how to best structure internship opportunities, and how to effectively engage community partners/potential employers.



#### **Allie Platts, Career Advisor in the Career & Employment Hub, University of Southern Maine**

Prior to her Career Advisor role, Allie was a Coordinator of Internships at USM, providing internship support to students, faculty, and community partners. She completed her Global Career Development Facilitator training through the National Career Development Association and is a member of the Maine Career Development Association. She double majored in Sociology and Religion at Wheaton College in Norton, MA and will complete her M.S. in Adult & Higher Education from USM this summer. Allie believes that internships are a great gateway to opportunity because they allow students to broaden their professional networks, develop practical skills for the workforce, and apply knowledge learned in the classroom to real-world settings.

### Updates from the World of Financial Aid

**Pink B**

This workshop will focus on current financial aid issues, including the 2018-2019 FAFSA, verification process, and comparing award letters. Bring your questions as there will also be a question and answer section within the presentation.



#### **Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, Finance Authority of Maine (FAME)**

Mila joined the Finance Authority of Maine in July 2008. She is currently the Manager of College Access and Outreach. Her areas of expertise include FAFSA completion, the financial aid process, and preparing to pay for college. She provides this information and guidance - all with an emphasis on financial literacy - to school counselors, college access professionals, financial aid professionals, students, and families. She also provides outreach and support for the NextGen College Investing Plan and Harold Alfond College Challenge Program. Prior to joining FAME, Mila worked as an Associate Director of Financial Aid at the University of Maine, where she was employed for sixteen years. Mila is a graduate of the University of Maine and holds a B.A. in Public Management. Additionally, she has completed extensive master's level coursework in public administration and higher education. She lives in Bangor with her husband, Robert, and has two adult sons, Alex and Noah.

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## Concurrent Workshop Sessions #2 Descriptions (continued)

### ACEs 101: Why Should I Care About Adverse Childhood Experiences? Pink C What Does it Mean for Students in Kindergarten, High School, and College?

Our schools care about students and their futures. Our schools use amazing best practices to improve aspirations, test scores, graduation rates, college going rates, and retention rates, but still we are losing too many of our students. As teachers, guidance counselors, college access counselors, and school administrators we know we need to do better, but how? This session takes a look at ACEs- Adverse Childhood Experiences and the impact of these experiences on school success. What we know from ACEs is that a trauma informed approach is needed in schools and without acknowledging and responding to the impact adversity has on developing brains and on social and emotional development, we will never close the achievement gap. This session seeks to share the very basic information of the ACEs study and what that means for educators, students, parents, and communities. If you never have heard of the ACEs study, this session is for you. If you have heard of the ACEs study but are not familiar with the specifics and how this impacts the students with whom you work, this session is for you. This session is the starting point for all teachers and schools wishing to create more trauma informed school cultures.



#### **Brittany Ray, Director, Transforming Rural Experience in Education (TREE)**

Brittany Ray was born and raised in Washington County, Maine. In 1993 she graduated from Colby College, and after graduation she returned to Washington County where she pursued her passion - teaching. Returning to her former high school, she remained as a teacher and English Department Chair for 11 years. In 2007 she was named Maine Teacher of the Year, becoming the first teacher to represent Washington County in over 25 years. In 2009 Brittany Ray received her Master of Science in School Counseling and transitioned from the classroom to administration when she was hired as the Narraguagus High School Guidance Director. Her experiences in the classroom and in school counseling fueled her passion for building relationships and developing strategies to help mitigate poverty related barriers for her students. In January of 2016 Brittany heard about an exciting new initiative called TREE: Transforming Rural Experience in Education. She knew this initiative could be the key to helping those students experiencing the most adversity. 6 months later she found herself as the TREE Director. Her goal of supporting schools and communities which are **poverty, trauma, and equity informed but most important resilience focused** continues today with TREE, and after a full year of research and design, Transforming Rural Experience in Education is piloting in 3 schools. In November TREE received national recognition as a Pioneer in Trauma Informed Schools.

### Meet the Neighbors

### Blue Room

All new Mainers face unique challenges. This panel, featuring Lewiston High School students, will focus on their stories and journeys as well as some of the barriers and circumstances they have overcome.



#### **Bonnie Lucas, College Access Advisor, Maine Educational Talent Search**

Bonnie Lucas has been a college access advisor with the Maine Educational Talent Search since 2010. Before that, she was also an advisor with the METS program from 2003-2005 as well as an alum of the Maine Educational Opportunity Center. Bonnie recently moved to the southern part of the state and is now working with students in the city of Lewiston towards their educational goals.

