



Maine Educational Opportunity Association

34th Annual Conference

January 4-5, 2017

Black Bear Inn

Orono, ME

Welcome from the MEEOA Conference Committee

Welcome to the 34th Annual MEEOA Conference! It is truly a humbling experience working with other educational opportunity programs in the state of Maine to assist first-generation, low-income students, and students with disabilities reach their aspirations of attaining a postsecondary education.

The passion of professionals working in educational opportunity programs shines through each and every day as they work with their students. The MEEOA conference allows those professionals to come together to respond to issues affecting the educational resources and environment of low-income and first-generation students. It also allows the promotion of research, best practices and professional development activities to help TRIO and GEAR UP personnel enhance the level of services to students.

This year's theme WAVE: Waking Achievement, Valuing Excellence is a reminder that educational opportunity programs start the ripple of resilience within students and builds until that ripple turns into an unstoppable WAVE poised to smash through all barriers to higher education! TRIO and GEAR UP personnel help students ride the wave showing them how to become lifelong learners, increase their abilities to see obstacles as bumps along the roads instead of road blocks, and increase their confidence to succeed.

It is through an association like this that we find time to network and connect with friends and colleagues around the state to learn more about all of the educational opportunity programs throughout Maine to enhance our own programs and outreach. The conference committee has been working diligently to provide members with the opportunity to learn from one another to help students ride the wave and land on the beach of success.

Amanda Favreau and Rusty R. Brown, Conference Co-Chairs

Black Bear Inn Wi-Fi Password: Blossom23!

Find more MEEOA information here:

www.meeoa.org

www.meeoa.org/conference.php

2017 MEEOA Conference Committee

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Casey Henderson
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**2017 MEEOA Conference:
WAVE: Waking Achievement, Valuing Excellence
Agenda**

Tuesday, January 3rd

Time	Session	Location
4:30pm – 6:00pm	Registration	Lower Level
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Social Gathering: Bear Brew Pub	Orono

Wednesday, January 4th

Time	Session	Location
8:30am – 9:30am	Registration	Lower Level
9:30am	Welcome	Blue Room
9:45am – 10:45am	<u>Concurrent Workshop Sessions #1</u>	
	<i>Upward Bound Financial Aid Data Project</i>	Pink A
	<i>Outreach to Prospective Participants: Best Practices Workshop</i>	Pink B
	<i>The TRIO Alumni Movement: Collaborative Strategies for Engaging TRIO Graduates</i>	Pink C
	<i>Engagement and Learning Through Gamification</i>	Blue Room
10:45am – 11:00am	Coffee Break – Sponsored by Eastern Maine Community College	Blue Room
11:00am – 12:15pm	Keynote: Patricia Marshall, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education	Blue Room
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch Buffet	Blue Room
1:30pm – 2:30pm	<u>Concurrent Workshop Sessions #2</u>	
	<i>(R)evolution: Facilitating Non-Cognitive Skill Development through Risk-taking and Play</i>	Pink A
	<i>Surfacing: Advising with a Mental Health Disability, Student Support and Alternative Views</i>	Pink B
	<i>Making Waves, Ripples and Reflections of Student Success: Sharing What We Know</i>	Pink C
	<i>FAME: Update from the Financial Aid World</i>	Blue Room
2:45pm – 3:45pm	COE Update – Fernando Cardenas	Blue Room
3:45pm – 5:15pm	Chair Massages/Check-in/Self-Care	Pink A,B,C
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Mixer Activity & President’s Welcome (Cash Bar Opens at 5:15pm)	Blue Room
6:00pm – 7:30pm	Banquet & Awards Program	Blue Room
8:00pm – 9:30pm	Live Auction	Blue Room
9:30pm – 11:00pm	Hospitality	Suite 228

Thursday, January 5th

Time	Session	Location
7:30am	Yoga	Pink C
9:00am – 9:30am	NEOA Update – Ramon Gonzales	Blue Room
9:30am – 10:30am	<u>Program Round Tables</u>	
	<i>Upward Bound & Upward Bound Math/Science</i>	Pink A
	<i>Educational Opportunity Center</i>	Pink B
	<i>Student Support Services</i>	Pink C
	<i>GEAR-UP & Educational Talent Search</i>	Blue Room
	<i>MEEOA Executive Committee</i>	Suite 228
10:30am – 10:45am	Complete Hotel Check Out	Lobby
10:45am – 11:00am	Coffee Break	Blue Room
11:00am -12:00pm	Business Meeting (Raffle – Must be present to win)	Blue Room
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch Buffet	Blue Room
1:00pm – 2:00pm	<u>Concurrent Workshop Sessions #3</u>	
	<i>Scandinavian folkehojskole and American gap: What a Year Off Does for College Readiness</i>	Pink A
	<i>Developing Good Math Tutoring Practices in a new TRIO Program</i>	Pink B
	<i>Restorative Practices in Maine Schools</i>	Pink C
	<i>An Introduction to Appreciative Advising</i>	Blue Room
2:15pm	Closing/Slideshow	Blue Room

