

Council for Opportunity in Education
Board of Directors
2023-2024

Board Chair:

Samuel Blanco III
Director, Pre-College TRIO Programs
University of California - Davis
2828 Cowell Blvd.
Davis, CA. 95618

Past Board Chair:

Joseph Givens
Director, Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program
Louisiana State University
232 Hatcher Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Board Chair-Elect:

Mara Luna
Director, Upward Bound Program
University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus
#12 Ave. Universidad, Suite 1201
San Juan, PR 00925-2532

Treasurer:

Leo Conway
Director
TRIO Upward Bound Programs
Penn State University
210 Grange Building
University Park, PA 16802

Secretary:

Theresa Rader
Director, TRIO Student Support
Services Institute for Educational
Opportunities Montana Tech
1300 West Park Street
Butte MT 59701

Parliamentarian:

Ronnie Gross
TRIO Executive Director
East Tennessee State University
P.O. Box 70714
Johnson City, TN 37614

President:

Kimberly Jones
Council for Opportunity in Education
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 347-7430

Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc.

AEEE

Elections: April

Officers change: July

1st Year Board Member: Angelica A. Benitez
Director, TRIO Programs
Rider University
2083 Lawrenceville Rd
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

2nd Year Board Member: Anthony J Plonczynski-Figueroa, Current President
Regional Political Organizer
New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)

3rd Year Board Member: Jackasha Wiley
Senior Director, Pre College Initiatives & College Access
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Lucy Stone Hall, Room A316
54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue
Piscataway, NJ 08854

ASPIRE, INC.
Elections: October
Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: Dariana Roybal
Director, Upward Bound Math & Science
Colorado School of Mines
1500 Illinois St.
Golden, CO 80401

2nd Year Board Member: Jami Bayles, Current President
Director, TRIO Talent Search
Utah State University - Blanding Campus
576 West 200 South
Blanding, UT 84511

3rd Year Board Member: W. Barney Nye
Associate Vice President
PK-16 Grants, Outreach & Partnerships
Utah Valley University
800 W. University Parkway M.S. 318
Orem, UT 84058

Caribbean Association of Educational Opportunity Programs

CAEOP

Elections: May

Officers change: May

1st Year Board Member: Mariana Franqui
Counselor, Upward Bound
University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras
14 Ave. Universidad, Ste. 1401
San Juan, PR 00925

2nd Year Board Member: Jaime Iván López-Rivera, Current President
Assistant Dean of Students
School of Medicine
Universidad Central del Caribe
PO BOX 60327
Bayamón, PR 00960-6032

3rd Year Board Member: Fabiola A. Falto Castro
Director, Student Support Services – ESL
Antillean Adventist University
PO Box 118
Mayaguez, PR 00681-0118

Educational Opportunity Association

EOA

Elections: May

Officers change: November

1st Year Board Member: Karen Smolarek
Director, TRIO Student Support Services
University of Wisconsin – River Falls
410 S. 3rd St.
River Falls, WI 54022

2nd Year Board Member: Adam Cinderich, Current President
Director, TRIO Student Support Services
Kent State University
975 University Esplanade
169-S Center for Undergraduate Excellence
Kent, OH 44243

3rd Year Board Member: Cindy Virta
Director, TRIO Student Support Services
Northeast Iowa Community College
8342 NICC Drive
Peosta, Iowa 52068

Mideastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel
MEAEOPP
Elections: April
Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: Danny Giles
Associate Director, Student Support Services
Virginia State University
1 Hayden Dr.
Petersburg, VA 23806

2nd Year Board Member: Jessica Lewis, Current President
Director, TRIO Programs
Mountain Empire Community College
3441 Mountain Empire Road
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

3rd Year Board Member: Nicholas Bedway
Director
Heart of Appalachia Educational Opportunity Center
212 Gullickson Hall
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, WV 25755

Northwest Association Educational Opportunity Programs

NAEOP

Elections: September

Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: Megan Simila
Educational Specialist, TRIO Upward Bound
Boise State University
Boulder Hall - Room 202
1910 University Dr.
Boise, ID 83725

2nd Year Board Member: Dina J. Ibarra, Current President
Director, TRIO Educational Talent Search
University of Washington
1410 NE Campus Parkway BOX 355845
Seattle, WA 98195-5845

3rd Year Board Member: Geof Garner
Program Director
Multnomah Education Service District
TRIO Talent Search
11611 NE Ainsworth Circle Portland,
OR 97214

New England Educational Opportunity Association

NEOA

Elections: April

Officers change: September

1st Year Board Member: Yara Zoccarato
Student Support Liaison
Western Connecticut State University
181 White St
Danbury, CT 06810-6855

2nd Year Board Member: Lindsay Carpenter, Current President
Director, Upward Bound
Lyndon Institute
168 Institute Circle
PO Box 127
Lyndon Center, VT 05850

3rd Year Board Member: Robert Pote
Director, Pre-Collegiate and Access Programs
Danbury Public Schools Collaborative/Upward
Bound/Excel/EA2P/
Minority/Bilingual Teaching Pipeline
Western Connecticut State University
181 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810

Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel

SAEOPP

Elections: October

Officers change: March

- 1st Year Board Member:** Holly Lawrence
Director, Talent Search
Valdosta State University
1500 N. Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698
- 2nd Year Board Member:** Sherontae Maxwell, Current President
Assistant Director, Access Programs
The University of Georgia
243 Milledge Hall
Athens, GA 30602
- 3rd Year Board Member:** Raymond Cabrera
Director, Upward Bound
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue
SVC 2011
Tampa, FL 33620

Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs

SWASAP

Elections: November

Officers change: November

1st Year Board Member: Teriki Barnes
Director, Educational Opportunity Center
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
425 W. University Blvd.
Durant, Oklahoma 74701

2nd Year Board Member: Donta Mills, Current President
Assistant Director, Upward Bound
Baton Rouge Community College
201 Community College Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

3rd Year Board Member: Darica N. Simon
Director of TRIO Programs
Baton Rouge Community College
3250 N. Acadian Blvd. A-103
Baton Rouge, LA 70805

Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel

WESTOP

Elections: March

Officers change: July

1st Year Board Member: Dalia Hernandez
Director, Upward Bound & UBMS
California State University - San Bernadino
5500 University Pkwy
San Bernadino, CA 92407

2nd Year Board Member: Victor Rojas, Current President
Director, TRIO Programs and Minority Male Initiative
Mt. San Antonio College
1100 N. Grand Ave.
Walnut, CA 91789

3rd Year Board Member: Armando Bustos Jr.
Director of TRIO Programs
Azusa Pacific College
901 E Alostia Ave.
Bldg 17D
Azusa, CA 91702