**Raha Daud, Asma Omar, Koos Mohamed, Ubah Mohamed, Hindio Shaleh, and Honest Shima, Lewiston High School Students**

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## Concurrent Workshop Sessions #3 Descriptions

Friday, January 12  
1:05-2:05 p.m.

### Hope is Not an Emotion:

Pink A

#### Understanding the Cognitive Process and How to Build its Capacity

This presentation will explore Snyder's Hope Theory and its three elements as a cognitive process. Participants will think about direct applications of this theory to their practice. Strategies for building cognitive capacity for hope will be discussed.



**Elyse Pratt-Ronco, Assistant Director, Upward Bound, University of Maine at Farmington**

Elyse Pratt-Ronco received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from UMF. She earned her Masters Degree in Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and her Doctorate in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College. Her research on rural poverty and resilience has been recognized by the American Educational Research Association.

### Leadership & Professional Development Opportunities in MEEOA & NEOA Pink B

Are you a relatively new TRIO or GearUP professional? Have you heard about Leadership institutes, boards and executive committees, but not quite sure what they are all about? This panel will go over the plethora of leadership and professional opportunities available to MEEOA and NEOA members and the personal and professional rewards of getting involved.



**Steve Visco, Assistant Director, Maine Educational Opportunity Center and Maine Educational Talent Search**

Steve have been with MEOC and METS since 2000, when he graduated from the University of Maine. He has served on the NEOA and MEEOA Boards on and off since 2003, with a variety of roles including Treasurer, MEEOA president, and NEOA Conference Chair. He currently serves as the NEOA Membership Chair.



**Ginny Fowles-Ward, Associate Director of Upward Bound, Bowdoin College**

Ginny Fowles Ward arrived at Bowdoin College Upward Bound serendipitously 17 years ago and never looked back. She works with students at Lisbon & Morse High Schools during the school year and helps to oversee all residential aspects of the program in the summer, along with the rest of the awesome Bowdoin UB team. She is a past participant in the NEOA Leadership Institute and has held several roles on both MEEOA and NEOA executive committees. In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out with her husband and mini-schnauzer Jack (& his Instagram friends!) and losing herself in various creative projects.



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## Concurrent Workshop Sessions #3 Descriptions (continued)

### Dual Enrollment Policies in Maine

Pink C

Over the last several years, opportunities for high school students to earn college credits have become increasingly popular as a way of addressing stagnating college enrollment numbers and meeting demand for skilled workers in this state. The question is: Do these programs work and how do we measure that? This workshop will provide a short history of the development and expansion of dual enrollment nationally and how it has been implemented in Maine recently. Participants will discuss implications for TRIO students with whom they work with.



#### Larry Ronco, Academic Advisor, Johnson Scholars Program, University of Maine at Farmington

Larry Ronco has been in education (and TRIO) for 25 years and currently works as an academic advisor for the Johnson Scholars Program at the University of Maine at Farmington, where he also teaches developmental mathematics. His experiences in the secondary and post-secondary setting as well as his variety of roles in TRIO have fostered his interest in equitable education access and in particular, how dual enrollment policies can be best implemented to achieve those ends. Larry is currently pursuing a doctorate in Public Policy at the University of Southern Maine.

### Goal Setting: Mitigating the Fizzle

Blue Room

Most of us have set goals at the beginning of a school year, on New Year's Eve, or on our birthdays, only to see them fizzle out once the initial stage of enthusiasm passes. We forget about the goal, lose interest, or deem it ultimately impossible. But if we plan out goals with effective methods such as S.M.A.R.T. and psychologist Angela Duckworth's principles of grit, it is easier to hold ourselves accountable and accomplish what we set out to do. This workshop will not only teach you some techniques to frame your goal setting into feasible steps, but also provide practice in activities you can facilitate for the youth in your life.



#### Joy Harrington, Academic Counselor, Upward Bound, Bowdoin College

Joy, a Lewiston native, earned her bachelor's degree in American Studies and Sociology with a concentration in Youth and Family Services at Stonehill College in 2016. After graduating, Joy spent a year as an AmeriCorps member working with high school youth in the Lewiston-Auburn community. Joy is a Bowdoin UB program alumna, and former summer staff member of 3 years. Joy lives in Auburn, and she enjoys being outdoors, testing new recipes, and spending time with her family.