Concurrent Workshop Sessions #1 Descriptions

Wednesday, January 4th

9:45am – 10:45am

Upward Bound Financial Aid Data Project

Pink A

This is a designated meeting time for Upward Bound personnel to come together to talk about the ongoing Financial Aid Data Project. We will review where each program is in terms of data collection, make plans for next steps for the class of 2017, and plan for the future of the project.



Elyse Pratt-Ronco, University of Maine Farmington

Elyse has worked for sixteen years with low-income students from the Upward Bound program. She is currently the Assistant Director for the Upward Bound program at the University of Maine at Farmington. She also teaches graduate courses on Poverty and Education, and Risk and Resilience. Elyse received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Maine at Farmington. She earned her Master's Degree in Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and her Doctorate in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College.

Outreach to Prospective Participants: Best Practices Workshop

Pink B

This workshop will be an opportunity for participants to identify the key players in their outreach process and to analyze the strengths and challenges of their current approach. Attendees will also have the chance to share their insights with each other about best practices that they have found in their outreach work. Our conversation will be guided by the timeline from initial contact to completion of the program application. The primary goals of the workshop are for attendees to brainstorm potential improvement to their outreach process in student-centered and data-informed ways, and to make concrete plans to incorporate the most promising ideas they learn into their current work.



Cote Theriault, Thomas College

Cote Theriault works at Thomas College in Waterville, Maine as an Academic Coach for the Student Support Services program. Her past TRIO experience includes serving as a Graduate Assistant for Learning to Learn at Boston College and as a Group Facilitator and Individual Project Mentor for Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) at the University of Maine. Cote earned a B.A. in Psychology from Dartmouth College and a M.A. in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College. She enjoys working with college students to support them in achieving their goals and strives to apply research-based best practices to her professional endeavors.

The TRIO Alumni Movement: Collaborative Strategies for Engaging TRIO Graduates **Pink C**

The TRIO legacy grows with each graduating class of TRIO students. It is crucial that TRIO programs, supporters, and communities rally together and inspire the growth of a TRIO Alumni Movement. Organizing alumni can be a tool to expand TRIO programs and ensure another 50 years of TRIO. Come and participate in an interactive session as we work through collaborative strategies that can be implemented at the local level to engage TRIO alumni. Learn about COE's alumni initiatives: an online networking website and the first ever TRIO Alumni Leadership Forum.



Fernando Cárdenas, Alumni Relations Coordinator, COE

Fernando Cárdenas joins the Council for Opportunity in Education as the Coordinator for Alumni Relations. Mr. Cárdenas is a recent graduate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received his degree in Global and International Studies with an emphasis in Europe. Fernando is a proud TRIO Upward Bound alumnus from Fresno State where he also worked as a recruiter and program assistant, while most recently serving as the Legislation and Education chair for the Central California Chapter of WESTOP. As a first generation/low-income student himself, Fernando is passionate about advancing the college access and success opportunities for underrepresented students by expanding their network through the National TRIO Alumni Association.

Engagement and Learning Through Gamification

Blue Room

Boost your student engagement and learning by infusing your workshops, curriculum, or group activities with games. Students rate their game-based learning experiences as truly engaging and preferred over traditional activities. Learn how the human brain is wired to respond positively to games and develop skills while having fun! Join us in this interactive workshop committed to leveraging student learning through the exploration of free online apps that will launch your program further into the mobile generation. Participants will have the best experience if they bring their mobile devices and know their passwords to APP stores.



