



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  
2025-2026**

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

**Past 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

**Board Chair-Elect:** Raymond Cabrera  
Director, Upward Bound & Upward Bound  
Math & Science  
University of South Florida  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33620

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

**Secretary:** Jaime Lopez Rivera  
Associate Dean of Students  
School of Medicine  
Loma Linda University  
11175 Campus Street  
Loma Linda, CA 92350

**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: Christina Chisholm  
Director of McNair Scholars Program and Student Support Services  
Rutgers University  
54 Joyce Kilmer Ave, Piscataway, NJ 08854

2nd Year Board Member: Stephen Rebello  
Director, TRIO Student Support Services  
SUNY-Binghamton  
TRIO Office  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

3rd Year Board Member: Angelica A. Benitez  
Director, TRIO Programs  
Rider University  
2083 Lawrenceville Rd  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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

1st Year Board Member: Rafael Orozco  
Director, TRIO Student Support Services and McNair Scholars Program  
University of Colorado at Denver  
1201 Larimer Street #2011  
Denver, CO 80204

2nd Year Board Member: Samantha Hill  
Director, TRIO Upward Bound  
Weber State University  
3885 W Campus Drive  
Ogden, UT 84408

3rd Year Board Member: VACANT

**Caribbean Association of Educational  
Opportunity Programs**

CAEOP

Elections: May

Officers change: May

1st Year Board Member: Mayrel Artiles  
Academic Specialist, 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: Tracy Cureton  
Assistant Director, Educational Opportunity  
Centers  
The Endeleo Institute  
901 E 95th St  
Chicago, IL 60619-7826

2nd Year Board Member: Leroy Burroughs  
Director, Student Support Services  
Miami University Regional  
1601 University Blvd.,  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

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

**Mideastern Association of Educational  
Opportunity Program Personnel**

MEAEOPP

Elections: April

Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: Scott Robertson  
Assistant Dean of Students  
West Virginia University Institute of Technology  
410 Neville Street  
Beckley, WV 25801

2nd Year Board Member: Chelsey Toms  
Student Success Coach, West Virginia University  
Institute of Technology  
512 S Kanawha St.  
Beckley, WV 25801

3rd Year Board Member: Danny Giles  
Associate Director, TRIO Student Support  
Services  
Virginia State University  
1 Hayden Dr.  
Petersburg, VA 23806

**Northwest Association Educational  
Opportunity Programs**

NAEOP

Elections: September

Officers change: October

1st Year Board Member: VACANT

2nd Year Board Member: Robin Williams  
Director, TRIO Development and Program  
Support  
Oregon TRIO Association  
1290 Irving Ave  
Astoria, OR 97103-4021

3rd Year Board Member: Megan Simila  
Executive Director, Apprenticeship  
Idaho Business for Education  
877 W. Main Street, Suite 706  
Boise, ID 83702

**New England Educational Opportunity  
Association**

NEOA

Elections: April

Officers change: September

1st Year Board Member: Kevin Linton  
Director  
Salem State University  
352 Lafayette St  
Salem, MA 01970-5353

2nd Year Board Member: Arielle Derival  
Director, GEAR UP  
Boston University  
2 Silber Way  
Boston, MA 02215-1723

3rd Year Board Member: Yara Zoccarato  
Student Support Liaison, Pre-Collegiate and Access  
Programs  
Western Connecticut State University  
181 White St  
Danbury, CT 06810-6855

**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: Billy Ray Huggins  
TRIO Associate Director  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
2801 S. University Ave.  
Little Rock, AR 72204

2nd 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

3rd Year Board Member: Teriki Barnes  
Director, TRIO Educational Opportunity Center  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University  
25 W. University Blvd.  
Durant, Oklahoma 74701

**Western Association of Educational  
Opportunity Personnel**

WESTOP

Elections: March

Officers change: July

1st Year Board Member: Horacio Aceves  
Associate Director of Upward Bound  
Occidental College  
1600 Campus Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90041-3314

2nd Year Board Member: Maria Sandra Jimenez  
Director, TRIO Student Support Services  
Truckee Meadows Community College  
7000 Dandini Blvd., RDMT 115  
Reno, NV 89512-3999

3rd 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