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# TRIO Veterans Upward Bound

University of Southern Maine



VUB assists veterans beginning or returning to post-secondary education in a variety of ways. The program is tailored to meet individual needs in the following areas:

Academic & skills assessment

Tutoring and computer-based instruction

Academic, financial aid, career and personal counseling

Classroom instruction in reading, writing, math, as well as computer basics, study skills and other essential subjects

Assistance in completing college admission & financial aid applications

## **Now Accepting Referrals!**

Email: [TRIOUSM@maine.edu](mailto:TRIOUSM@maine.edu)

<https://usm.maine.edu/trioprogams/veterans-upward-bound>

Phone: (207) 780 – 5203

**\*\*USM TRIO Programs welcome Emily Brighi and \*\*  
Aaron Dombroski to our VUB team!**

## Keynote Speaker

Thursday, January 11  
11:15-12:30 p.m.

### Showing Up for Yourself: The Most Important Relationship

### Blue Room

A helping profession can be incredibly rewarding, yet also personally challenging. Faced with multiple roles and responsibilities, you may be pulled in many simultaneous directions. This session will highlight perhaps the most important relationship as a caretaker: your relationship with yourself. We will discuss how to "show up" for yourself at work and at home, how to maximize each moment, and how to focus on self-care in order to stay inspired reach your goals.

#### Dr. Paul Dexter, Director of Academic Retention Initiatives, University of Southern Maine



Dr. Paul Dexter received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Saint Michael's College in 1992, and in 1995 earned his Master of Social Work degree from Salem State College. Paul was awarded his Ph.D. in Public Policy from USM's Muskie School of Public Service in 2015, with his dissertation research on the relationship between student engagement and success among online undergraduates. Paul is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Maine, with a background in community mental health and substance abuse prevention. He is certified as a Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Practitioner, completed a certificate in online teaching from Sloan-C, and is a certified Global Career Development Facilitator.

Dr. Dexter currently serves as the Director of Academic Retention Initiatives at the University of Southern Maine. During his 19 years at USM, he has served as the Coordinator of Learning Support, the Coordinator of the Student Success Center, the Director of Early Student Success, and as a dual diagnosis clinician and prevention specialist for University Counseling Services. In addition to his administrative position at the University, Paul is a lecturer in both the Leadership & Organizational Studies program and the Adult & Higher Education Master's program. He has designed and taught exploratory courses at USM such as Choices, Changes & Careers, Academic Self-Management, and College & Career Success, all with a primary audience of at-risk first-year college students.

Outside of the University, Paul has been a lead instructor for AdCare Educational Institute of Maine and a Contract Trainer for the Prevention Research Institute in Lexington, Kentucky. He has also served on the board of the Maine College Circle, an organization aiming to raise college aspirations of rural and low-income children, and is currently a Board Member and Chair of the Grants Committee for Foundation 51, a non-profit supporting innovative practices among educators in the MSAD 51 school district.

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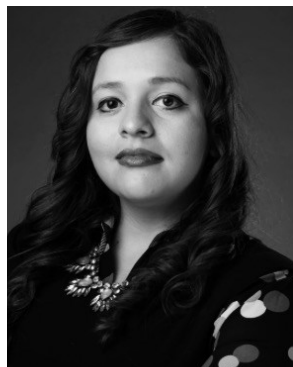


## COE Update

Thursday, January 11  
2:45-3:45 p.m.

Updates from Washington: Council for Opportunity in Education

Blue Room



**Selene Ceja, Assistant Director for Congressional Relations, Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)**

Selene is the Assistant Director for Congressional Relations for COE - the first national organization dedicated to expanding educational opportunity for first-generation, low-income students across the United States. Currently, she advocates for and represents the Federal TRIO programs in Washington, DC organizing advocates across the country, fostering relations across the federal executive and legislative branches, working to increase funding for the programs in Congress and overseeing developments in the upcoming Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Selene is originally from Los Angeles, CA, graduated from Georgetown University in 2013 and is a proud TRIO Upward Bound Alumna.



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## NEOA Update

Friday, January 12  
9:00-9:30 a.m.