Jannie Durr, TRIO Transfer and Retention Advisor, Central Maine Community College

Jannie Durr serves as a Transfer and Retention advisor at Central Maine Community College SSS! She greatly enjoys working with students to develop and plan successful strategies for studying, transferring, or navigating life decisions. As a passionate advocate, Jannie cares deeply about equity, the power of education, and elevating Maine students' abilities. Jannie is also a doctoral student at the University of Maine. Jannie regularly promotes digital literacy in working with students, especially social media and gamification. You can find her on Facebook, Pinterest, SnapChat (jdsunshine33), and Twitter (@jdsunshine). Jannie is a self-proclaimed logophile and oenophile, who lives in the West Gardiner woods with her faithful feline companion Picasso.



Donna Alexander, TRIO Retention Advisor, Central Maine Community College

Donna Alexander is a Retention Advisor and Tutor Coordinator at Central Maine Community College SSS. Donna is a proud alumna of TRIO! She is passionate about student success and the impact of education for at-risk students. Donna is now pursuing a Master's Degree in Higher Education from Southern New Hampshire University and is enthusiastic to share her knowledge with her students. As a past mental health case manager, Donna encourages students to fulfill their dreams and promotes general well-being while working with her students. Donna lives in Auburn with her husband Scott and cat, Willow. She has two daughters, a son-in-law, and a 21-month old granddaughter she adores. You will often find Donna reading a book at home, school, or on the beach, as she is a bibliophile.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions #2 Descriptions

Wednesday, January 3rd

1:30pm – 2:30pm

(R)evolution: Facilitating Non-Cognitive Skill Development Through Risk-taking and Play **Pink A**

Research shows that non-cognitive skill development contributes to at-risk student success, but this requires a culture shift for TRIO programs that have historically focused on remediation. This session will explore how Kennebec Valley Community College's SSS program challenged campus culture and improved participant outcomes by resurrecting a dormant leadership development course. Through structured risk-taking, experiential learning, and the creation of podcasts, video and photography, our students found their voices. Come prepared to play: The Sneaky Cards game used in class will guide our conversation.



Lisa Black, Director, Kennebec Valley Community College

Nick Runco, Technology and Disability Support Learning Specialist, Kennebec Valley Community College

Lisa Black and Nick Runco are going into their third semester of teaching Leadership Development (SOC 108) to TRIO SSS students at Kennebec Valley Community College. Lisa has been the TRIO Director there since September of 2014 and Nick has been the Technology and Disability Support Learning Specialist since April of 2013. They started with just four students in their first semester and already have 18 enrolled for the spring 2017 semester, when the working title for the class will be "Leadership for Changemakers." SOC 108 graduates have been so inspired by their own experience in the class that they have become ambassadors for the course and continue to volunteer their time in subsequent semesters.

Surfacing: Advising with a Mental Health Disability, Student Support and Alternative Views Pink B

I am a TRIO SSS Advisor who advises with a mental health disability. I have lived with mental illness for most of my life and over the years have come to see it as a strength rather than a disability, both in my personal life as well as my professional life. Come join me to hear about my journey from darkness to light; to explore with me how mental illness is a unique gift and perspective on the work and how you can help your students to see this new vista for themselves. Through narratives, discussion and interactive exercises we will explore alternative views of mental illness, strategies for student support and provide resources for further exploration.



Catherine Duclos, College Success Advisor, York County Community College

Catherine Duclos has worked in the fields of education, human services, and mental health for most of her career. Her passion is working with students who have barriers to success and connecting them through the compassion, empathy and authentic understanding of their needs based upon her own success overcoming barriers in her life, most notably the mental illness that has become a part of her understanding of the world. She hopes to continue advising at the college level as a TRIO College Success Advisor at York County Community College where she finds deep satisfaction.

Making Waves, Ripples and Reflections of Student Success: Sharing What We Know Pink C

Participants will engage in a Dialogue Circle to share their experiences, learnings, and knowledge of supporting students to and through Postsecondary/College awareness, readiness, access, and persistence.



Corda Ladd Kinzie, Education/Partners Development Strategist for GEAR UP Maine, GEAR UP

Corda received her B.A. from the University of Denver and her M.Ed. in Education/Special Education from the University of Maine. Corda is passionate about learning and teaching. She is a Life Coach who brings joy to the work.



Stephanie Ferland, GEAR UP Maine Scholar Coordinator

Stephanie has a B.A. in Writing and Literature, Teacher Certification for K-8 regular classroom and middle school English, and is finishing her MATL at Mt. Holyoke College. She brings experience in both traditional and non-traditional classroom settings, ranging from kindergarten to high school.

