



COUNCIL for OPPORTUNITY in EDUCATION

*Dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.*

**Council for Opportunity in Education  
Board of Directors  
2024-2025**

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

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

**Board Chair-Elect:** Jeff Kahlden  
Director, Grant Programs  
Dallas College  
1601 Botham Jean Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75215-1816

**Treasurer:** Leo Conway  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound  
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  
Executive Director, TRIO  
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

**Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, Inc.**  
AEEE  
Elections: April  
Officers change: July

1st Year Board Member: Stephen Rebello  
Director, TRIO Student Support Services  
SUNY-Binghamton  
TRIO Office  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

2nd Year Board Member: Angelica A. Benitez  
Director, TRIO Programs  
Rider University  
2083 Lawrenceville Rd  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

3rd Year Board Member: Anthony J. Plonczynski-Figueroa  
Assistant County Executive  
Monroe County, NY

**ASPIRE, INC.**  
Elections: October  
Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: Samantha Hill  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound  
Weber State University  
3885 W Campus Drive  
Ogden, UT 84408

2nd Year Board Member: Dariana Roybal  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound Math-Science  
Colorado School of Mines  
1500 Illinois St.  
Golden, CO 80401

3rd Year Board Member: Jami Bayles  
Director, TRIO Talent Search  
Utah State University - Blanding Campus  
576 West 200 South

Blanding, UT 84511

**Caribbean Association of Educational  
Opportunity Programs**  
CAEOP

Elections: May  
Officers change: May

1st Year Board Member: Mayrel Artilles  
Mentoring Coordinator and Tutor, TRIO Student  
Support Services  
Antillean Adventist University  
PO Box 118  
Mayaguez, PR 00681-0118

2nd Year Board Member: Alejandro Morales  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound  
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico  
2250 Ave. Las Americas, Suite 538  
Ponce, PR 00717-0777

3rd Year Board Member: Fabiola A. Falto Castro  
Director, TRIO 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: Leroy Burroughs  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound  
University of Dayton  
300 College Park Avenue Chaminade Hall  
Dayton, OH 45469-0510

2nd Year Board Member: Karen Smolarek  
Director, TRIO Student Support Services  
University of Wisconsin – River Falls  
410 S. 3rd St.  
River Falls, WI 54022

3rd Year Board Member: Adam Cinderich  
Director, TRIO Student Support Services  
Kent State University  
975 University Esplanade  
169-S Center for Undergraduate Excellence  
Kent, OH 44243

**Mideastern Association of Educational  
Opportunity Program Personnel**

MEAEOPP  
Elections: April  
Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: Chelsey Toms  
Academic Advisor, TRIO Upward Bound  
100 Campus Drive  
Elkins, WV 26241-3971

2nd Year Board Member: Danny Giles  
Associate Director, TRIO Student Support  
Services  
Virginia State University  
1 Hayden Dr.  
Petersburg, VA 23806

3rd Year Board Member: Jessica Lewis  
Director, TRIO Programs  
Mountain Empire Community College  
3441 Mountain Empire Road  
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219

**Northwest Association Educational  
Opportunity Programs**

NAEOP  
Elections: September  
Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: Robin Williams  
Director, TRIO Development and Program  
Support  
Oregon TRIO Association  
1290 Irving Ave  
Astoria, OR 97103-4021

2nd Year Board Member: Megan Simila  
Executive Director, Apprenticeship  
Idaho Business for Education  
877 W. Main Street, Suite 706  
Boise, ID 83702

3rd Year Board Member: Dina Ibarra  
Director, GEAR UP  
University of Washington OMAD  
3240 Fort Road  
Toppenish, WA 98948

**New England Educational Opportunity  
Association**

NEOA

Elections: April

Officers change: September

1st Year Board Member: Arielle Derival-Joseph  
Director, GEAR UP  
Boston University  
2 Silver Way  
Boston, MA 02215-1723

2nd Year Board Member: Yara Zoccarato  
Student Support Liaison, Pre-Collegiate and Access  
Programs  
Western Connecticut State University  
181 White St  
Danbury, CT 06810-6855

3rd Year Board Member: Lindsay Carpenter  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound  
Lyndon Institute  
168 Institute Circle  
PO Box 127  
Lyndon Center, VT 05850

**Southeastern Association of Educational  
Opportunity Program Personnel**

SAEOPP

Elections: October

Officers change: March

1st Year Board Member: Maurice Mathis  
Senior Director, TRIO Pre-College Programs  
North Carolina State University  
P.O. Box 7001  
Raleigh, NC

2nd Year Board Member: Holly Lawrence  
Director, TRIO Talent Search  
Valdosta State University  
1500 N. Patterson Street  
Valdosta, GA 31698

3rd Year Board Member: Sherontae Maxwell  
Assistant Director, Access Programs  
The University of Georgia  
243 Milledge Hall  
Athens, GA 30602

**Southwest Association of Student Assistance  
Programs**

SWASAP

Elections: November

Officers change: November

1st Year Board Member: D'Angelo Sands  
Executive Director, College Access and Outreach  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

2nd Year Board Member: Teriki Barnes  
Director, TRIO Educational Opportunity Center  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
25 W. University Blvd.  
Durant, Oklahoma 74701

3rd Year Board Member: Donta Mills  
Assistant Director, TRIO Upward Bound  
Baton Rouge Community College  
201 Community College Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

**Western Association of Educational  
Opportunity Personnel**

WESTOP

Elections: March

Officers change: July

1st Year Board Member: Maria Sandra Jimenez  
Director, TRIO Student Support Services  
Truckee Meadows Community College  
7000 Dandini Blvd., RDMT 115  
Reno, NV 89512-3999

2nd Year Board Member: Dalia Hernandez  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound and Upward  
Bound Math-Science  
California State University - San Bernadino  
5500 University Pkwy  
San Bernadino, CA 92407

3rd Year Board Member: Victor Rojas  
Chief of Staff, Office of the President  
California State University, Los Angeles  
5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032