Updates from New England: New England Opportunity Association

Blue Room



**Jane Kimball Foley, Director, TRIO Student Support Services, York County Community College**

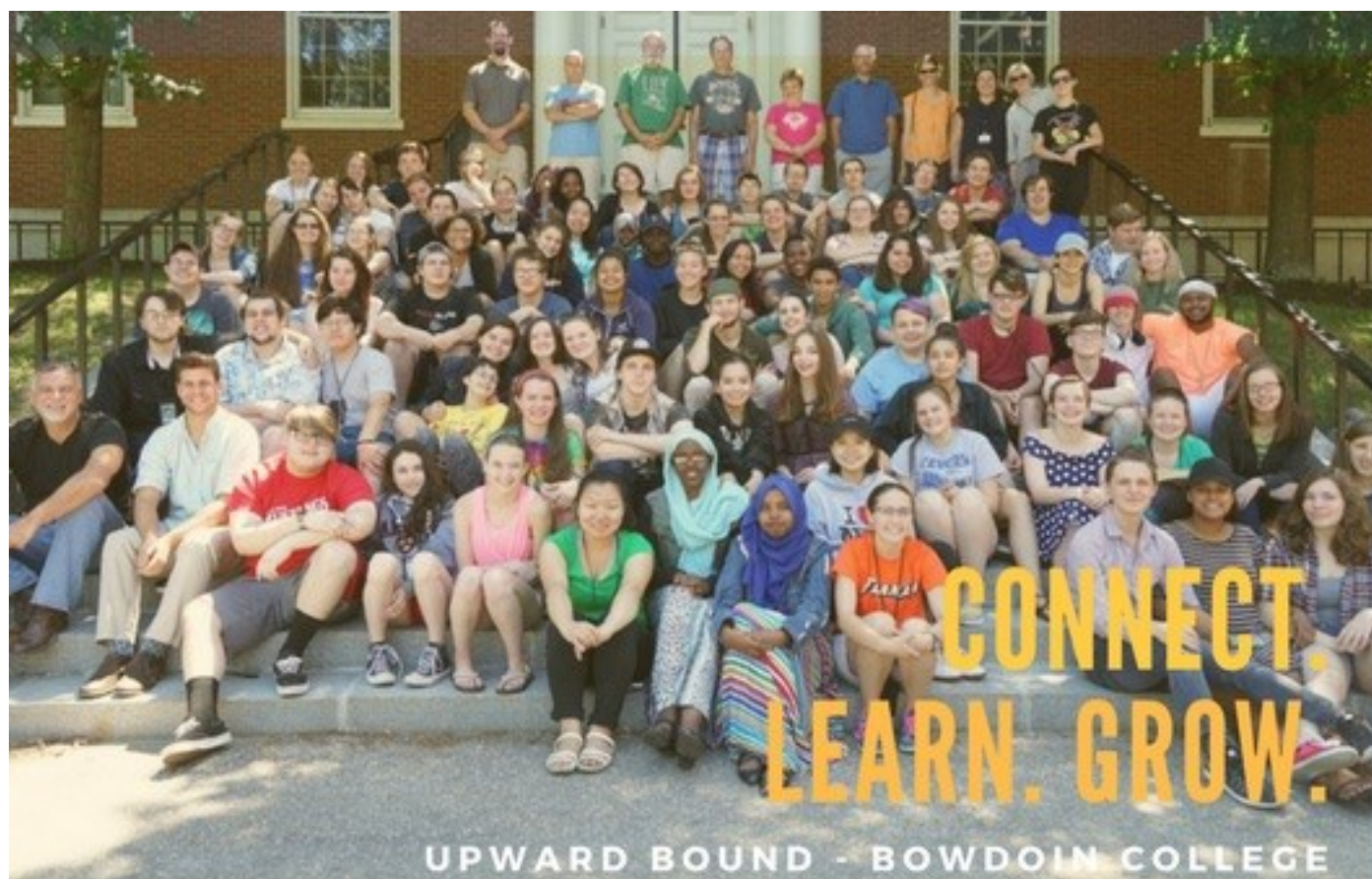
Jane Kimball Foley has more the 10 years' experience in TRIO programs. She has been TRIO Student Support Services Director at York County Community College since 2013. Her previous TRIO experience includes Maine Educational Talent Search Counselor, and Maine Educational Opportunity Center Advisor. Jane twice served as Maine Educational Opportunity Association (MEEOA) president and MEEOA annual conference chair. Other TRIO service includes National TRIO Day co-chair for New England, NEAOPP (predecessor to NEOA) Board member and on the NEAOPP annual conference committee.