Financial aid is always changing! The most recent significant changes have been the earlier availability of the FAFSA and use of “prior-prior” year information. What have we learned about the impact of those changes on FAFSA completion, deadlines, verification, appeals, access, and more? Join FAME’s Mila Tappan for a financial aid update and information to help your students navigate the process. Bring your questions with you as there will be a general question and answer period at the end of the presentation.



Mila Tappan, College Access and Outreach Manager, FAME

Mila joined the Finance Authority of Maine in July 2008, where 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. 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. She 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. Mila now lives in Bangor with her husband, Robert and two sons – Alex, a senior at Northeastern, and Noah, a senior at Bangor High School.

Concurrent Workshop Sessions #3 Descriptions

Thursday, January 5th

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Scandinavian folkehojskole and American Gap: What A Year Off Does for College Readiness Pink A

Rooted in Scandinavian tradition that dates back to the 1850s, taking a year off to learn non-academic skills proves to increase the non-cognitive skills of students who are unsure about whether to enter university or pursue other adult opportunities. In helping emerging adults to decide on next steps, it is important for educators to inform families about the benefits of a structured break from academics. While commercial, American gap programs bear tuitions that rival some colleges, it is easy to dismiss the opportunity as something only wealthier families can afford. Join a presentation about the history of folkehojskole, the opportunities for cost-free American gap, and the stories of four young people who made the most of a structured year off. Included will be a discussion of the implications for students to capture those experiences for credit and reduce their college debt.



Sara M. Fawcett nee Flowers, Ph.D., Director, University of Maine at Augusta

Sara Flowers is the Director of TRIO SSS for the University of Maine at Augusta. She comes to UMA by way of her experience as a Director of Adult and Community Education for a public school department. She is a Ph.D. graduate from Lesley University of Cambridge, MA where she completed a program in Educational Studies with a focus on Educational Leadership. She has been published in the Johns Hopkins School of Education New Horizons for Learning Journal as well as the New

England Journal of Higher Education. Her research focuses on first year initiatives and nonacademic gap learning experiences for students entering higher education.

Developing Good Math Tutoring Practices in a New TRIO Program

Pink B

Do you have students that “hate math”? Do you see too much emphasis on grades instead of content understanding? Do your students simply get homework “done”? Do students forget content immediately after the tests? We will be working on how to curb these and other mind-set barriers to the more rigorous courses of college education. We will be covering how to academically, emotionally and socially empower students to succeed in mathematics. We will cover methods to help students organize notes and work, and how to identify emotional responses and their sources. We will also include ways to emphasize learning as a process and identify ways to teach students to decide what to do, instead of simply worrying about completing homework.



Matthew Potter, Tutor Coordinator, Eastern Maine Community College

Matthew received his B.A. in Mathematics from Lubbock Christian University and his M.A. in Mathematics from the University of Maine. Matthew is passionate about learning and teaching and enjoys helping others discover that they are more capable in mathematics than they realize.

Restorative Practices in Maine Schools

Pink C

Restorative Practices in Maine Schools presents an overview of the philosophy and the practice of building community in schools while replacing punitive disciplinary methods. RP reflects a relational approach that, through circles and authentic dialogue, helps students and teachers foster deeper connections, restore harm done, and understand the impact of a potentially harmful decision. Several Maine middle and high schools have implemented Restorative Practices and report decreased incidents of office referrals and bullying and increased positive school climate and student accountability. A relatively new practice in Maine (10+ years), data is currently being collected through a RAND grant to discover if academic achievement and student retention are also outcomes of implementing this approach. This presentation will start with a community-building circle and end with questions from participants.



Dr. Cheryl Robertson, Restorative Practices Collaborative of Maine

Dr. Cheryl Robertson has over 25 years of experience working with diverse and at-risk populations in Maine schools. Her experience includes: holding a doctorate in At-Risk Education and School Administration, being a certified K-12 teacher and Teaching-Principal, a faculty member at the University of Maine, a researcher with the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Project, and a summer instructor with Upward Bound. Cheryl currently trains teachers, counselors, administrators and school staff in implementing this global and restorative philosophy for safer and relational schools.

An Introduction to Appreciative Advising

The term “Appreciative Advising” was first introduced by Jennifer Bloom (Ed.D, Educational Leadership and Policies) while she was a professor and academic advisor at The University of North Carolina Greensboro. Over the past decade the process has been popularized through Bloom’s presentations at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) regional and national conferences, and through her workshops at colleges and universities nationwide. According to Bloom, “Appreciative Advising is the intentional collaborative practice of asking positive, open-ended questions that help students optimize their educational experiences and achieve their dreams, goals, and potentials.” This workshop will provide a brief overview of the six phases of Appreciative Advising, but will primarily focus on providing time for colleagues to practice strategies for incorporating this strengths-based curriculum into their relationships with advisees.



Marilyn Wegner, Assistant Director Johnsons Scholars Program, University of Maine at Farmington

Marilyn began her career at University of Farmington in 1992 as an instructor of First-Year Composition. What she wasn’t prepared for when she became a teacher of writing, was the gift of knowing each student at a personal level. More than half of her students were first-generation and low-income. Many faced daunting personal challenges. She learned that in addition to teaching composition, she needed to support students’ positive mindset and mentor the essential skills that would help them persist. Her work naturally led to a relationship with UMF’s TRIO Student Support Services program, whose expertise and best-practices prepared her to become in 2001 the coordinator of peer tutoring, peer mentoring, and supplemental instruction. In 2015 she became the Assistant Director of UMF’s TRIO Johnson Scholars Program.

Marylyn has a B.A. in English/Creative and a MS.Ed. in Post-Secondary Education/Adult Learning.

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!

Husson University – Annual MEEOA Sponsor



Machias Savings Banks – Annual MEEOA Sponsor

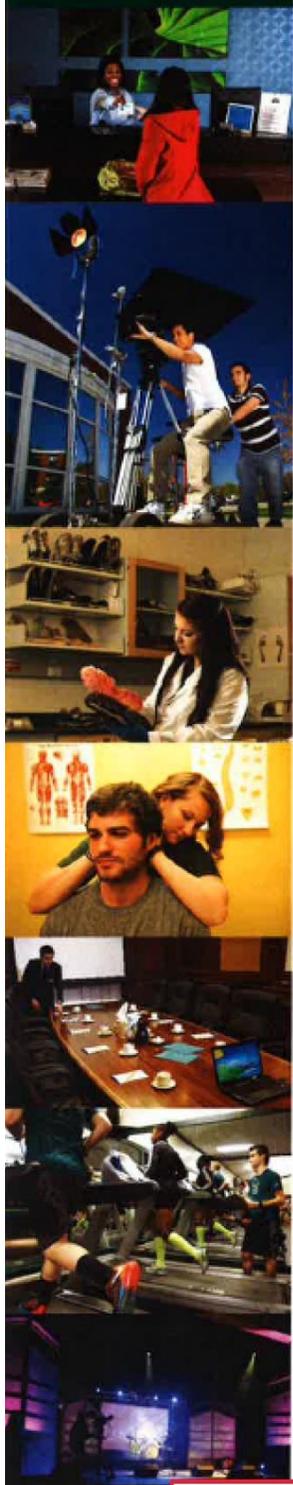


Eastern Maine Community College – Coffee Break Sponsor



Thank you for supporting MEEOA and volunteering your services to help us give back to our dedicated association members!





At Husson University, it's all about you. You'll be inspired by experienced, caring instructors. Husson offers modern training facilities, a safe, exciting campus life and more than 67 clubs and organizations to help you grow as an individual.

Location: 208-acre campus in Bangor, Maine (Pop.: 32,000; metro-area: 153,000); Satellite campuses in Westbrook (Southern Maine), Presque Isle (Northern Maine) and Wells, Maine
Founded: 1896
Enrollment: 2,750 undergraduate; 750 graduate and professional

Accreditation

- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)
- International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE)
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

Financial Aid and Expenses

A completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required to be considered for any financial aid. Awards are processed beginning in mid-February for students accepted at that time.

The FAFSA form is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The Husson University FAFSA code is 002043.

Questions?

Contact the Office of Financial Aid directly at **207.941.7156** or visit husson.edu/financialaid.

To be considered for any financial aid, applicants must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form as soon as possible after October 1. Scholarships, grants, and college work-study awards are made on the basis of financial need and merit.

Cost of Attendance

Tuition (31 credits)	\$ 16,585 (Regular)
Room and Board	\$ 9,220 (Standard)
Comprehensive Fee	\$ 450 (per year)
Total	\$26,255
Estimated Books, Supplies and Miscellaneous	\$ 2,400

Visit

We encourage you to visit the campus and tour our residence halls, academic buildings, athletic facilities, the modern dining center and student activities center as well as the Gracie Theatre and our newest building, the Darling Living Learning Center—home to suite-style living and experiential learning classrooms.