In addition, Jane has worked in a variety of grant funded poverty alleviation programs and taught in public school & adult education. Jane's community volunteer work includes working with the Maine Children's Cancer program, Kennebec Council of Girl Scouts and swimming and cheerleading booster clubs.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Maine and a Master of Science in Education degree from University of Southern Maine. She has two grown daughters and three granddaughters. Currently, Jane lives in South Portland with her husband, John and her cat, Wyatt.

**Collaboration, connection and support through  
MEEEOA strengthens Maine TRIO programs.  
Many thanks to the MEEEOA Executive Board  
& 2018 Conference Committee!**

***TRIO Works in Maine!***



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# 2018 MEEOA Award Recipients

## MEEOA Achievers

### MEEOA Achiever - Judy Ouellette

**Nominated by: University of Maine at Fort Kent**



Judy Ouellette is an alumna of the TRIO Student Support Services program at the University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK). She received her Associates of Arts in Human Services from UMFK in December 2007 and her Bachelors of Science in Behavioral Science with a minor in Criminal Justice in August 2008. Since graduating, Judy has obtained her MHRTC Certification, Behavioral Health Professional Certification, and is a licensed social worker with the State of Maine. Judy has made a name for herself in the world of mental health and works as an advanced case manager and advocate for the clients she works with. She is dedicated to her career and being the best she can be in servicing a large at-risk population. As a professional, her interest in helping women cope with and recover from domestic violence led her to take an active role in the Battered Women's Project. Judy saw this as a civic duty and understood the need for a community to work toward education and advocacy for women who have been in or are actively in abusive relationships. She continues in her job today, to advocate for children and adults who do not have a voice, to join in partnership with these individuals, to stand up for their rights, and to advocate for their needs.

While Judy attended UMFK she was a wife, a mother, and also held a job. As a non-traditional student, Judy was grateful for the support, encouragement, and assistance that TRIO Student Support Services at UMFK provided.

### MEEOA Achiever - Travis Works

**Nominated by: Lynn Ploof-Davis**



Travis Works is an alum of TRIO Upward Bound program at the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). He attended the program in the early 90's and spent four years as an enthusiastic and engaged participant. Travis received his undergraduate degree from Skidmore College and his Master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Maine. After several teaching and administrative positions, Travis returned to his hometown to create the Cornville Regional Charter School (CRCS), Maine's first public charter school. On the school website it states, "CRCS believes that knowledge does not fall neatly into separate categories or disciplines." The CRCS Facebook Page posts pictures of happy engaged, and exuberant learners. There is kite-building, robotics, boat-building, Grandparent luncheons, and drumming alongside rigorous academics. The school recently expanded to another building and the organization now serves over 200 students, the majority who are from low-income families. Travis has created something very special that he admits has its origins in the Upward Bound community that he loved. Travis's achievement speaks to the power of TRIO and to his own amazing perseverance and fortitude.

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## 2018 MEEOA Award Recipients

### MEEOA Rising Stars

#### MEEOA Rising Star - Tiffany Peterson

**Nominated by: Tatiana Osmond**



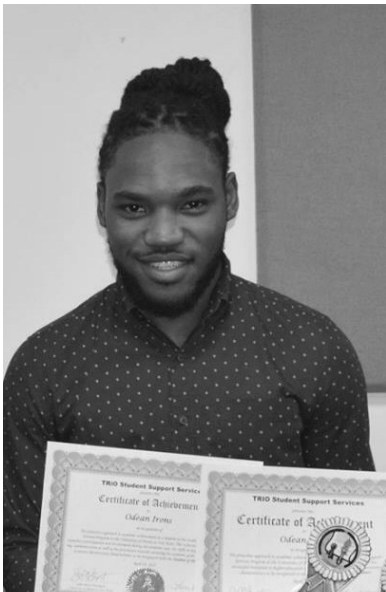
Tiffany Peterson is an alumna of the TRIO Upward Bound program at Bowdoin College. She received her Bachelor's degree in Women and Gender Studies from Smith College in 2015. While at Smith College, Tiffany served as the President of the National Organization for Women-Campus Action Network, was a member of the Student Senate, and a Smith College Orientation Leader. She helped create an organization for first-generation college students to network with their peers and navigate college. After graduating from Smith College, she enrolled in the graduate degree program in Adult and Higher Education at the University of Southern Maine while simultaneously working as the TRIO Administrative Specialist and Gender Equity Coordinator at Washington County Community College. Tiffany's experience in college inspired

her to pursue a career in higher education where she can provide the supports that were lacking in her own educational experience.