To schedule a visit, call the Admissions Office at **800.4HUSSON**. Individual visits can be arranged weekdays between 9 am and 3 pm. Group visits are available through our Open Houses, Transfer Student Days, Information Day sessions, or Accepted Student Days. Dates are listed online at husson.edu/visithusson.

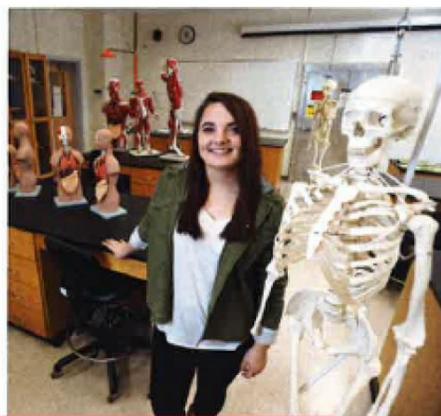
Open House Dates

April 8, 2017: College of Business, College of Health and Education, School of Legal Studies, College of Science and Humanities, and the New England School of Communications

October 28, 2017: College of Health and Education, College of Science and Humanities

November 11, 2017: College of Business, School of Legal Studies, and New England School of Communications

Group Information Sessions are held on select Saturdays and occasional weekdays. Check our Admissions events web page for dates and details at husson.edu/visithusson.



Best wishes for a successful MEEOA conference!

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Keynote Speaker

Wednesday, January 4th

11:00am – 12:15pm

The Shifting Landscape of Higher Education: The Implications for “Waking Blue Room Achievement and Valuing Excellence”

This keynote address will give an overview of some of the major changes going on in higher education locally and nationally, will briefly address how the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education has addressed these changes both programmatically and from a policy standpoint, and will highlight some of the implications of these changes within the context of the important work being done by members of the Maine Educational Opportunity Association.



Patricia Marshall, Chief Academic Officer for the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

I currently serve as the Chief Academic Officer for the Massachusetts Department of Higher education. From 2012 – 2015, I held the position of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Worcester State University. I was the founding Chair of the Department of World Languages at WSU, and I was a tenured professor of Spanish in the department. I have 17 years of teaching experience, ranging from teaching in primary and secondary schools to teaching undergraduates and graduate students. I have taught at several private and public 4-year colleges and universities and at community colleges. Additionally, I have a solid record of research in my chosen field of study, 17th-Century Spanish Theater, and I have presented at several conferences on issues related to student success.

COE Update

Wednesday, January 4th

2:45pm – 3:45pm

Updates from Washington: Council for Opportunity in Education



Fernando Cárdenas joins the Council for Opportunity in Education as the Coordinator for Alumni Relations. Mr. Cárdenas is a recent graduate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received his degree in Global and International Studies with an emphasis in Europe. Fernando is a proud TRIO Upward Bound alumnus from Fresno State where he also worked as a recruiter and program assistant, while most recently serving as the Legislation and Education chair for the Central California Chapter of WESTOP. As a first generation/low-income student himself, Fernando is passionate about advancing the college access and success opportunities for underrepresented students by expanding their network through the National TRIO Alumni Association.

NEOA Update

Thursday, January 5th

9:00am – 9:30am

NEOA Update

Updates from the New England Opportunity Association

Blue Room



Ramon Gonzales, Director Educational Talent Search, Mount Wachusett Community College

Ramon has over 15 years of experience working in college access. He currently oversees the Educational Talent Search program at Mount Wachusett Community College in the Division of Access & Transition. Prior to his current position as Director of Educational Talent Search, Ramon worked for GEAR UP at MASS Edco (Formerly the Colleges of Worcester Consortium) overseeing the Worcester area for the State Wide GEAR UP, from 2004 – 2006 he was the Academic Counselor for the Salem State Upward Bound Program and took advantage of the opportunity to enroll in the Arnold L. Mitchem Leadership Institute. From 2002 – 2008 he was a Dorm Supervisor at Shriver Job Corps. He has served on the MA state association as Membership Chair for a number of years before stepping up and Co-Chairing the 2016 Conference as Vice President and is the current President of the Regional Association. Ramon is an alum of the Student Support Services Program at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts where he earned his B.A. in English Communications. Ramon also holds M.S. in Applied Communications from Fitchburg State University.

2017 MEEOA Award Recipients

MEEOA Achiever – Michael Perreault, Educational Talent Search

Nominated by: **Velma Murphy Graham**



Michael Perreault was a participant in the Maine Educational Talent Search program from 2002 through 2009. Michael was a student in the Van Buren school district and entered ETS in the sixth grade and continued through graduation from high school. Michael applied to and was accepted at Colby College in Waterville, ME. He graduated in May 2015 from Colby College.

Michael is currently the assistant director of admissions communications at Colby College. He is responsible for producing and coordinating multimedia content for undergraduate outreach and recruitment communications.

Today, Michael travels to high schools in Central and Northern Maine to educate students about the college application and financial aid process. According to Michael, his participation in the Educational Talent Search program allowed him to evaluate his interest and goals. It helped him find the right fit for college and the METS program provided him the resources to make an education decision.

MEEOA Rising Star – Crystal Favati, Student Support Services

Nominated by: **Katie England-Lawler**



Crystal will graduate this semester from Eastern Maine Community College with her Associate's Degree in Liberal Studies with plans to continue on to complete her Bachelor's Degree in Math/Actuarial Studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Crystal has been on the Dean's List at EMCC every semester, with the exception of the two semesters in which she made the President's List (4.0 GPA).

During her time at Eastern Maine, Crystal has not had it easy. During her first year back she battled and ultimately beat breast cancer. She somehow managed to juggle traveling back and forth to Boston for treatments, feeling sick and exhausted with a full course load and still managed to make Dean's List.

Crystal currently serves as a peer tutor for the TRIO program and as an informal peer mentor to many of the young women and men in the program. She is a very passionate person and makes sure that her voice is heard. She empowers the students around her to speak up as well and has shown them that their thoughts and concerns are important and powerful. She has been a vital member since the beginning of the TRIO program at EMCC and has been a huge advocate of the program, encouraging other students to seek TRIO out for assistance but also educating faculty members about what TRIO actually does and how it can help their students. She has thanked TRIO profusely for the services she has received and speaks highly of TRIO to anyone who will listen.

MEEOA Rising Star – Rachel Hasty, Upward Bound

Nominated by: Elyse Pratt-Ronco



Rachel Hasty grew up in rural Maine. She was the first in her family to earn a college degree. She was raised by a single father, who treated her as an adult and Rachel assumed many adult roles in her household.

Rachel states that attending Upward Bound was the best decision of her life. It was a place that she could be accepted despite where she came from. She was encouraged to think critically and aspire to do more with her life than the options she saw before her every day. She went from being a dark teenager who was very lost, to someone that wanted to go to college.

Rachel received a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and Family Relations from the University of Maine in 2010. She then went on to earn her Master's Degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Maine in 2012. She earned a second Master's Degree in School Counseling from the University of Southern Maine in 2015.

During her time at the University of Maine, Rachel wanted to give back to the program that helped her get to where she was, and worked at Upward Bound in Orono. Through this experience she realized that she loved working with adolescents. She is now using her career to help students achieve their dreams and encourage those lost students who do not yet realize they deserve more than what they grew up in. She attributes Upward Bound for being where she is today, as they believed in her, supported her, and showed her that she deserved to do more with her life than what she saw around her.

MEEOA Rising Star – Maria Winn, Upward Bound

Nominated by: Alyssa West



Growing up in a rural town in Southern Maine, Maria knew she wanted to go to college but had significant socio-economic barriers. Maria knew Upward Bound was the only way to escape poverty and create a better life for herself.

Maria embodies the term “life-long learner”, continuously striving to better herself through education. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business and then continued on to obtain a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management, focusing her thesis on first-generation students and college access. She then went on to enroll in an MBA program, all while working full-time, volunteering, and raising a family.

Maria has now become an advocate for other Upward Bound students who experience similar challenges as she did. Years ago, she and some other TRIO friends, including parents and other alums, founded Dollars for Scholars, a scholarship organization that raises money for Upward Bound at USM students.

Maria has shown true growth in her professional career. She began working as an administrative assistant and was promoted to business specialist. Maria embodies the meaning of TRIO. She has overcome many barriers to higher education and has not stopped learning. She continues to give back to her community and to the program that helped her achieve success, never hesitating to share with anyone who will listen that Upward Bound altered her life's path.

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A world of gratitude to our MEEOA Board for advocating educational opportunities for students in Maine. Thank you!



Bowdoin College Upward Bound 2016

Please do not forget to fill out a conference evaluation!