She is thankful for the influence that the Bowdoin Upward Bound program had on her and helping her to find her passion.

#### MEEOA Rising Star - Odean Irons

**Nominated By: University of Maine at Fort Kent**



Odean Irons is currently a student in the TRIO Student Support Services program at the University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK). He is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science and also works in the SSS office as a tutor. Outside of TRIO, Odean is also a student athlete, president of the Behavioral Science Club, and conducts events on campus to educate students about the effects of substance use and abuse. Odean has faced challenges in pursuing his education and in his immigration from Jamaica. During his time at college, Odean had to take time off due to life circumstances, which disrupted his visa to stay in the United States. Although he had a difficult time adapting to life (and weather) in small town Maine, Odean was passionate about his education and his personal ties to Maine, and ensured that he was able to stay in the US to complete his education as a permanent resident. Today, he is motivated by his wife and twin two-year-old daughters and has earned multiple awards and even a scholarship from Fort Kent's TRIO program.

Odean is thankful for the support that he has received from the TRIO Student Support Services program at UMFK and says that it has played an "enormous role" in his success.

**Wi-Fi Password: Blossom23!**



## 2018 MEEOA Award Recipients

### MEEOA Rising Stars

#### MEEOA Rising Star - Salvadore “Sam” Portera, Jr.

**Nominated by: Darylen Cote and Michelle Richards**



Sam Portera, Jr. is an alum of the TRIO Upward Bound program at the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI). Sam started college at UMPI during his senior year of high school and by the time he graduated from Limestone High School as valedictorian, he had also earned enough college credits, both through Upward Bound and his first semester at UMPI, to begin what would have been his freshman year in college as a sophomore. During his time at UMPI, Sam became politically active as the President of the UMPI College Democrats, the Chair of the Presque Isle Democratic Party, and the Volunteer Coordinator for the Aroostook County Democratic Campaign Office. This political activism led him to his current position as a Political Organizer at the Maine People’s Alliance. Sam would occasionally check in with the UMPI Upward Bound program, which is what led Sam to jump in and support TRIO Upward Bound programs during the “line-spacing debacle” last spring. Sam quickly activated alumni support and organized the effort that drew statewide and national media attention to the issue which eventually led to getting the Upward Bound funding applications read and funded. Sam was a role model for others in sharing his own story and crediting TRIO Upward Bound for his successes.

#### MEEOA Rising Star - Robyn Rawle

**Nominated by: Terry Charlton, Janie Durr, Donna Alexander**



Robyn Rawle is an alumna of TRIO Student Support Services at Central Maine Community College (CMCC). She graduated from CMCC Life Sciences Honors Program with a 3.91 GPA. While at CMCC, Robyn was named student of the year, was Vice President of Phi Theta Kappa, Treasurer for the Student Senate, and a member of the IEEE Society (Engineering Society). Robyn and her family own and maintain a horse farm in Buckfield, Maine, and she is the first woman in her family to get a high school diploma and attend college. During her time with TRIO Student Support Services at CMCC, she provided tutoring services in math and science. She was a teacher’s aid for CMCC’s office of disabilities and a lab assistant to the Life Sciences Instructors. Since leaving CMCC, Robyn has transferred to the University of New England to obtain her bachelor’s plus 1-year master’s program in Marine Science.

Robyn’s interests outside of her education include giving horseback riding lessons and therapeutic riding for people with disabilities, volunteering at the pony club, girl scouts, and in music education at the local school district. Robyn plays the piano, flute, piccolo, acoustic guitar, and Bodhran drum. She volunteers for an organization affiliated in assisting sexual assault victims and has been involved in training dogs.

Robyn is grateful for the support that she received from TRIO Students Support Services at CMCC. She states that “TRIO has impacted my life in a multitude of ways, the most evident of which is that I feel as if I am a better version of myself after being a TRIO student.”

## *Thank You for Your Support*

The MEEOA Executive Committee and Conference Committee would like to thank the following organizations for their partnership in developing our conference.

We look forward to our future work together!

Machias Savings Bank - Annual MEEOA Sponsor



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### **University of Southern Maine**

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### **Washington County Community College**

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### **York County Community College**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Jane Kimball Foley  
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*Please don't forget to fill out a  
Conference Evaluation!*